

*Asian American Executive
of the Year*

Edward Gerding

*Vice President and Senior Chief Engineer
Defense, Space and Security Engineering
Structures and Mechanical Systems
The Boeing Company*



Citation of Accomplishments

Exemplary leader in aerospace innovation and committed mentor to tomorrow's leaders.

Ed Gerding is the vice president and senior chief engineer of Boeing Defense, Space and Security (BDS) Engineering Structures and Mechanical Systems, where he is responsible for the engineering excellence of BDS development and production programs. Ed also leads the Structures and Build engineering capability of BDS with oversight of more than 3,000 engineers, developing and deploying people, processes, and tools across all programs to effectively enhance competitiveness.

Ed began his aerospace career in 1984 with McDonnell Douglas as a design engineer. In 1994, he became manager of the C-17 Design, Strength, and Liaison Engineering team for The Boeing Company. His leadership career advanced to senior manager for Advanced Manufacturing Research and Development in 2004, and from 2005 to 2009 he was assigned as a chief engineer for the C-17 and Commercial Support programs at the Boeing St. Louis, Missouri site. From 2009 to 2011, Ed was a chief engineer for Aircraft Sustainment and Maintenance for Global Services and Support, overseeing more than 200 engineers across multiple sites and disciplines. In 2011, he began serving as a director and, subsequently, senior director for Global Services and Support's Engineering & Mission Assurance. This success led to his selection by the Boeing Executive Council in 2015 for the senior directorship of the enterprise Productivity Leadership Development Program for the 787 Boeing South Carolina program.

Ed holds a Master of Science in mechanical engineering as well as an MBA. In 2011, he was inducted into the Academy of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineers for the Missouri University of Science and Technology, where he serves on the board of directors. He is also an American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Associate Fellow.

Ed was raised in the Midwest by an American father and Japanese mother during the 1960s, when diversity was not appreciated. As a young engineer, Ed's Asian cultural values of duty, honor, and family presented as a quiet personal reserve that had disadvantages in industry. A senior manager took note and coached Ed to not only express his fine technical recommendations, but to also start leading. Ed looks back at this guidance as life-changing and likewise mentors tomorrow's STEM leaders.

Ed corresponds with relatives in Tokyo, and in 2013, took his wife, Linda, and two daughters to visit. In his personal time, Ed and Linda enjoy travel and wildlife watching, as well as nurturing their passion for driving and showing their two muscle cars.

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