

Lydia W. Thomas, PhD

Trustee and Retired CEO, Noblis

Director: Cabot Corp., Mueller Water Products

An independent director of Cabot Corp. since 1994, Lydia Thomas is credited with pioneering the annual sustainability report - now an industry-wide model – and a whole lot more. Cabot Board Chairman Jack O’Brien says that in addition to her critical role as Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) committee chair, Thomas leads the way on systems, risk management, IT security and government regulation. “Lydia also plays a major role in strategy-setting sessions,” O’Brien adds.

“Lydia understands science and technology on a very broad level as well as one molecule at a time,” says long-time fellow Cabot director John Clarkeson. “This, and how plugged in she is to the Washington establishment, has made her invaluable to the board and to the company.

“Lydia is constantly pushing the company to the next level,” says Cabot SVP and Director of Safety, Health and Environment Mike O’Neill. O’Neill reports that Cabot’s total recordable global incident rate in 2012 was 10 times better than the U.S. manufacturing average of 2.5. He believes their success starts with Thomas’s steady push for robust, holistic risk management and her insistence on continuous improvement.

Fellow Mueller Water Products director Bernie Rethore notes that Thomas brings much of the same impetus to their board and SHE committee, where she has served for the past five years, as she does as “a real guiding force” at Cabot.

Career Highlights

- Noblis President and CEO (1996 – 2007); Trustee since 2008
- MITRE Corporation (1973 to 1996) where roles included SVP and General Manager and VP and Technical Director
- Trustee of Washington Mutual Investors Fund
- Founding member of the Homeland Security Advisory Council (2002 – present)
- Senior Advisory Board Member of the Northern Virginia Technology Council
- Trustee of INOVA Health System
- Former Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees of George Washington University