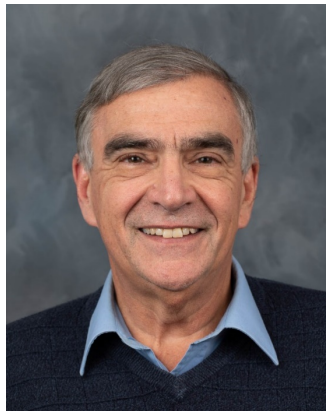




2021 Recipient of the Distinguished Service Award

George J. Pothering



The Distinguished Service Award recognizes the outstanding contributions of a colleague who, beyond his or her required duties, has a sustained career of serving the college community in an outstanding and distinguished manner. George Pothering has had a long and multi-faceted service record for over 40 years at the College of Charleston. It is clear that in his career, George has always sought ways to help meet the needs of the institution and has demonstrably put service to the institution very highly in his professional life and objectives.

George's service began in the summer of 1979 when, as a young faculty in the mathematics department, he was asked to participate in a National Science Foundation (NSF)-sponsored program at the University of South Carolina. The goal of this program was to teach computer science to college faculty, with the objective to return to their institutions to help establish degree programs and teach undergraduate computer science to their students. Having a Ph.D. in math, George was one of the very few faculty at the College who was qualified and interested to contribute this way. This became a three-summer experience (sacrificing much of his opportunity and available time to do research in mathematics) and eventually resulted in earning his Master's degree in Computer Science. Through his participation in this NSF-sponsored program, he eventually helped establish the Department of Computer Science at the College of Charleston (1980), which he officially joined in 1982. His decision to participate was very important, as he was the first faculty member at the College who gained formal education in computer science.

This first, major act of service, set the stage for his continued service to the institution. During his time at the College, George has served in numerous leadership roles serving his departments, his

schools and on various committees across the organization. In addition to this extensive list of local contributions, George's national and international service contributions have helped promote and make the College of Charleston visible to colleagues around the world.