

Distinguished Alumnus 2017

William (Bill) Phelps

Class of 1958

William W. (Bill) Phelps holds an Associate of Science degree in Pre-Engineering from Northern Oklahoma College, where he was a Razzhound and a member of the Engineers Club, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering with Petroleum Option from Oklahoma State University (1960). While working for Conoco, he completed his Master's degree in Petroleum Engineering at the University of Oklahoma (1967). He then joined Atlantic Richfield Company as an evaluation engineer in the Planning and Evaluation Department.

His work at ARCO led to his becoming a lobbyist for the company and to working for the Chairman of the Board. In an effort to obtain favorable Congressional legislation, he established the Spirit of Eagles, an organization of large independent oil producers and major oil company executives.

After retiring from ARCO, he worked for FINA Oil Company where his responsibilities included state and federal governmental lobbying activities. Upon retirement from FINA, he established a contract lobbying firm and an investors' group. In 2015, he permanently retired from the oil industry after 57 years of service.