

# **Martin Tanaka**

**Professor at Western Carolina University**

Cullowhee, NC, US

Martin Tanaka's research interests include biomedical devices, computational modeling and neuromuscular control.

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## **Biography**

As a faculty member at WCU, Martin Tanaka spends his time teaching mechanical engineering courses, conducting research, and serving the university and the community. He usually has a few graduate students and some students doing undergraduate research. Dr. Tanaka's research interests include developing innovative biomedical devices, computational modeling, neuromuscular control, and industry-academic partnerships. Most of his research projects have design, build, test, and optimization components stemming from my experience designing products in industry. He is a licensed professional engineer and enjoys working with students and local companies on their projects. Put simply, he applies mechanical engineering principles to solve biomedical problems. Being a veteran, he also has a special interest in his projects to assist the U.S. Armed Forces. Professionally, he serves the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in a variety of leadership roles. After 26 years of membership, he was honored as an ASME fellow. Dr. Tanaka's degrees are in mechanical engineering (NCSU), engineering mechanics (VT) and I earned a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering from Virginia Tech and Wake Forest University.

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## **Areas of Expertise**

Design For Manufacturing, Computational Modeling, Material Properties and Behavior, Innovation in Engineering Design, Product Design and Development, Innovative Biomedical Devices, Neuromuscular Control, Industry-Academic Partnerships

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## **Affiliations**

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers

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## **Education**

**Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University**

Ph.D. Biomedical/Medical Engineering

**Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University**

M.S. Engineering Mechanics

**North Carolina State University at Raleigh**

B.S. Mechanical Engineering

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## **Accomplishments**

**Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers**  
2016

**Winning Team ? Faculty Entrepreneurship Boot Camp at UNC Chapel Hill**  
2015

**Board of Governors Distinguished Teaching Award**  
2014-2015

**The Kimmel School Distinguished Research and Scholarly Engagement Award**  
2013-2014

**The Kimmel School Outstanding Early Faculty Career Award**  
2011-2012

**Tau Beta Pi ? Engineering Honor Society ? Chapter President, NC Alpha**  
1990-1991

**Veteran ? Served in US Army**  
1985-1993

**DOD Secret Clearance**  
Issued 1987

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