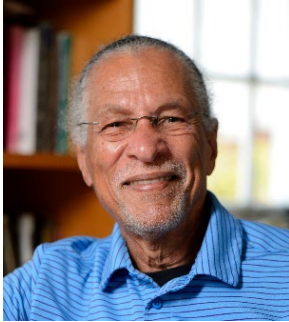


James E. West, PH.D. Acoustical Science Inventor, Electret Microphone



James Edward West, Ph.D., a Bell Laboratories Fellow at Lucent Technologies, is a renowned expert in acoustics. His pioneering work in the 1960s, with co-inventor Gerhard Sessler, led to the invention of the foil electret microphone. Today, 90% of the 2 billion microphones manufactured yearly are electret microphones. These microphones are used in items from recording equipment and professional sound measurement instruments to phones, hearing aids, baby monitors, toys, and computers. Holding over 200 patents, Dr. West's innovations have transformed sound recording and communications worldwide.

Dr. West is a staunch advocate of diversity in STEM education. While at Bell Labs, he was instrumental in coordinating a summer research program to improve diversity for women and underrepresented persons of color throughout the operating companies of AT&T.

Dr. West is a professor at Johns Hopkins University in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Read more in the National Inventors Hall of Fame <https://www.invent.org/inductees/james-e-west>