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John A. Young

Retired President and Chief Executive Officer



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John A. Young was president of Hewlett-Packard Company from 1977 to 1992, and chief executive officer from 1978 to 1992.

Young joined HP's marketing-planning staff in 1958. He subsequently served as a regional-sales manager, a member of the corporate-finance staff and marketing manager of the Microwave Division. In 1963, he was named general manager of that division.

In 1968, Young was named a vice president of the company and assumed responsibility for the Electronic Products Group, which included instruments, components and measuring systems.

Young was appointed an executive vice president and elected to the company's board of directors in 1974. At the same time, he was named to the executive committee, which was established to coordinate all phases of the company's operations. As executive vice president, Young was responsible for HP's instrument, computer systems and components groups.

Young was named President and chief operating officer in 1977. One year later, he was named president and chief executive officer. In 1983, he became chairman of the executive committee of HP's board of directors. Young retired on Oct. 31, 1992.

Young was born April 24, 1932, in Nampa, Idaho. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1954 to 1956 and attained the rank of first lieutenant.

He holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Oregon State University, Corvallis, and a master's degree in business administration from Stanford University. He holds honorary degrees of doctor of philosophy from the College of Idaho, Purdue University and Oregon State University and an honorary doctorate in science from the University of Idaho.

In 1983, Young was appointed by President Reagan to be Chairman of the President's Commission on Industrial Competitiveness. Young served as founding chairman of the Council on Competitiveness from 1986 to 1990.

In 1983 and 1984, Young was national chairman of Junior Achievement Inc. In 1985, he was named Manufacturer of the Year by the California Manufacturers Association and Business Communicator of the Year by the Business/ Professional Advertising Association. In 1985, he also received the Leadership award from the U.S. Council for International Business. He received the Excellence in Communication Leadership Award in 1988, presented by the International Association of Business Communicators. In 1989, he was named Best Executive of the year by Electronic Business Magazine and Executive of the Year by Research and Development Magazine. In 1990, he received the Distinguished Public Service Award from the National Science Foundation and the American Electronics Association's Medal of Achievement. Also in 1990, Young received the Prime Minister's Trade Award from Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in Tokyo, Japan.

In 1991, Young was honored as the Robert S. Hatfield Fellow in Economic Education by Cornell University, and he received the Douglas D. Danforth Award for Quality in Manufacturing from Syracuse University.

Young was a founding director and trustee of the Foundation for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, and served as the president of the foundation during 1990. He was named co-chairman of the President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology in 1994. He is founding chairman of the Computer Systems Policy Project, an affiliation of chief executive officers of American computer systems companies who formulate and advocate public-policy recommendations of critical importance to the computer industry. He also served as a member of the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations with the Office of the United States Trade Representative and is a member of the Business Council and the National Academy of Engineering. He also was founding chairman of the board of Smart Valley, Inc., a nonprofit corporation formed in 1993 to create an electronic community in Silicon Valley.

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