Zhijian “ZJ” Pei, professor of industrial and manufacturing systems engineering, has been awarded the Carl R. and Mary T. Ice Industrial Engineering Professorship.

Pei is an international authority on advanced manufacturing processes, developing efficient abrasive processes for difficult-to-machine materials used in advanced applications and rotary ultrasonic machining processes. He currently serves as director of the manufacturing machines and equipment program at the National Science Foundation.

His work has been supported by more than $3 million in federal and industrial grants, including a National Science Foundation CAREER Award. Pei organizes an annual workshop, sponsored by the National Science Foundation, to help young faculty members nationwide develop funded research. He holds three U.S. patents.

A fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Pei has received the Dr. Ron and Rae Iman Outstanding Faculty Award for Research sponsored by the K-State Alumni Association, the Kansas State University Commerce Bank Distinguished Graduate Faculty Award and the Frankenhoff Outstanding Research Award from the College of Engineering.

Pei earned a bachelor’s degree from Zhengzhou Institute of Technology in China, a master’s degree from the Beijing Institute of Technology and a doctorate from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Xinming (Simon) Ou, associate professor of computing and information sciences, has been awarded the Peggy and Gary Edwards Chair in Engineering.

Ou directs the Argus group in cyber security research at Kansas State University which focuses on the defense aspect of cyberspace. His development of pro-active cyber security measures for large-scale systems has received much attention, leading to grants and contracts valued in the multimillions with industry, the U.S. Air Force and the National Science Foundation.

He is also director of the Center for Information and Systems Assurance at Kansas State where research is conducted in computer and network security, high-assurance software systems, language-based security and security in health IT systems. Ou advises the Kansas State Cyber Defense Club, an organization for students who want to solve real-world security problems.

Ou is a recipient of the National Science Foundation CAREER Award, the HP Labs Innovation Research Program Award and the College of Engineering Frankenhoff Outstanding Research Award.

He earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Tsinghua University-Beijing, and his doctorate from Princeton University, all in computer science.