



Naval Postgraduate School

The President, Naval Postgraduate School takes pleasure in presenting the Department of the Navy SUPERIOR CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD to:

PETER J. DENNING

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION

For sustained superior service while serving as a Professor of Computer Science at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California from November 2002 to January 2026. Professor Denning led the Computer Science Department for 18 years as chair, building a cohesive faculty with a deep bench in cyber security, software engineering, and artificial intelligence. He served 16 years as Director of the Cebrowski Institute for Innovation, where his team incubated 23 startup projects including the World Wide Consortium for the Grid, the Hastily Formed Networks center, the Energy Academic Group, and IED detection and prevention. He was elevated to Distinguished Professor in 2007. He served 17 years on the Faculty Council Executive Board, including two stints as Faculty Council Chair, where he worked to maintain good communications between the faculty and the NPS leadership. He founded a program in innovation leadership, based on the premise that innovation is adoption of new practice; over 150 students graduated from this intensive coaching program and now hold key positions throughout the US Naval Services. He co-founded the Big Ideas Exchange showcasing the best ideas of NPS students for solving warfighting problems. He created and produced the Harnessing AI course, a compendium of 20 lectures by NPS faculty experts, laying out the workings of Artificial Intelligence for newcomers, and laying a foundation for AI training hosted by the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He wrote white papers establishing founding principles for the Naval Innovation Center and AI Task Force. During his time at NPS, he published five books -- three on computer science principles and two on innovation leadership. He is the most cited scholar-professor on the campus. Professor Denning's accomplishments reflect great credit upon himself and the Naval Postgraduate School. He has served the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

ANN E. RONDEAU, Ed.D.

Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)

President, Naval Postgraduate School

