

## Healthcare Hero

### STEVEN T. PLOCHOCKI

FPCA '73

#### Distinguished Alumni Award

Appointed CEO of Irvine, Calif.-based Quality Systems Inc. in 2008, Steven T. Plochocki, FPCA '73, says his company was in the right place at the right time. In 2009, President Barack Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, a stimulus bill that gives \$27.4 billion to hospitals and doctors to help them implement electronic medical records.

Quality Systems Inc., a NASDAQ-traded company, provides electronic health record, billing and other office management software for doctors, dentists and hospitals. The Act helped expand the reach of the company.

But it also was Plochocki's extensive experience in the healthcare industry that can be credited with the company's success. In 2012, Quality Systems Inc. was listed among *Forbes'* 25 fastest-growing technology companies. In 2011, it was ranked one of *Forbes'* 100 best small business companies.

Plochocki, known as the architect of turnarounds, has 35 years of experience in the healthcare industry. He was chairman and CEO of Dallas-based Omniflight Helicopters Inc.; CEO for Trinity Hospice, the country's eighth-largest hospice provider (a company that in 2006, during Plochocki's tenure, won the *Dallas Business Journal's* M&A award for best corporate turnaround); CEO of Insight, a leading provider of diagnostic imaging services; and CEO of Centratex Support



Systems Inc., a support services company for the healthcare industry. He also led companies such as billion-dollar home health provider Apira Healthcare Group and Abbey, among others.

"Most of my career was to buy and build and sell, or to buy and fix and sell," he says.

The first in his family to attend college, Plochocki worked his way through Wayne State, where he earned a journalism degree, then went on to receive a master's degree in business management from Central Michigan University.

He believes anything is possible if people gain a solid educational platform, never stop believing in themselves, bring a Midwest work ethic to their career and promote teamwork. It's a work ethic he has instilled in his children.

"I told them to be a bit selfish," he told *Wayne State* magazine in 2012. "Break away from your family, get an education, make your way in life. If you don't do that, you won't get through."

**The Distinguished Alumni Award** is presented to alumni who meet one or more of the following criteria: outstanding service to the university over a period of years; personal accomplishments that enhance the prestige of Wayne State; distinguished service or accomplishment in any field of human endeavor (business, industry, science or profession, etc.); or singular contributions to the development of the cultural or spiritual life of any community.