



M Foresight National Summit
“America’s New Manufacturing Moment”
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Speaker Biography: Ralph Gomory

Ralph Gomory is widely recognized both for his individual research and for his technical leadership. He has combined a research career with several decades of direct exposure to the problems of industry. He has also written extensively about technology, trade, corporate goals, and their effect on industrial competitiveness. (see www.ralphgomory.com)

Gomory is currently a Research Professor at the New York University Stern School of Business. Prior to joining NYU in 2008, Gomory was President of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation for eighteen years. During his tenure, the foundation pioneered in the field of online learning with the goal of making advanced education and training available to Americans who cannot afford not to work. The foundation initiated and supported in Academia the field of industry studies devoted to the careful observation and study of specific industries at many universities across the U.S.

Before joining Sloan in 1989, Gomory spent thirty years at IBM. There, while continuing his significant mathematical work, he helped to establish that company as a major research institution. In 1970 he became Director of Research with line responsibility for IBM’s Research Division. He continued in a leadership role for the next 20 years eventually becoming IBM Senior Vice President for Science and Technology.

During his tenure, the Research Division made many contributions to advanced technology, including the invention of the relational database and the RISC computer architecture. His researchers also won two successive Nobel Prizes in Physics.

Before joining IBM in 1959, Gomory was Higgins lecturer and then Assistant Professor at Princeton. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1954 to 1957 after having received his Ph.D. in Mathematics from Princeton in 1954. He is a graduate of Williams College, class of 1950.

Gomory has been awarded eight honorary degrees and many significant prizes both for individual research and for technical leadership. He was awarded the National Medal of Science by the President in 1989.

He has testified to Congress on industrial competitiveness and has served on the boards of many major corporations. He currently serves on the National Academies' Board on Science, Technology, and Economic Policy.