

Rich Wantock – 2010 Award Winner – Winona Campus

Rich Wantock is a visionary who built a number of successful career avenues upon graduating from our Electronics program in 1965. As a student, his interest in data and systems management was right on target with the dawn of the computer age, positioning him in the right place at the right time. Blending his education as a business major at WSU and technical skills from Winona Vo-Tech proved to be a very successful combination as evidenced by his tremendous work experiences after leaving Southeast Technical.

Rich worked for many successful corporations throughout his career, including Control Data, Watkins, Sarah Coventry (C.H. Stuart), Coppercraft Guild (Dart Industries) and Royal Crest Jewelry. He served these companies in a variety of capacities including President, Vice President, Sales Manager and Design Manager.

As a Southeast Technical graduate he understands the value of education and the doors it can open. He also believes in leading by example and the value of being first a mentee and then a mentor in life. In addition to bringing leadership into his professional life, Rich also sets an example through his generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure to a variety of organizations in the Winona Community. Early on he served as a Winona Jaycee and was active in the Winona community in a variety of different roles at St. Stanislaus Church, Cotter High School, he also raised awareness for community organizations like the Buddy Club, American Cancer Society, YMCA, Special Olympics and more. He served the City as a Board of Adjustments member and National Direct Selling Trade Association as a Board member.