

Charles Calderaro, Class of 1985

When Charles was a senior, he suffered a serious spinal injury that threatened to derail his plans to attend the University of Notre Dame on an ROTC scholarship. Fortunately for Notre Dame, the miracles of science and his own perseverance saw to it that he did not lose a beat. He gained his BS in Electrical Engineering in 1985.

A year later, on a Navy scholarship, he received a master's degree in Nuclear Engineering from the Naval Nuclear Power School. By then a commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy, Charles served the USS Bainbridge as a Division Officer, where he was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal for consistently exceeding performance expectations. During his four years there he maintained a Top-Secret clearance.

When Charles left the Navy, he began his career in the private sector as a Production Manager for Ethicon, the medical device division of Johnson & Johnson. After two years at J&J, Charles moved on to the biopharmaceutical industry as a Supervisor for Alcon Laboratories, and then to Aventis Behring as a Process Engineer. After ten years in these capacities, Charles began working for biotechnology leader, Genentech, in 1992.

During his 17 years at Genentech, Charles has been a guiding force in leadership, strategic direction, and operational excellence. He is now a Director of Biochemical Manufacturing, focused on directing change and driving productivity and quality improvements. Perhaps his greatest strength, though, is his dedication to developing people and teams.

