



*Leadership and Quality Assurance in Applied Science,  
Engineering, Computing and Technology Education*

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**Michael K. J. Milligan, Ph.D., P.E.**  
**Executive Director, ABET, Inc.**

On June 1, 2009, Dr. Michael Milligan will assume the leadership of ABET, Inc., (formerly known as the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology), the premier accrediting organization for applied science, computing, engineering, and technology education worldwide.

An experienced educator, engineer, team leader, scientist, project manager, and researcher, Dr. Milligan has been charged with developing a comprehensive strategic vision for ABET. As its Executive Director, he will report directly to the Board of Directors, which is comprised of representatives of ABET's 30 member societies.

Under Dr. Milligan's leadership, ABET will: 1) engage its constituents in making the accreditation process more innovative, efficient, and responsive to program needs; 2) seek collaborative solutions to the challenges that face STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education; 3) adopt the same continuous improvement processes it recommends to the institutions whose programs it accredits; and 4) promote the growth of quality assurance standards in ABET programs worldwide.

Dr. Milligan brings to the position broad experience in business, government, and academe — constituents that comprise ABET's major stakeholders. Most recently, he led an Aerospace Corporation team of scientists, engineers, and support staff charged with assisting in the development of an environmental satellite for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. From 2003-2006, Dr. Milligan managed three major international research portfolios for the U. S. Air Force (USAF), involving radio frequency technology, space weather, and superconductivity. He engaged with scientists in Europe, the former Soviet Union, the Middle East, and Africa and visited universities and research institutes in more than 30 countries. He served as program manager and lead engineer on the \$290 million USAF AWACS Computer Modernization Program (Airborne Warning and Control System). During this time, he led a 23-member USAF team and acted as a liaison to the British, French, NATO, and Saudi programs.

Dr. Milligan's personal commitment to education is exemplified by the breadth of his curriculum vitae. He served as the Deputy Department Head and Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering at the USAF Academy. In this position, he developed, directed, and taught advanced electrical and computer engineering courses and was a senior member of the accreditation team preparing for the ABET visit.

Dr. Milligan earned a Ph.D. from The University of Texas at Austin, a MSE from the University of Massachusetts at Lowell, and a BS from Michigan State University — all in Electrical Engineering. He also earned an MBA from Western New England College.

During his career with the USAF, he completed the Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Officer levels of the Professional Military Leadership School. Dr. Milligan attained the highest level of certification (Level III) from the Department of Defense Program Management in Systems Engineering, Research, and Development. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Colorado; a senior member of ABET's largest member society, IEEE (the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers); and is a member of Tau Beta Pi, the Engineering Honor Society.

In his personal time, Dr. Milligan enjoys travel, cycling, skiing with his family, and is an accomplished woodworker. He is also a long-time volunteer with the Boys Scouts, currently serving as a Committee Member of Boy Scout Troop 339.

Dr. Milligan lives in Severna Park, Maryland, with his wife, Alison. They have three sons.