

Approved by the Board of Trustees,
May 19, 2005

Board Meeting
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RESOLUTION HONORING PROFESSOR NICK HOLONYAK, JR.

The Board of Trustees wishes to congratulate Professor Nick Holonyak, Jr., of the Urbana-Champaign campus on becoming a Laureate of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois, the highest honor the State bestows on people of achievement who were born or have lived in Illinois. The son of Slavic immigrants who settled in Southern Illinois, Holonyak received the Order of Lincoln Medallion, April 30, 2005. Holonyak was honored for inventing the light-emitting diode.

LEDs are the most efficient light source in use today; billions are sold every year for use as indicator lights in auto dashboards, electronic equipment, and household appliances. Unlike other lights, LEDs remain in operation for decades and consume less electricity than other lamps. High-power LEDs are being used in traffic signals, auto taillights, fiber communication, and large-display lighting. LEDs may someday replace Thomas Edison's incandescent light bulb, resulting in massive energy savings.

In addition to the LED invention, the semiconductor lasers used in CD and DVD players stem from Holonyak's work. He also invented the shorted emitter p-n-p-n switch, now widely used in household dimmer switches and power tools. He is one of only a handful of scientists to have won both the U.S. National Medal of Science (1990),

and the U.S. National Medal of Technology (2002). Last year he won the Lemelson-MIT Prize, the world's largest single cash prize for invention.