



**ENI AWARD  
2019**

***Advanced  
Environmental  
Solutions***

**Paul Chirik**

Winner

***A new Iron Age for Combatting Plastic Pollution***

**Biography**

Paul J. Chirik is the Edwards S. Sanford Professor of Chemistry at Princeton University and a synthetic chemist with broad interests in catalysis and sustainability. A native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, he earned his B. S. magna cum laude in honors from Virginia Tech and his Ph. D. from Caltech under the supervision of John Bercaw. Following a brief postdoctoral appointment at MIT with Christopher Cummins, he began his independent career at Cornell University in 2001. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 2006 and to the Peter J. W. Debye Professor of Chemistry in 2009. In 2011, he was named the Edwards S. Sanford Professor of Chemistry at Princeton University. He has been recognized for excellence in both research and teaching. Notable awards and honors include: an Arthur C. Cope Scholar Award (2009), the Blavatnik Award for Young Scientists (2009), a Packard Fellowship in science and engineering (2004), a Camille Dreyfus Teacher Scholar Award (2006), an NSF CAREER Award (2003) and the inaugural Japanese Society for Coordination Chemistry Award for Creative Work (2015). His work in catalysis with earth abundant transition metals has been recognized with the 2016

Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award and 2017 ACS Catalysis Lectureship in Catalysis Science. Chirik's research is currently funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health and the U. S. Department of Energy – Basic Energy Sciences. His group has collaborated with range of industrial partners including: Merck, Bristol-Myer Squibb, Amgen, GlaxoSmithKline, Momentive Performance Materials, ExxonMobil, Chevron Phillips Chemical, NavAir, Triton Systems and Firmenich. Chirik catalysts have been commercialized by GreenCentre Canada.

Chirik is the author of over 190 peer-reviewed publications and inventor on more than 20 patent applications. He has advised 30 Ph.D. students and over 20 postdoctoral research associates. He is a sought-after speaker at international conferences and seminars and has delivered over 200 invited lectures worldwide. Outside of technical lectures, he has also given lectures for the general public on sustainability for the BBC, New York Times, the American Chemical Society, Merck, the Royal Society of Chemistry and most recently as the ICI Distinguished Lecturer at the University of Calgary.

Chirik has also served the scientific community as the chair of the Inorganic Reactions Mechanisms Gordon Research Conference (2015) and as Associate Director for the Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment. He currently serves as the Editor-in-Chief of *Organometallics*, where he oversees all submitted manuscripts, develops strategy, devises workflow initiatives, and promotes the journal internationally.