

ALUMNI PROFILE

Robert E. "Bobby" Wharton, Jr. President-Owner, G&W Diesel Services, Inc. Co-Owner of Pro-Fire Equipment, LLC



Professional History

- Began working in the family business, G & W Diesel Services, at 12 years of age
- Worked in all facets of the family business including mechanical repair, sales, engine applications, business plan development and accounting
- Grew G & W Diesel from 6 to 47 employees
- Co-Founded Pro-Fire Equipment in 2000 and grew it into the 3rd largest fire truck dealer in the Pierce/Oshkosh organization

Significant Accomplishments

- President of the University of Memphis National Alumni Association, 1996 – 1997
- Received the Herff College of Engineering 1995 Outstanding Alumnus Award
- Godfather and care provider of Tom II (the University of Memphis's tiger mascot)
- President of the Highland Hundred, 1992
- Golden Tiger Award, 1993
- Board member of the first Tiger Club Board of Directors
- Member of the University of Memphis's Society of the Shield
- Past President of the Engineering Alumni Board
- Herff College of Engineering Advisory Council member
- Honored with the establishment of the "Bobby Wharton Labor of Love" award, an award given by the Athletic Department to recognize an individual's outstanding support of Tiger football

Education

- Bachelor of science in engineering technology, 1975, University of Memphis

Herff College of Engineering Experience

"Thanks to the College's broad-range of class times and supportive faculty, I was able to get a quality education in engineering while still being able to care for my family's business – and that meant a lot to me. I would not be where I am today without my University of Memphis education and for that I owe it a debt of gratitude."



Dreamers. Thinkers. Doers.