Advancing Materials and Energy Research

Case Western Reserve University alumnus Thomas W. Seitz (CIT ’70) and his wife, Nancy, have endowed a new chair that helps the Case School of Engineering build faculty expertise in priority areas.

The Thomas W. and Nancy P. Seitz Professorship in Advanced Materials and Energy will support the efforts of the Great Lakes Energy Institute and Institute for Advanced Materials at the university. It also represents the first philanthropic investment in the university’s Engineering Strategic Hiring Initiative, which aims to attract outstanding researchers and enhance the diversity of the engineering school’s faculty.

Seitz, senior vice president for strategic excellence initiatives at the Sherwin-Williams Company, says the hiring initiative and the university’s regional impact were both factors in the couple’s commitment, as was a desire to give back to his alma mater.

“The superb technical education I received at the Case Institute of Technology was only part of the story,” Seitz says. “Learning how to learn and developing problem-solving skills made me a lifelong student. These combined abilities have served me well throughout my business career.”

Seitz joined Sherwin-Williams in 1970. He holds an MBA from the University of Chicago and a Bachelor of Science in engineering from Case Institute of Technology. He maintains a strong relationship with Case Western Reserve as a key volunteer on a number of Case School of Engineering committees and serves as co-chair for the university-wide Corporate Visiting Committee.