ETA KAPPA NU

Electrical and Computer Engineering Honor Society

Vincent Forte

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Beta Nu chapter, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Career Synopsis

Vincent J. Forte, Jr. is a Principal Engineer in Asset Strategy for National Grid. In addition to strategy creation and decision modeling, he has championed Distribution Automation at the distribution and sub-transmission levels.

Mr. Forte is a licensed professional engineer in New York State. He earned an A.S. in Engineering Science from Hudson Valley Community College in 1977 as well as a B.S. and a Master of Engineering in Electric Power Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1978 and 1979 respectively. In the electric utility industry he has held a number of engineering positions, including leading departments in sub-transmission planning and long range distribution planning, as well as holding management positions, including Manager of Engineering and Director of Electric Assets.

Mr. Forte has also co-authored papers and articles on customer valuation of interruptions, RF signal transmission over power distribution systems, and methods of targeting mitigation for efficient reliability improvement. He is a member of IEEE, NSPE, and HKN

Career Highlights

What do you view as the highlights of your career? These can be in terms of greatest challenges, most satisfying achievements, or most enjoyable projects.

I have been fortunate to have worked with many great engineers early in my career. These people helped me to flesh out my formal education with practical experiences that gave life to the lessons I had learned in school. I have helped electrify railroads, expand transmission systems, maintain distribution and low voltage general networks. My biggest thrill is seeing city lights and knowing I had a part in making that happen. Most recently I have tried to support young engineers as I was supported. I get a thrill knowing I am part of the process of passing engineering knowledge through the generations.

Education and Career

Relate your education to your career and current responsibilities.

In addition to the Electric Power core curriculum I took nearly all power courses that were offered through electives and also rounded out my education with business oriented electives and art appreciation classes. Initially in my career I found the core power engineering classes to be the most useful, but as my experience grew and I began to lead groups of engineers I found all the classes I took helpful for doing a wide variety of tasks and for relating to my fellows. I also found continuing education offerings useful. These days continuing education is a requirement of licensure, but I did this throughout my career before it was required because I believe an engineer must stay current beyond what experience will give to you.

My current responsibilities do not involve heading a department, however I do form and lead groups that are aimed at specific needs and then disband after the need is met. These groups can last from a few weeks to several years, depending on the task. The wide variety of issues

addressed in this fashion requires a broad perspective. My experiences and education have given to me a base for this new team approach.

Advice to Engineering Graduates
What specific advice would you offer to engineering students as they complete their education and prepare to launch their careers?

Never believe you have learned all you need to know. A good engineer is always looking for greater insight not only in the technical realm but also in the arts, business, and interpersonal to name a few. Do not define yourself too narrowly. Do more than technical things. I like to create oil paintings and have also worked with bronze sculpture. I support my art endeavors with my art sales. This provides me a different outlet for creativity, and that helps to keep my mind creative in all I do. One last thing, seek professional engineering licensure early.