


LA ROCHE UNIVERSITY
2021 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI CIRCLE AWARD RECIPIENT



Elizabeth OGrady '79

VP, Channel Management Team (Retired)
ABB Inc.

Liz OGrady '79 is a retired executive and consultant with more than 35 years of experience in electrical, telecom channel sales and sales management.

Before retiring in January 2020, Ms. OGrady was the vice president of the channel management team for ABB Inc. In this position she led a team of channel managers responsible for developing the strategy to increase sales and profitability for ABB's largest electrical chain and independent distributors.

She began her career in Pittsburgh with Wesco, and continued in sales and sales management for a distributor and three manufacturers. Her roles included: director of national accounts for Thomas & Betts, national sales manager for Carlon's Division of Lamson & Sessions, and area sales manager and national account manager for IDEAL Industries Inc.

Ms. OGrady said her greatest professional accomplishment was the establishment of the Women in Industry group through the National Association of Electrical Distributors and Manufacturers (NAED) in 2005. The group provides an environment for female professionals to advance their careers through networking, and provides education for personal and professional development.

"I became a strong advocate for women in the industry, as there were not many opportunities when I first began my career," she explained. "The electrical industry is a more attractive career path for women today, but there is still work to do to increase diversity."

Ms. OGrady said she finds value in giving back to her community, whether professionally or personally. Her volunteer experience includes serving NAED as a committee member and chairperson. She also has served as a member of ABB's Community Connections Committee, a secretary for Oakmont Homeowners Association, and an advisory board member for Catholic Charities and Celerity, LLC.

At La Roche she earned her Bachelor of Science in business administration and management.

"La Roche inspired and enabled me to be productive and successful in business, and to always stay on the path to continue to learn, grow, and contribute to my church and my community," she said.

