Michael A. Jackson

B.S., Agricultural Economics, 1979, Purdue University

Michael A. Jackson is founder and president of Agri Business Group, the leading agribusiness consulting firm in the United States.

The Indianapolis-based company consists of five different divisions: Spectrum Communications, one of the nation's top five agricultural public relations agencies, of which Jackson serves as chair; Agricultural Speakers Network, which books more than 80 professional speakers for 250 annual engagements; Synergy, the strategy development and research arm of the organization; the Technical Division, which focuses on technical training, quality assurance and research project management; and the Custom Training Division, which develops training programs to help clients meet their objectives.

Michael started the company in 1979 as a one-man operation. Today, Agri Business Group employs nearly 100 professionals. In addition to the Indianapolis headquarters, the company has offices in Kansas City, Missouri and Melbourne, Australia. Agri Business Group also is establishing a European office in Brussels, Belgium.

Mr. Jackson assists young people in agriculture by working with FFA, 4-H, and Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity. He has developed extensive marketing education materials for campus classrooms, including co-authoring a widely used textbook, AgriSelling. He is a regular and popular guest on the Purdue campus, where he speaks to student organizations, and to classes at the invitation of professors.

Michael is also active in church and community activities. He is an organizer and charter member of Geist Christian Church. He is a board member of the Lawrence Township Foundation Capital Campaign, which raises $100,000 annually. And he is board chair of the Christian Church Foundation (Disciples of Christ), which has grown from $17 million in assets to more than $65 million in assets since 1991.

For contributions to his profession and community, and for bringing distinction to his alma mater, Purdue University School of Agriculture is proud to present the Distinguished Alumnus Award to Michael A. Jackson.