

Walter J. Zable Endowed Chair in Engineering established at UCSD

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WALTER J. ZABLE ENDOWED CHAIR IN ENGINEERING ESTABLISHED AT UCSD

The University of California Board of Regents has approved the establishment of The Walter J. Zable Chair in Engineering at the University of California, San Diego.

Funded with an endowment of \$500,000 from Walter J. Zable--chairman of the board, president and chief executive officer of Cubic Corporation--the Chair will be held by the incumbent dean of the UCSD School of Engineering.

Subject to university and campus policies, income from the fund will be spent at the discretion of the dean on fellowships, faculty recruitment, teaching and research, and other programmatic needs of the school.

"I want to do everything I can to help the Engineering School, which I believe is tops in California," said Zable. "I hope this gift will help the school move even further ahead."

Zable, who has been an advocate of a strong practical orientation to engineering education and research, has demonstrated a consistent commitment to UCSD engineering by supporting graduate fellowships over the past 14 years.

"In designating this chair for the incumbent dean of the School of Engineering, Walter Zable has shown not only great generosity but great insight," said UCSD Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson. "By endowing a chair for the dean, he has assured excellence in leadership in the School of Engineering.

"This gift will be an invaluable resource to Robert Conn as he assumes the position of dean, as well as to his successors in the coming years. I hope that Walter's gift will set a precedent for support of other academic leadership positions on our campus."

Born June 17, 1915 in Los Angeles, Zable was first exposed to the field of electronics during his high school years in Cambridge, Massachusetts. While attending lectures at nearby MIT, he built a crystal set and a vacuum tube radio transmitter.

Zable attended the College of William and Mary on a football scholarship, receiving a degree in physics in 1937. For a short time, he played professional football for the Richmond Virginia Arrows and the New York Giants. In 1937, he earned a master's degree in physics and math from the University of Florida, where he met his wife, Betty.

In 1941, Zable began his career as an electrical engineer at the Newport News Shipyard & Drydock. He joined Sperry Gyroscope Company in 1944 where, as a Senior Development Engineer, he worked on innovations in microwave technology.

Zable moved to San Diego where he continued work as an electrical engineer at Control Instruments Company, Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corporation, and General Dynamics, Convair Division; while at General Dynamics, he became project supervisor in charge of the microwave and antenna development section.

In 1951, Zable founded Cubic Corporation with an initial investment of \$5,000. From a one-man operation, Cubic has grown to a firm with nearly \$350 million in sales and 3,200 employees.

Cubic is engaged in the design, development and manufacture of data processing and peripheral equipment, automobile ticket- vending machines and passenger gates, microprocessor-controlled elevators, precision electronic measuring devices and systems, consulting, field engineering and maintenance services.

Zable holds directorships on the First National Bank, the YMCA Corporate Planning Board and the advisory board of the San Diego Hall of Champions. He also is a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of San Diego, past President of the UCSD Chancellor's Associates, and a former member of the UCSD Board of Overseers, the UCSD Foundation Board of Trustees, and the UCSD Cancer Center Board.

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