

Jerry W. Brockmeyer had over 46 years of experience in the development, characterization, and application of advanced materials for use in extreme environments. He published 30 technical papers in the fields of ceramics and ceramic composites and held seven U.S. patents. Approximately half of his technical publications relate specifically to the application of ceramics in rocket engines, including a chapter on rocket engine applications of ceramic composites contributed to the International Encyclopedia of Composites. His industrial experience spanned tenure at both Rocketdyne and Ultramet. He supported the National Space & Missile Materials Symposium since inception. He was one of the founding members that built NSMMS into the successful leading conference it is today.

While at Rocketdyne, Jerry was an active senior materials researcher and program manager. In this role, he led development in the areas of refractory metals and ceramics applied to rocket propulsion turbomachinery and combustion devices. He was closely involved with hypersonics programs (including NASP) and KEW programs (including LEAP, THAAD, and GBI), and supported an array of other advanced programs that required high temperature, lightweight, corrosion-resistant materials and coatings. Many of his collaborative programs were executed with NASA under space access related programs and AFRL under the Integrated High Payoff Rocket Propulsion Technology (IHRPT) Program.

Jerry joined Ultramet in 1997 as Director of Marketing and became Director of Engineering in 1998. He played a key role in development and commercialization of Ultramet's Ir/Re e Jo thrust chamber technology, and the commercialization of CVD Re hot gas components for the SM-3 Blk IA program. During his time at Ultramet through 2018, he continued to further refractory ceramics and metals technology through a host of small business innovative research (SBIR) and broad agency announcement (BAA) programs.

Jerry exemplified the modern technologist as an accomplished technical researcher, principal investigator, program manager, and industrial spokesperson. In these roles, he was a master at developing visionary roadmaps supported by actionable plans, which he deftly executed. Jerry delivered results with technical thoroughness and critical thought, diligently highlighting risks and opportunities. An exceptional speaker, he was equally gifted as a technical author documenting the methods, data, results and conclusions for others to leverage.

Beyond his technical prowess, Jerry set himself apart from his peers by fostering the next generation of industry, academia and government leaders. With rich enthusiasm, Jerry instilled in his mentees his strong principled integrity and humility, always leading by example. He nurtured an ethos of cooperation for the advancement of knowledge, and betterment of society. His natural propensity to teach was exemplified by his ability to always be accessible to those seeking his help, and the ease with which he broke down complex problems into manageable core issues. His positive and enthusiastic personality was inspiring.