Ed Lazowska (November 2022)

Ed Lazowska is a Professor, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Chair emeritus, in the Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering at the University of Washington.

Lazowska received his A.B. from Brown University in 1972 and his Ph.D. from the University of Toronto in 1977, when he joined the University of Washington faculty.

Lazowska's research and teaching concern the design, implementation, and analysis of computing and communication systems, and, more recently, the techniques and technologies of data-intensive discovery. Twenty-three Ph.D. students and twenty-three Masters students have completed degrees working with him. In recognition of his research accomplishments, Lazowska has been elected a Member of the National Academy of Engineering, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, a Fellow of the Association for Computing Machinery, a Life Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a member of the Founding Class of the Washington State Academy of Sciences. In addition, he has received the Vollum Award for Distinguished Accomplishment in Science and Technology from Reed College, and the University of Washington Computer Science & Engineering Undergraduate Teaching Award.

Lazowska's national leadership activities include serving as Co-Chair (with Marc Benioff) of the President's Information Technology Advisory Committee from 2003-05, as Co-Chair (with David E. Shaw) of the Working Group of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology to review the Federal Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Program in 2010, and as Founding Chair (from 2007-13) of the Computing Community Consortium, whose goal is to catalyze the computing research community and enable the pursuit of innovative, high-impact research aligned with pressing national and global challenges. He also has served as Chair of the Computing Research Association (1997-2001), Chair of the NSF CISE Advisory Committee (1998-99), and Chair of the DARPA Information Science and Technology Study Group (2004-06), as well as serving on a large number of National Academies study committees. In 2018 he was elected to the Council of the National Academy of Engineering, and in 2020 he was appointed to the National Academies Committee on Science, Engineering, Medicine and Public Policy (COSEMPUP). In recognition of his national leadership, Lazowska has received the Computing Research Association Distinguished Service Award, the ACM Presidential Award, and the ACM Distinguished Service Award.

A long-time advocate for increasing participation in the field, he has served on the Executive Advisory Council of the National Center for Women & Information Technology and on the National Academies Committee on Women in Science, Engineering, and Medicine; he served on the study committee that authored the Academies' 2018 report on the impacts of sexual harassment in academia. He received the University of Washington Outstanding Public Service Award for his K-12 outreach activities, and the University of Washington David B. Thorud Leadership Award.

Lazowska serves as a board member or technical advisor for a number of high-tech companies, venture firms, and technology-oriented civic organizations. He is a member of the Board and Executive Committee of the Washington Technology Industry Association, and until recently the Technology Alliance of Washington and the Washington State Academy of Sciences.

Lazowska served as Chair of University of Washington Computer Science & Engineering from 1993-2001, a period during which its stature increased significantly. Along with Tom Alberg (Managing Director of Madrona Venture Group) and Jeremy Jaech (CSE alumnus and co-founder of Aldus and Visio) he led the fundraising campaign for the Paul G. Allen Center for Computer Science & Engineering, which was dedicated in 2003. Along with Brad Smith (President of Microsoft) he led the fundraising campaign for a second building for the Paul G. Allen School, the Bill & Melinda Gates Center for Computer Science & Engineering, which was dedicated in 2019.

Lazowska spent 1984-85 on sabbatical at the DEC Systems Research Center and Stanford University, and 2001-02 on sabbatical at the University of California, San Diego.