

## **Duncan Highsmith - Biographical Information**

Duncan Highsmith, 61, was Chairman and President of Highsmith Inc. He graduated from Antioch College in 1970 and pursued graduate study in architecture and urban planning at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee 1974-76. He joined Highsmith Inc. as Director, Design/Research in 1976. He succeeded his father as President & Chief Executive Officer in 1987, and as Chairman in 2003 until the sale of the company to the Lab Safety Supply division of W.W.Grainger in July 2008.

Duncan Highsmith was elected to the Board of Directors of the multi-channel retailer Coldwater Creek 1999-2002. He has also served with a variety of library and cultural organizations including the Special Advisory Council to the Dean of Libraries, University of Wisconsin – Madison 1986-1989, the White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services 1991, the Wisconsin Library Association Foundation Board of Directors, 1992 - 1998, the Madison Art Center Board of Trustees 1996 - 2000, the Advisory Committee of the Arthur & Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University 1997-2000, the Intellectual Freedom Committee of the American Library Association 1999/2000, the Dean's Advisory Board to the Information School of the University of Washington – Seattle 2002-2006. He also served on the Executive Board of the Urban Libraries Council 2002-2006 and chaired the organization in 2003/2004.

He received the Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin "Voice for Choice" Award in 1990 and the U. S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science Silver Award on the occasion of the Commission's 25th Anniversary in 1996.

Highsmith Inc. was a family-owned corporation founded in 1956 by Hugh Highsmith. The company focused on libraries and learning. Its business activities included Highsmith Library Supplies & Equipment, Highsmith Contract Sales Group and Highsmith Publications. The company earned a reputation as an innovator in organization design, employee development, health risk management & wellness programming. Highsmith Inc. employed more than 200 people with revenues of \$65 million.

In 1997, Highsmith Inc. received the Astra Merck National Managed Health Care Congress Partnership Award. Highsmith Inc. was a two-time winner of the Wellness Council of America's Gold Award and, in 2002, became the inaugural recipient of WELCOA's Platinum Award. In 2004, Highsmith Inc. received the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Innovation in Prevention Award in the Healthy Workforce Small Employer category. Its corporate library was the subject of the January 1999 cover story of Inc. magazine in an article entitled: "The Smartest Little Company in America".

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