

# Inventor of Ethernet and Venture Capital Executive Bob Metcalfe to Lead Innovation Initiatives at UT ECE <sup>[1]</sup>

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Dr. Robert M. Metcalfe, an icon of entrepreneurial engineering and inventor of today's local-area networking standard, Ethernet, has been selected to lead innovation initiatives at The University of Texas at Austin Cockrell School of Engineering.

Metcalfe will be professor of innovation, fellow of the Clint W. Murchison, Sr. Chair of Free Enterprise and professor of electrical and computer engineering. He begins his appointment in January 2011.

The addition of Bob Metcalfe to our leadership team significantly advances our commitment to innovation and bringing entrepreneurial engineering education to our students, says Cockrell School of Engineering Dean Gregory L. Fenves. In addition to working with students, Dr. Metcalfe will be fostering more dynamic interaction among faculty, research associates and graduate students, and venture capitalists, industrial partners and early adopters of technology.

Metcalfe brings to the university a variety of experiences and career contributions. He has been a partner of Polaris Venture Partners since 2001 and will continue to advise the Massachusetts-based firm as a venture partner. During the 1990s, Metcalfe was publisher of InfoWorld and wrote an Internet column with half a million weekly readers. During the 1980s, Metcalfe founded IPOed, and grew the billion-dollar computer networking company, 3Com Corp., which merged with Hewlett-Packard in 2010. In the 1970s, Metcalfe worked in the Computer Science Laboratory of the Xerox Palo Alto Research Center where he invented today's local-area networking standard, Ethernet. Metcalfe also was a consulting associate professor of electrical engineering at Stanford University (1975-83), where he taught early courses in distributed computing.

The future of the Texas technology landscape will be defined in the next 10 years as our business community embraces the innovation, entrepreneurship and technology emerging from outstanding academic institutions like The University of Texas at Austin, says Rudy Garza, managing partner of G-51 Capital and chairman of the Board of the Texas Exes, the alumni association for The University of Texas at Austin. Today we can celebrate recruiting a world-class talent in Bob Metcalfe who is a catalyst for innovation and has excelled at the nexus of science, engineering and entrepreneurship. Bob's expertise of bridging science and

technology into thriving businesses of the future will speed the success we all will experience as we work hard to spur innovation, build world-class businesses and create wealth and jobs in our great state.

Metcalfé holds two bachelor's degrees in electrical engineering and industrial management from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a master's degree in applied mathematics and a doctorate in computer science from Harvard University.

Innovation makes the world go round. It brings prosperity and freedom. It is a high calling. I look forward to helping bring even more innovative thinking into the classrooms and laboratories of the Cockrell School of Engineering and The University of Texas at Austin, Metcalfé says. What's more, I look forward to getting the fruits of that innovative thinking out into world markets where it can do some serious good.

Thomas W. Gilligan, dean of the McCombs School of Business, says, Dr. Metcalfé brings both intellectual firepower and the credibility of a proven inventor and entrepreneur to the university's innovation environment. He is the ideal spark for collaborative entrepreneurship on campus, especially between the business and engineering schools. His presence will open amazing learning opportunities for our students.

In 1980, Metcalfé received the Hopper Award from the Association for Computing Machinery and in 1988 received the Bell Medal from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). In 1995, Metcalfé was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and in 1996 he received the IEEE's Medal of Honor. In 1997, he was elected to the National Academy of Engineering, and in 1999 to the International Engineering Consortium. In 2003, Metcalfé received the Marconi Prize. In 2005, he received the National Medal of Technology for his leadership in the invention, standardization and commercialization of Ethernet. Metcalfé entered the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2007 and the Computer History Museum Hall of Fellows in 2008.

## Related Faculty:

[Robert Metcalfé](#) <sup>[2]</sup>

## Related Research Areas:

[Decision, Information, and Communications Engineering \(DICE\)](#) <sup>[3]</sup>



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[2] <http://www.ece.utexas.edu/people/faculty/robert-metcalfe>

[3] <http://www.ece.utexas.edu/research/areas/commnets>