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DAYTON, Ohio, April 4, 1972 --- David C. Kraft, Assistant Dean of Engineering at the University of Dayton, has been named the second recipient of the annual Neil Armstrong Award of the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers. The selection was announced in a letter to Dr. Kraft from R. Dale Oatney, P.E., Executive Director of the Society in Columbus.

The first award went to Dr. Robert Fenton of Ohio State University last year. Dr. Fenton is a Professor of Engineering at OSU, and was recognized for his overall contribution to engineering students, their overall education and his work on highway safety research.

Dr. Kraft, too, was honored in part for his devotion to engineering students, particularly those at the University of Dayton where he has been teaching since 1965. The award citation also pointed to his engineering career counseling and his research accomplishments, particularly that research which defined the response of and developing criteria for the operation of aircraft on soil runways.

In the nominating material, prepared by his colleagues at the University, it was noted that "Dr. Kraft has had a close and effective relationship with all the engineering students. He has served as Chairman of the Student Activities Committee for Engineers Week from 1966 through 1971 and served as Student Chapter Moderator for the American Society of Civil Engineers from 1969 until the present.....

"...In the annual faculty evaluation survey conducted by the students in 1969, he was the most outstanding faculty member in the Department of Civil Engineering."

The report went on to state "that he was of the highest caliber teacher, and generally excellent in all areas necessary to do a good teaching job."

Dr. Kraft also was named the "Professor of The Year" at the University of Dayton by his fellow faculty members in 1970 and cited for his devotion to his position "through student contact and academic endeavors, Dr. Kraft has always excelled both as a teacher and model to students."

The report went on: "...Dr. Kraft has been the epitomy of a modern-day university professor in fulfilling well the functions of an educator, researcher, a nationally recognized authority in his field, a leader in his profession...."

The nominating document pointed to Dr. Kraft's research accomplishments by noting that "through a series of research contracts from the United States Air Force, Dr. Kraft and his research team have made significant progress in defining the response of a developing criteria for the operation of aircraft on soil runways. These studies led to the development of aircraft tire/soil interaction parameters as related to taxiroll on takeoff and braking on landing. The results of these studies are useful not only in the aircraft/soil runway area but also in the off-the-road mobility area."

Since 1967, Dr. Kraft's research projects have attracted \$238,761 in grants from

the United States Air Force. He also has published 24 papers for journals or symposium and has served as an officer in several professional engineering organizations.

He was recently elevated to a full professor at the University of Dayton and was nominated for the Engineering Dean's post which will be vacated in June when Dr. Maurice Graney retires. Dr. Graney became dean in 1956.

The Neil A. Armstrong Award was created to "memorialize the accomplishments of Neil A. Armstrong, Astronaut and Engineer, who was the first man to set foot on the moon on July 20, 1969, on the Apollo 11 Moon Mission; and to recognize potential accomplishments as envisioned by Mr. Armstrong's famous statement, "one small step for Man, -- one giant leap for mankind." The award is meant to serve as an incentive for inspiring engineering or scientific achievements.

Eligibility requires that the individual--of any age--must reside in the State of Ohio or his accomplishments must have directly benefitted the people of Ohio. He should be a practicing engineer, teacher, student, or individual with strong engineering orientation or potential.

Criteria for evaluation is (1) Recognition for outstanding performance on a specific engineering project; (2) Continuing, long-term engineering contributions in private practice, industry, government, education or surveying; (3) Recognizing a "small step" by an individual, which has the potential of becoming a "giant leap for Mankind;" and (4) Teaching, training, or otherwise influencing young people toward engineering or scientific achievements.