The Institution of

Agricultural Engineers

Founded 1938 – Incorporated 1960

## Award for Contribution to the Land-based Sector

## Michael Cullen

MIAgrE

**Michael Cullen** is a long serving member of IAgrE (MIAgrE, joined in 2011) and worked in the Engineering Departments at Reaseheath College where he specialised in apprenticeship training for a range of leading farm machinery manufacturers and national dealerships. He was heavily engaged in delivering block release courses in various aspects of Land-based Service Engineering and as such is a well know face to many apprenticeships and their employers the length and breadth of the country.

During the pandemic, Mike was required to keep up momentum and move training on-line which he did with his usual standard of professionalism and good humour. Mike possesses a real “can-do” approach to everything he does.

Of particular importance is his work with the Milking Systems Technician Accreditation (MSTA) scheme (formerly

Parloursafe) and this award is a celebration for the work he has done to take this forward. The scheme is run by the Milking Equipment Association (MEA), a fully independent organisation representing milking equipment manufacturers, distributors, suppliers, and installers. Members support dairy farmers by developing and maintaining the equipment to the optimum standards needed to sustain responsible, healthy and profitable milk production.

Mike started out with a degree in Agriculture from Harper Adams University but quickly moved into the application of Agricultural Engineering technology thus blending the science and engineering “multi-disciplinary” approach.

His involvement with the MSTA Scheme has been highly reactive to industry needs and he is involved with all levels of accreditation including face to face delivery of training courses and assessment through to the highest possible level. MSTA has been approved by the Institution of Agricultural Engineers (IAgrE), in recognition of its professional quality and the standard of its training.

Mike engages with industry to ensure that the scheme meets the current and emerging needs of the industry and is well respected for his responsive approach.

There is no doubt that Mike has made a huge contribution to the Agricultural Engineering Sector and especially the subject of food security and food safety for the dairy industry – the only place where physical engineering makes physical contact with the tissue of the live animal. Pure Bio-systems engineering and of vital importance to society.

An award from IAgrE for the contribution he makes would be well received by Mike and would be a real statement about how IAgrE supports the people involved in developing the next generation of technicians and engineers.

Mike continues to deliver in his quiet and confidence way and is a real credit to himself, and IAgrE.