Paul Steranka

Paul serves as the associate dean and professor of mechanical engineering in the Leonard C. Nelson College of Engineering and Sciences at the West Virginia University Institute of Technology. The West Virginia University Institute of Technology (WVU Tech) is a division of West Virginia University currently located on the Beckley campus. Paul has been a faculty member at WVU Tech since joining the institution in 1992. Paul began his academic career as an assistant professor of mechanical engineering at Wichita State University after obtaining his Docteur-ingénieur Diploma from the Institut National Polytechnique de Lorraine in Nancy, France, in 1985.

Paul began his technical career after graduating from the University of Pittsburgh in 1976 in the Power and Fuel Design Engineering Department at U.S. Steel Corporation headquarters in Pittsburgh. He worked as a member of the Coke Oven Battery Design Group where he was involved in projects at various plants in the corporation including the design of new coke oven facilities in Clairton, PA; Gary, IN; and Fairfield, AL. Paul left U.S. Steel in 1980 to begin his graduate studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he earned his M.S. in mechanical engineering. It was during his studies at the University of Illinois that he learned of the Lavoisier scholarships that were offered by the French government to graduate students in engineering. He applied the program and was selected as a recipient of one of these scholarships which led to him earning his doctorate in France.

Throughout his technical career, Paul has been interested in the thermodynamics and fluid mechanics branch of mechanical engineering. He has taught courses ranging from introductory mechanics courses through upper division courses in HVAC design and energy conversion, to graduate-level courses in advanced engineering thermodynamics, and combustion theory. Paul is a registered professional engineer in the states of Kansas and West Virginia.