



*Lloyd Howell*

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# Lloyd Howell

## Transforming Engineering Expertise into Innovative Ideas

By Janelle Weaver

When Lloyd Howell, EE'88, was just 7 or 8 years old, an uncle introduced him to the world of plastic models and radio-controlled airplanes. This childhood experience had a lasting influence, later inspiring the self-described “nerdy kid” to think about a career in electrical engineering. Having grown up in Philadelphia, the last thing he wanted to do was apply to Penn. “I wanted to get as far away as possible,” Howell recalls. “Since I grew up in Philadelphia and was very familiar with Penn’s campus, I was ready to experience something different. However, my mother passed away during my senior year in high school, and I decided that staying close to home was my best option.”

As a freshman at Penn, Howell soon discovered that his familiar surroundings had a lot more to offer. “I got to know the city I thought I knew much better, and made a lot of good friends that I still have today,” he says. To thrive in the challenging academic environment, Howell turned to supportive professors such as Joseph Bordogna, Alfred Fidler Moore Professor and Dean Emeritus; David Pope, professor in Materials Science and Engineering; and his advisor Jorge Santiago-Aviles, associate professor in Electrical and Systems

Engineering. “They had a very positive influence on me, and they helped me figure out what I wanted to do after Penn,” Howell notes.

### Making a Positive Difference

Howell’s career path was also shaped in large part by his membership in Hexagon, the senior honor society of Penn Engineering. A friend in Hexagon who was going to become a consultant encouraged Howell to look into Booz Allen Hamilton, a leading provider of management consulting, technology and engineering services. Today, Howell is an Executive Vice President of the firm. As the leader of the Civil and Commercial Group, he is in charge of delivering strategic, technology and analytics services to federal and commercial clients, including the Departments of the Treasury, Health and Human Services, and Homeland Security, as well as global health, financial and energy clients in the commercial sector.

Before assuming his current role, Howell joined Booz Allen Hamilton in 1988 as a consultant, providing systems engineering support to multiple Department of Defense satellite programs. In 1991, he left the

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firm to get an MBA at Harvard Business School and subsequently worked at Goldman Sachs, a prominent global investment banking, securities and investment management firm. “At that point in my life, I was trying to figure out how to combine my different experiences to make the best decisions for me and my young family,” he remembers. “Those decisions led me back to Booz Allen Hamilton and the consulting field.”

After returning to the firm in 1995, Howell became a member of the Strategy and Organization Capability Team focused on defense clients such as the Armed Forces and the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He was later elected to the firm’s partnership and he currently serves on the Leadership Team and chairs the Ethics and Compliance Committee. Over the years, he has served on the firm’s Board and led efforts that evaluated the firm’s operating model, organizational structure, and people programs. “What I enjoy most about this job are the people and the friendships, and the fact that every day is not the same. It never gets stale,” Howell remarks. “It’s also gratifying to provide creative ideas and solutions to a range of clients and witness the difference and impact I’ve contributed to every day.”

## Paying it Forward

Because Howell has been blessed professionally, he has given back to Penn and the community that served him so well. Through Capital Partners for Education, he mentors students that come from disadvantaged backgrounds to help them overcome challenges with

the transition from high school to college and give them the mentoring they need to succeed. As a corporate advisor to the not-for-profit organization known as Management Leadership for Tomorrow, he personally leads development sessions for talented minority students to help them reach their full leadership potential at different career stages. “At Penn, my wife and I also endowed a scholarship in my mother’s name, Jeannette D. Howell, for students like me: minority high school students who have an interest in engineering,” Howell states.

When Eduardo Glandt, Nemirovsky Family Dean, asked Howell if he would be willing to join Penn Engineering’s Board of Overseers, he jumped at the opportunity. As an Overseer, Howell has given advice on recruiting talented professors and minority students, increasing the diversity of the Board, and keeping the School competitive. According to Howell, the School’s leadership deserves a lot of credit for introducing new facilities that increase the energy level on campus, encouraging the integration of different disciplines across the entire University, and increasing the level of excitement in student experiences through real-world projects and competitions such as hackathons. “The application numbers speak volumes about how the School has gotten stronger and more competitive since I was a student,” Howell says. “More than other schools, Penn has a community of strong institutions and an incredible brand to leverage.”