



Troy D. Hammond

GRFP Recipient: 1990

Undergraduate Institution:
B.S. 1989, Milligan College; B.S.
1990, Georgia Institute of
Technology

Graduate Institution:
Ph.D. 1996, Massachusetts
Institute of Technology (MIT)

Graduate Field of Study:
Experimental Atomic Physics

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Current Position:
President, North Central
College

RESEARCH INTERESTS //

Troy D. Hammond studied in the laboratory of Professor David Pritchard at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Hammond's research probed atomic properties in a sodium atom interferometer--the first experiment able to measure phase shifts with separated paths for the atomic beams. In his professional pursuits, Hammond contributed research on the economics of global energy flows, power plant emissions reductions and global productivity in agriculture, and developed new mobile technology to improve energy efficiency in commercial and industrial facilities. He also advanced the science of polymer semiconductor materials and devices, resulting in 47 worldwide patents and patent applications representing 11 unique inventions. He has published and presented extensively about physics, nanotechnology, polymer electronics and solar power, and testified before Congress and state legislature on energy technologies.

HOW I BENEFITED FROM THE GRF PROGRAM //

“My fellowship opened the door for me to go to MIT--the pinnacle of physics education and research in the world--at a point in my life when I had demonstrated only passion and potential. A late entrant to physics, having adopted that major my junior year, I had to catch up to my classmates. My fellowship years at MIT were extremely challenging, but my perseverance paid off as I pushed myself to my limits. My Ph.D. experience was life changing, and I would not have been able to take the path I have followed without my NSF fellowship. After 17 years working mostly outside of academia, I have now returned to higher education as a college president with a passion to impact a new generation of students--and hopefully a few new NSF fellows.”

POSITION PROFILE //

Hammond's first position after graduate school was with McKinsey & Company, a management consulting firm (1996-2004). As an associate principal, he worked in the company's Pittsburgh and Auckland, New Zealand, offices serving senior executives in a wide range of industries across the globe on critical business issues. Hammond then joined Plextronics Inc. (2004-2009), a small technology company in Pittsburgh, where he combined business leadership and technical expertise to build the business into a global leader in printed electronics. While at Plextronics, he served as an adjunct professor of business at Milligan College in Tennessee. Afterwards, Hammond moved to Illinois, where he became president of the energy services business at BlueStar Energy in Chicago (2010-2012). Leveraging his expertise in renewable energy technologies and sustainability, he provided commercial, industrial and institutional customers with energy efficiency services. As of Jan. 1, 2013, Hammond currently serves as the 10th president of North Central College.

