

Asian American Engineer of the Year

Dr. Ming Lau

Senior Manager
Sandia National Laboratories



Citation of Accomplishment:

Sustained contributions to stewardship of nuclear weapon systems in the U.S. stockpile.

Dr. Ming Lau first joined Sandia National Laboratories in 1981. He has worked on terrain-aided navigation systems, missile guidance, controls and modeling of complex electro-mechanical systems, and performance analysis of nuclear weapon fuzing systems. Dr. Lau has been a technical manager since 1997, designing components for nuclear weapons and delivering high precision positioning and pointing systems for commercial and military applications. He was deputy to the Sandia/California vice president and had system engineering responsibilities for one of the nuclear weapon systems in the U.S. stockpile. As a senior manager for three years at Sandia/California, he oversees three nuclear weapon system engineering departments and one engineering services department.

Dr. Lau was a member of a three-year study group, which received the 2005 Leo Szilard Award for Physics in the Public Interest from the American Physical Society (APS). The group was recognized for “work on Boost-Phase Interceptor Systems for National Missile Defense in producing a report that adds physics insight to the public debate.” This work received national recognition.

An active parent, Dr. Lau volunteers with local public schools. He organized the gifted and after school math programs for the Windemere Ranch Middle School. He formed the first Math Olympiad team and taught after school math classes. He was team parent for the cross-country and track teams for three years at the Dougherty Valley High School. He set up and ran the timing system at track meets, took and collected photographs to create slide shows for end-of season banquets, submitted photos for school sports brochures each season, coordinated team fundraising events, and assisted the head coach. He also served on the Dougherty Valley High School advisory board for one year.

Dr. Lau received his B.S. from the University of Missouri–Rolla and M.S. and Ph.D. from Stanford University. He received degrees in Electrical Engineering from both schools.

