J. Wesley Hines, Ph.D.
Nuclear Engineering Department Head
Postelle Professor
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Dr. J. Wesley Hines is the Head of the Nuclear Engineering Department at the University of Tennessee, is the Distinguished Postelle Professor, and a UT Chancellor's Professor. He has also served as Interim Associate Dean for Research in the College of Engineering and more recently as Interim Vice Chancellor for Research for the Campus. Dr. Hines received the BS degree in Electrical Engineering from Ohio University in 1985, and then served as a nuclear qualified submarine officer in the US Navy. He later received both an MBA and an MS in Nuclear Engineering from Ohio State University in 1992, and a Ph.D. in Nuclear Engineering from Ohio State University in 1994. He has served the University of Tennessee for 29 years. Under Dr. Hines' leadership, his department has grown to the largest Nuclear Engineering PhD program in history of the US and has recently been ranked as high as #4 by US News and World Reports.

On the scholarly side, Dr. Hines teaches and conducts research in artificial intelligence and advanced statistical techniques applied to process diagnostics, condition-based maintenance, and prognostics; and has made notable accomplishments in the invention and development of reliability enhancing condition monitoring technologies. He has led over 100 research projects with awards totaling over $20M sponsored by both government and commercial entities in the US and abroad. His scholarly discoveries have allowed operators to understand the condition of vital assets, and in several cases, to predict their remaining useful life with quantifiable confidence bounds. This research has resulted in three patents that have been implemented in commercial products. In 2009, Entergy Nuclear gained recognition with the Nuclear Project of the Year Award for their use of reliability enhancing technologies which employ one of Hines's patents.

Dr. Hines has authored over 350 technical papers and is invited to speak around the world on topics ranging from his research activities, distance education delivery approaches, nuclear engineering education, reliability and maintainability education, and national nuclear strategy. Just this year, his scholarship won best paper awards at two separate international conferences. His notable academic and scholarly accomplishments were recognized by the American Society for Engineering Education Nuclear Engineering Division, through their Glenn Murphy Distinguished Nuclear Engineering Educator Award in 2014, he was selected as an American Nuclear Society Fellow in 2015, and was the recipient of the American Nuclear Society, Arthur Holly Compton Award in Education in 2019, and the Robert Long Training Excellence award in 2020.