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Dr. Milligan is Executive Director of ABET, a nonprofit organization that accredits more than 3,200 college and university programs in 24 countries in the disciplines of applied science, computing, engineering, and engineering technology. He is responsible for all aspects of ABET's global operations. Prior to joining ABET, Dr. Milligan worked in environmental satellite program development at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Maryland.

Dr. Milligan also served 24 years as a career U.S. Air Force Officer, where he managed international research portfolios in Europe, the former Soviet Union, the Middle East, and Africa. He served six years as an Associate Professor, and later as Deputy Department Head, in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado. Dr. Milligan earned a Ph.D. from The University of Texas at Austin, an M.S.E. from the University of Massachusetts at Lowell, and a B.S. from Michigan State University — all in electrical engineering. He also earned an M.B.A. from Western New England College. Dr. Milligan is a Senior Member of IEEE, a Member of the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society, and a Registered Professional Engineer in Colorado and Maryland.

Abstract

Current and Future Challenges: Accreditation of Engineering Education

There are several significant challenges facing engineering educators as well as those responsible for accrediting such programs. Some notable challenges include the following: Students are changing: Generation X, Y, Z – what are their expectations? Globalization of the workforce – how does this drive program change? Explosion of distance learning (on-line education) and the internet as a tool for learning: how do they affect accrediting systems (quality assurance) around the world? Density of academic programs – how do we fit ever increasing technical and professional content into undergraduate programs? Diversity of student population; non-traditional students – how are they driving changes to program offerings? ABET will discuss its own challenges in addressing these issues through the eyes of an accreditor.