

## **Lawrence B. Evans**

### **Professor Emeritus**

#### **Research**

Lawrence Evans joined the MIT faculty as Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering in 1962. He served as Executive Officer 1972-74 and was promoted to Professor in 1974. In 1976 he initiated the ASPEN Project at MIT to develop a next-generation software system for modeling chemical processes. It was funded by the US Department of Energy and 60 companies at more than \$6 million from 1976-1981; Evans was the Principal Investigator.

In 1981 he founded Aspen Technology, Inc. to offer a commercial version, Aspen Plus, of the software. In 1988 he left MIT to serve full-time as CEO of AspenTech. The company went public in 1994, in 2002 Evans stepped down as CEO and served as Senior Advisor until 2006. Today the Aspen software is the defacto standard worldwide for modeling chemical processes; it is used by 300,000 chemical engineers around the world. In 2006-2012 he served as Cofounder and CEO of Rive Technology a start-up to commercialize advanced catalyst technology for petroleum refining developed by Javier Garcia Martinez, in postdoctoral research at MIT in Professor Jackie Ying's lab.

In 2013 Evans returned to MIT as Emeritus Professor of Chemical Engineering. He is not accepting doctoral students, but he is initiating a project to develop an innovative software system to allow independent learners to find the right resources online to achieve their learning goals.