



Brian E. Joseph – *Business, Industry and Professions*

A scientist, inventor, and entrepreneur, Brian Joseph is the founder, President, and CEO of Touchstone Research Laboratory, Ltd. in Triadelphia, WV. He grew up in Wheeling, attended Linsly Military Institute, graduated from West Liberty State College, and studied biophysics at the Ohio State University.

With a passion for science, the imaginative young entrepreneur purchased an electron microscope for \$100 in Columbus, Ohio, and rebuilt it in the basement of the Carmelite Monastery in Wheeling. This was the catalyst for what would become Touchstone Research Laboratory.

Joseph and his team have won more than \$200,000,000 worth of research and development programs, leading to inventions in next-generation aircraft-parts fabrication, algae to biofuels, new aluminum alloys, coal gasification technologies, coal-based materials, energy-absorbing blast structures, heat exchangers, microelectromechanical systems, radar absorbing materials, and more efficient solid rocket motors, among others.

His intensity and leadership led to many successful spin-out companies that emerged from Touchstone, including: Touchstone Testing Laboratory, a world class aerospace materials testing company that has performed testing for nearly all U.S. aircraft and rocket launches; CFOAM, a high strength, fireproof foam made from coal with applications from aerospace to consumer goods (it even had a place in the Olympics); and Touchstone Advanced Composites that invented a revolutionary way to build carbon fiber aircraft and spacecraft parts.

Touchstone continues developing technologies that soon will be manufacturing in the Wheeling area. These include MetPreg, the world's strongest aluminum; Bonded MetPreg Repair, a technology to repair structural problems in Naval vessels; and Faraday Thermal Protection Systems, a system to protect rockets from lightning strikes. And even more technologies are in the development pipeline.

Because of Touchstone's commercialization successes, Veloxint, an MIT spin-out, was moved from Boston to Touchstone's campus. With Joseph as Veloxint's President/CEO, this company is developing and making nanocrystalline metal alloys that are among the strongest copper, chrome, and tungsten alloys in existence.

Joseph was awarded the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's top award, Small Business Person of the Year, from the West Virginia Small Business Administration; West Virginia Entrepreneur of the Year, presented by Ernst & Young; the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Chi Beta Phi Science Honorary; and an Honorary Doctorate from West Liberty University, where Joseph also has been recognized on its Wall of Fame.

He has also been the keynote speaker for technical conferences across the country.

Touchstone has been awarded five R&D 100 awards, three Tibbetts awards, the National Blue Chip Enterprise award, the Sandia National Laboratories Plantino Service award, the Governor's Cup from the Southern Growth Policies Board, and supplier awards from SpaceX and Northrop Grumman.

Joseph's impact on the Wheeling area goes beyond the successes of Touchstone. He has been an inspiration for thousands of students in the areas of local innovation history, entrepreneurship, science, and next-generation technology.

In addition, Joseph serves in other roles in the community such as board member and president of JB Chambers Memorial Foundation, Wheeling Country Day School board member, advisory board member for Keystone Space Collaborative, Grow Ohio Valley board member, Board of Governors member and chair at West Liberty University, and Wheeling Vintage Raceboat Regatta committee member.

Joseph resides in Triadelphia with his wife Julie, daughter Tesla, and their dogs Edison and Foxy.