

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Tim Thompson '78



“I am a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work, the more I have of it.”

~Thomas Jefferson

Tim Thompson '78 is a retired Professional Engineer whose entrepreneurial career spans engineering, technology development, manufacturing, and real estate.

Tim credits his work ethic to growing up in a close family with a small business in which all the siblings had to work from a young age. His career began at Honeywell, followed by Los Alamos National Laboratory, where he led the Design Engineering group. He led the engineering development of FORTE, the first all-composite satellite. He next served as LANL Chief Engineer for the GEM particle tracker for the Superconducting Super Collider, and his work earned the Department of Energy/LANL Distinguished Performance Award in 1989 and 1996.

In 1996, he left LANL to become a principal in HYTEC, a Los Alamos technology company. Under his leadership, HYTEC earned several Flying 40 Awards and a prestigious International R&D 100 Award in 2003 for developing advanced industrial CT scanning technology. HYTEC also developed the ILUMA computed tomography imaging system used in dentistry. Tim was named a finalist for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 2004.

Tim later served as CEO of dental manufacturing and technology company IMTEC, which grew to more than 300 employees. IMTEC received the Oklahoma Venture Forum's 2007 Grace and Franklin Bernsen Oklahoma Venture of the Year Award, and was acquired by 3M in 2008.

In 2010, Tim founded AvaDent, a dental technology and manufacturing company that pioneered digitally designed and manufactured dentures. The company holds more than 80 patents, received the Arizona Manufacturers Council Excellence in Innovation Award in 2024, and continues to grow.

Now, Tim leads State Properties of New Mexico, overseeing the development and management of properties in Santa Fe, including the boutique Hotel Flora, which will open in 2027.

Since 1998, Tim has served on NMSU's Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Academy and as a mentor and guest speaker for NMSU engineering students. ▲