TAB HALL OF HONOR RECIPIENT NOMINATION FORM

CANDIDATE NAME: **KEN STAUFFER**

BIOGRAPHY: Ken began his career at AT&T Bell Laboratories in Holmdel, NJ. At Bell Labs, Ken designed network performance systems, developed business and technical models for WORLDPARTNERS2, CONCERT, (AT&T/BT Joint Venture), and managed AT&T's relationship with Japan Telecom.

In 2000 Ken became an entrepreneur as a team member founding EPIK Communications. He served as EPIK's Senior Vice President of Operations and Chief Technology Officer. He also led a team to create the vision for "The NAP in 2011of the Americas" in Miami.

In Jan 2003, Ken co-founded Technology Assurance Labs, and in 2005 he co-founded Cypress Equipment. Ken served as CEO for both companies for 15 years.

Ken was born and raised in Tanzania, East Africa, he is a Life Senior Member of IEEE, and he co-founded the IEEE Entrepreneurship Initiative in 2015. He currently serves as a Trustee on the Vaughn College Board.

CITATION:
For co-founding, nurturing and growing IEEE Entrepreneurship

DESCRIPTION OF ACCOMPLISHMENT(S) RELATIVE TO MAJOR CONTRIBUTION(S) TO IEEE TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES:
IEEE Entrepreneurship was founded in 2015 as the result of a 2014 IEEE Board Ad Hoc Committee, looking for ways that IEEE could be relevant to entrepreneurs and investors.

Since 2015, when IEEE Entrepreneurship was founded, our consistent goals have been to create an ecosystem that understands our entrepreneurial members' needs, is relevant to them, and provides value to them. Our IEEE Entrepreneurial philosophy takes a big tent approach and consists of three main groups in our ecosystem – IEEE Members, non-IEEE members, and those who become IEEE members over time because they find that we provide value to them.

As of 2020, IEEE Entrepreneurship had approximately 20,000 virtual members in over 65 countries. In Q1 2020 we sent a questionnaire to approximately 4,000 random members in our ecosystem asking them to help us identify and characterize our demographics and asking what would provide value to them. The response rate was approximately 13%.

About ¾ of our 20,000 members are IEEE members, about ¼ of our members are *aspiring entrepreneurs*, about ¼ are *start-up entrepreneurs*, about ¼ are *academic research start-ups*, and the rest are *growth and scaling entrepreneurs* or *investors*. This is who we represent and who we serve in our IEEE Entrepreneurship Ecosystem. Unlike traditional IEEE groups, we are not a Section, Chapter, Society, Affinity Group, or Local Group; our members span across all those groups and around the globe.

DATE(S) OF ACCOMPLISHMENT(S): 2014 - present

RELEVANT IEEE ACTIVITIES:
- Served as Vice Chair to the 2014 IEEE Board Ad Hoc on Entrepreneurs
- Gave final Report and Recommendations to the IEEE Board Meeting --Nov 2014
- First Chair of the IEEE Entrepreneurship Initiative 2015 -2016
- Organized IEEE N3XT events in Toronto, Canada and Austin, Texas
- Served as IEEE Entrepreneurship Liaison to IEEE Humanitarian Activities Committee 2018 – 2019
- Chair, IEEE Entrepreneurship Steering Committee 2020 -2021
- Grew IEEE Entrepreneurship membership to approximately 20,000 members
- Authored "IEEE Entrepreneurship Explained" for IEEE Potentials Magazine 2021
- Served on TAB -SPC 2015-2016 and 2020-2021
- Developed IEEE Entrepreneurship Workshops and got 3-year (2020 -2013) IEEE NIC funding for virtual workshops in Africa, Latin America and face-to-face workshops in NYC, Tunisia, Rwanda, Brazil. 2023 plan includes South Africa, Morocco, and Panama.
- Liaised with external organizations for events and competitions from 2018 – 2022. UN Major Group of Children & Youth, UN-ITU, SmartAfrica, Vito / G-STIC, and the International Center for Theoretical Physics.