



**NORMAN W. JOHNSTON  
COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER AND HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT  
(AFTERNOON)**

Perrysburg resident Norman W. Johnston has been a primary force in transforming northwest Ohio from its “Rust Belt” roots to a potential “Green Belt” powerhouse.

Johnston, president and chief executive officer of McMaster Energy Enterprises, is an area leader in developing alternative energy initiatives. By advocating for local development of these technologies, he is on the forefront of rejuvenating Ohio’s economy.

While solar applications are McMaster Energy’s focus, Johnston’s advocacy extends to all forms of alternative energy. In 2003, he collaborated with industry leaders to form the Northwest Ohio Alternative Energy Business Council, which later became Ohio Advanced Energy (OAE). OAE has over 35 companies as members. As part of his support for local production, Johnston helped create Solar Fields, a solar cell factory and R&D center in Toledo.

Under Johnston’s leadership, McMaster Energy developed the HyOxy Gas Generator, a device that can transform any car or truck into a hydrogen fuel-assisted vehicle. Among his patents is “Variable solar control window assembly.” This technology would control the transmission of solar energy and light while selectively blocking solar radiation in windows.

Johnston was president and chief executive officer of Solvay Automotive from 1991-1997, overseeing more than \$290 million in sales at locations in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

From 1998-2002, Johnston was the head of Jancor Companies, Inc., in Perrysburg, which consisted of four stand-alone companies in the building materials business that amassed more than \$300 million in sales in 2002.

McMaster Energy, which Johnston helped found with Harold McMaster in 2003, includes Solar Fields, Solar Cells Investors, Solar Kits and Hydrogentech. These entities focus on technical routes and products for alternative energy markets. Johnston also is vice chairman of Calyxo GmbH, a joint venture formed between Solar Fields and Q-Cells AG.

Johnston earned a bachelor of science degree in chemistry from Clarion University in Clarion, Pa., and a doctorate degree in polymer science from the Institute of Polymer Science, the University of Akron.

He is a member of The University of Toledo's (UT) College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Advisory Board, Industrial Chairman of Photovoltaics Innovation and Commercialization at UT, and Chairman of Ohio Advanced Energy. Johnson is the author of more than 60 marketing and technical articles and patents, and has spoken before over 50 groups on alternative energy.