

“Where are They Now?” Donor Story

Peggy Johnson, BSEE 1985 and Eric Johnson, MSEE 1986

A chance meeting in the College of Engineering prompted business major Peggy Johnson to change her major to electrical engineering. Now she is one of the world’s most notable women in engineering and was recognized by Business Insider as the “#1 Most Powerful Female Engineer in 2017”. Her strength in engineering, combined with her business acumen, led to a 24 year career at Qualcomm, wrapping up as president of global market development before Microsoft recruited her in 2014 to become executive vice president of business development.



Peggy and Eric Johnson met in SDSU’s College of Engineering. Together, they are global leaders helping to change the world through technology.



After earning his MSEE at SDSU, Eric became VP of Engineering for Tiernan Communications, then CEO of the successful start-up Tourmaline Networks. Today, Eric is a Seattle based angel investor with more than a decade of experience successfully founding, leading and advising early-stage technology companies.

In the College of Engineering, Eric was a lab instructor for Professor Brown. Professor Fred Harris was Eric’s thesis advisor. Peggy’s BSEE degree and software background launched her career at Qualcomm. Their SDSU experience proved to be a great launching pad for both their careers.

Peggy and Eric recognize the importance of education. Coming from large families, they also understand how philanthropy plays an important role in providing opportunities. Grateful for their SDSU experience, the Johnsons established a fellowship and scholarship in the College of Engineering named in Professor Fred Harris’ honor.

They have three grown children and are avid runners. Most recently they and two of their children ran in the Berlin Marathon.



The Johnsons are Aztec Proud and we are proud of them!