

## 2024 EARLY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

*Vikram Banthia, Ph.D., P.Eng.*



Vikram Banthia, Ph.D., P.Eng., received his bachelor of science in mechanical engineering (Gold Medal) from the National Institute of Technology, Raipur (India), his master of science degree in 2011 and a doctorate of philosophy in 2020 from the University of Manitoba, specializing in the field of robotics and automation. Vikram is currently pursuing an MBA from the Asper School of Business.

In his current role, as Director of the Price Institute of Advanced Manufacturing and Mechatronics at Red River College Polytechnic, Vikram spearheads the strategic vision and provides operational management of training programs and cutting-edge research in the adoption of digital technologies such as robotics, automation, additive manufacturing, and artificial intelligence. Vikram is involved in the creation of two post-graduate diploma programs within the training program and is dedicated to a robotics/automation mock-up/testing space called the Centre for Automation and Manufacturing Technology Transfer, aimed at facilitating affordable applied research for small and medium enterprises in Manitoba.

Vikram's previous work experiences focused on transforming businesses through the strategic implementation of automation solutions. Vikram has worked in project management, robotics, and lean manufacturing roles for

Bayer Crop Science, where he was involved in the development of optimal growth chambers for canola, and Elmer's Manufacturing in Altona, where he developed/invented a patented grain cart (trailer) with automated loading assistance.

As a Robotics Researcher at the University of Manitoba, Vikram developed an innovative neurosurgical manipulator and a teleoperated hydraulic robot for live-line maintenance. He also collaborated closely with Winnipeg Police Crime Stoppers to pioneer the development of a humanoid robot, which then served as a brand ambassador for the Winnipeg Police.

Vikram passionately promotes engineering and science as a career and shares his personal journey as an engineer at events such as Red River College's Open Doors, and at hands-on workshops and demonstrations for high school students. Vikram has presented at international conferences and has published many academic and technical papers.

Vikram actively volunteers and has held leadership roles for the India Members Chapter of Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba and has volunteered in numerous community organizations such as Siloam Mission, Harvest Manitoba, Habitat for Humanity, Agape Table, Rotary Club, and the India Association of Manitoba. Vikram has played a pivotal role in organizing and participating in events aimed at supporting various causes close to his heart, including education and healthcare access.

In recognition of exceptional achievement at the start of their career, Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba is pleased to present the 2024 Early Achievement Award to Vikram Banthia, Ph.D., P.Eng.