

Kelly Dixon



George Mulholland's passion for designing, building and operating large scale cryogenic equipment exhibited during a chance meeting with Kelly Dixon, then a summer student at Fermilab, sparked the start of a 30 year career in this field that helped earn him the 2011 CSA award named after George for 'Excellence in Cryogenics Engineering'.

After graduating with a BSME from University of Illinois, at Champaign-Urbana in the summer of 1980, Kelly returned to FNAL for a 12-year period, during which he held a variety of positions with increasing project, design and management responsibilities starting at the 15' Bubble Chamber and eventually worked for Mulholland designing and installing equipment supporting a large argon calorimeter at the D0 facility. During this period, he attained a PE license from the State of Illinois.

By the early 1990s, he moved on to the Product Development Group at BWX Technologies in Lynchburg, Va., where he initially led a team of engineers and technicians from initializing the detailed process design through the commissioning phase of a cryogenic test facility where vertically oriented collared coils and cold mass assemblies for the SSC were evaluated in liquid helium. He later provided conceptual designs of other refrigeration equipment and of various magnet current lead configurations for SMES magnets. This work led to a patent, along with two other engineers, for a 'Modular High Temperature Superconducting Down Lead with Safety Lead'.

Kelly came to Jefferson Lab in May 2000 and led or supported the design efforts of numerous systems including compressors, cold boxes, cold and warm distribution piping for JLab and related systems at the Spallation Neutron System at ORNL. He also has led the operational support to all SRF cryogenic testing activities at the Test Lab, including overseeing system upgrades, testing, troubleshooting and maintenance efforts. As project engineer for 12 GeV and other major Cryogenic Department upgrades, he is currently directing the efforts of the fabrication, mechanical engineering and design teams, leading major equipment procurements, developing building and equipment layouts.