NASA LANGLEY'S MASSENBERG HONORED AT VIRGINIA TECH GRADUATION

Dr. Samuel E. Massenberg, university affairs officer at the Langley Research Center, was named a "Distinguished Alumnus" for the College of Education of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in recent commencement ceremonies at VPI.

The award recognizes past graduates of the College of Education who have become eminent in the field of education. The presentation to Massenberg, who earned his doctorate at VPI, was made by Dr. James J. Buffer Jr., dean of the college. Buffer cited the diversity of Massenberg's broad contributions both to education and to community. Buffer also heralded Massenberg's extraordinary service to Langley, to NASA and to the government's education focus.

In accepting the award, the first to a federal government educator, Massenberg told the graduating educators of the need for increased emphasis on science, technology and mathematics in educational systems at all levels. He challenged them to not only accept that initiative but to look for ways to serve the needs of society beyond their educational activities.

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Dr. Don G. Creamer, professor of higher education, nominated Massenberg for the award which is sponsored by the VPI College of Education Faculty Association. Creamer had served as Massenberg's major advisor for doctoral studies and had overseen course and clinical work as well as the development of Massenberg's thesis. He said Massenberg was a "star graduate" of the VPI College of Education by the manner in which he has applied his education to such a variety of meaningful endeavors.

As Langley's university affairs officer, Massenberg is responsible for the planning, interpretation and coordination of research grants between Langley and more than 100 universities. He also manages all the university-related programs with university professors and graduate and undergraduate researchers. His office is the focal point for all university personnel contact with the Center.

He joined the Langley staff as an employee development specialist in 1980, after serving as dean of men at Hampton University for 11 years. In 1981, he became coordinator of Langley's Career Development Center and was named to his current post in 1982. He has experience in management, career counseling, personnel counseling, psychology, and as a teacher, military pilot and aircraft engineering officer.

A native of Detroit, Michigan, Massenberg graduated from Miller High School, where he won the American Legion Award as the most outstanding senior. He received a bachelor of science degree in management from Ohio State University in 1957 and a master of science in counseling and guidance from North Carolina A & T State University in 1967. His 1979 doctorate from VPI was in higher education administration.

Massenberg received a NASA Exceptional Service Medal in 1988 "for exceptional service and leadership in the administration of Langley's university programs, assuring effective application of university talent to the Center's diverse research programs." He is an adjunct
professor at several local universities and is a member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and the American Society of Engineering Education. He is also chairman of the Advisory Board for the School of Social Work at Norfolk State University.

Massenberg lives in Hampton, Virginia. He has a son and a daughter.