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Dr. Richard Burke has chaired the Maritime College Engineering Department since 2002. Prior to returning to his alma mater, he taught at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and served as Director of MBA and MS Programs in the Institute's Lally School of Management & Technology in Troy, New York. Before that he spent a number of years in the shipping and shipbuilding industry, worked as statistician at a US Department of Energy R&D laboratory, and has consulted widely in manufacturing, new product development, and health care.

He has degrees in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering from the State University of New York Maritime College and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering and Operations Research from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Dick has interests in applying statistical and operations research methods to business, industrial and health care problems. He has a special interest in quality management and quality control.