

Brian Harlow

Retired - Vice President - Manufacturing, FCA - North America



Brian Harlow was named Vice President - Manufacturing, FCA - North America in October 2014. In this position, he was responsible for leading nearly 70,000 employees in manufacturing engineering and operations at 35 assembly, stamping and powertrain and subsidiary locations in the U.S., Canada and Mexico, as well as implementation of the World Class Manufacturing system at FCA US LLC, formerly Chrysler Group LLC, manufacturing facilities.

He also simultaneously held the title of Global Head of Powertrain Manufacturing Engineering where he was responsible for Powertrain Manufacturing Engineering in all regions globally.

Harlow joined the former Chrysler Corporation in 1978 as a plant engineer at the Kokomo Transmission Plant, which started a nearly 41 year career where his responsibilities grew to include manufacturing operations throughout the world. From 1978 to 2000, these responsibilities included various positions in Production, Maintenance, Quality, Manufacturing Engineering and Product Engineering in the plants. During this time he oversaw several expansion of the operations in Kokomo, starting with a major addition to the Kokomo Transmission Plant in the 80's. As the demand grew for trucks and Jeeps in the 90's, additional manufacturing space was needed and he played a significant role in the site selection and oversight of the construction of the Indiana Transmission Plant and then led the production of it's new product, a new designed RWD Transmission.

After the 1998 Chrysler merger with Daimler, he was given responsibility to lead the Transmission Advanced Manufacturing Engineering Group located at the Headquarters in Michigan. He was instrumental in helping secure the decision to build the Mercedes designed 5-speed transmission in Kokomo and oversaw the construction of Indiana Transmission Plant 2 as the place to build it. He later worked with JV Partner, Getrag to convince them to select, Tipton over several other sites, including outside of Indiana, for a new transmission plant

Coming out of bankruptcy in 2009 as Chrysler US LLC under the control of Fiat, he was named VP Head of Powertrain and helped gain the approval of CEO Sergio Marchionne for the investment to manufacture the all new RWD 8-speed and FWD 9-speed transmissions in the Kokomo and Tipton plants. He led the renovation of the plants, development and installation of the processes and the hiring and training of existing and new employees. He also led the approval and launch of new I4 FIRE Engine and the Pentastar V6 Engine, which grew to an annual production of 1.4M.

In 2012, he given global Powertrain Manufacturing responsibility and oversaw the construction, process development and launch of engines and transmissions programs at multiple facilities in Europe, South America and China.

His work and academic background also includes:

- 2014 - current, Vice President - Head of NAFTA Manufacturing, FCA - North America
- 2011, Global Head of Powertrain Manufacturing Engineering, FCA US LLC (formerly Chrysler Group LLC)
- 2009, Vice President and Head Powertrain Operations
- 2009, Head of Powertrain Operations and Core Team Leader
- 2005, General Manager, Transmission/Casting/Machining, DaimlerChrysler
- 2001, Director, Advance Manufacturing Engineering Powertrain Operations
- 2000, Director, Staff Manufacturing Engineering
- 1998, Manufacturing Manager, Indiana Transmission Plant I, Kokomo, Ind.
- 1979-1998, Various manufacturing positions at Kokomo Transmission and Indiana Transmission Plant I, Chrysler Corporation
- 1978, Plant Engineer, Kokomo Transmission Plant

Harlow earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering (1978) from Purdue University, a Master of Management from Indiana Wesleyan University (1998) and an honorary Doctorate of Industrial Management (2015) from Indiana Wesleyan University.

He serves on the Board of Trustees for Indiana Wesleyan University and on the Purdue University Strategic Research Advisory Council.

Brian and his wife, Rachele of 42 years have shared their faith in Christ throughout their marriage and continue to enjoy sharing it together as they split their time between Indiana and Florida. They have 3 children; Adrienne is Assistant Women's Basketball Coach at North Alabama University. Next, their son, Benjamin is a veteran of the 82nd Airborne, with deployments served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Ben and his wife, Jenée have two daughters Zoey and Marley and now live in Tipton, IN where he works for FCA. Their youngest daughter, Shanna is married to Nate Conner, also a Purdue graduate with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and they have three sons, Levi, Machiah, and Seth. Shanna also earned a Bachelor Degree from IWU.

Brian enjoys playing golf, making leather goods, playing the piano, and spending time with family and friends.