



Karen A. Thole

Dr. Karen A. Thole is a Distinguished Professor and Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at The Pennsylvania State University. She is the founder of the Steady Thermal Aero Research Turbine Laboratory (START) lab, which focuses on gas turbine heat transfer and is a center of excellence for a major turbine engine manufacturer. She has published over 200 archival papers and advised 70 dissertations and theses. She is currently a nominee to the ASME Board of Governors. Dr. Thole co-founded the Engineering Ambassadors, which is a professional development program with an outreach mission. She was recently recognized as SWE's 2014 Distinguished Engineering Educator and in 2015 with ASME's George Westinghouse Gold Medal and the Edwin F. Church Medal. She holds two degrees in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Illinois, and a PhD from the University of Texas at Austin.