2025 WEF Fellows Recipients

Created to celebrate outstanding contributions to the global water sector by long-time Water Environment Federation (WEF) members, the WEF Fellows Focus Group each year recognizes the professional achievement, stature, and contributions of WEF members to the preservation and enhancement of the global water environment. The following 15 WEF members have been selected fellows in 2025 for their lasting difference for public health and the environment.

James R. Barsanti
New England Water Environment Association

Katherine Y. Bell, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE
Clean Water Professionals of Kentucky & Tennessee

Todd Boling
Nebraska Water Environment Association

Patrick J. Bradley
Virginia Water Environment Association

Jay M. Brady, P.E.
Central States Water Environment Association, Illinois Water Environment Association, Iowa Water Environment Association

Shellie Chard
Oklahoma Water Environment Association

B. Scott Cummings, P.E.
Alabama's Water Environment Association

Thomas M. Galeziewski, P.E.
AZ Water Association

Dr. Graham Juby, P.E.
California Water Environment Association

Daniel J. Murray, Jr., P.E., BCEE
Ohio Water Environment Association

Richard Russell Roll, P.E., DEE
New York Water Environment Association

Diego Rosso
California Water Environment Association

Jeff Sober, P.E., BCEE
Water Environment Association of Texas

Louis Storino, P.E., BCEE
Central States Water Environment Association, Illinois Water Environment Association

Robert A. Villée
New Jersey Water Environment Association

2024 WEF FELLOWS

BIOGRAPHIES

The WEF Fellows program, much like Fellows programs at universities and other professional trade associations, was created to recognize WEF members with outstanding achievement and impactful contributions to the water industry. Criteria was established in 2009 to recognize individual WEF member's professional achievement, stature, and contributions towards the preservation and enhancement of the global water environment in design/consulting, education, operations, regulation, research and utility management/leadership, as well as, importantly, their service to WEF and respective Member Associations. The prestigious title of “WEF Fellow” is awarded on a selective basis after a thorough application review process. Over a decade after its inaugural year, 195 of WEF’s best and brightest have been recognized as a “WEF Fellow”.

The following 15 WEF Members have been selected as Fellows in 2024 for their lasting difference for public health and the environment.

Paul T. Bowen, Ph.D.

Georgia Water Environment Association, Water Environment Association of South Carolina

Paul Bowen's long and distinguished career has had an international impact in both water treatment and wastewater treatment. His career includes contributions to academia, municipal and industrial treatment applications, and professional organizations.

Paul Earned his Ph.D. in Environmental Systems Engineering from Clemson University in 1982. For the next seven years he served as Assistant Professor in the School of Civil Engineering and Environmental Science at the University of Oklahoma. He spent the next ten years with the consulting firm of Metcalf & Eddy, rising to the position of Vice President.

Paul spent the next 24 years as a leader in water treatment and wastewater treatment for Coca-Cola. In this role he provided expertise to facilities across the globe. He implemented diverse technologies for improving water quality and sustainability at company owned and third party water and wastewater treatment systems. His work has impacted water reuse efforts in Latin America, North America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. He has engaged in design, operation, and research. The scope of his activities encompassed leadership of design teams, analysis of problems, research into innovative solutions, operations, and management of facilities. He has excelled in educating and guiding young professionals.

His list of publications is impressive, with topics that range from MBR technology to sludge handling. Paul developed an international reputation as a speaker, educating audiences on sustainability and stewardship of our water resources. His work has been presented to IAW, AWWA, and WEF, including presentations at WEFTEC and several WEF Member Associations.

Paul was a founder of the Beverage Industry Environmental Roundtable (BIER), a group of leading beverage companies discussing sustainability issues, and has helped guide their efforts in sustainable water issues.

Paul has served the members of WEF for decades. His roles include:

- Membership and leadership of several committees, including:
    - Literature Review
    - Stockholm Junior Water Prize
    - Scholarship Advisory Committee
    - Program Committee
    - Member of program committees for multiple symposia: Biosolids, Research, and Industrial Wastes

- Member of the Board of Trustees
- President of the Board of Trustees

Joseph G. Cleary, P.E., BCEE

New York Water Environment Association

Joseph Cleary's exemplary career as an expert in industrial waste treatment and water quality spans six decades. He sat at the feet of the most highly respected leaders in our field, and earned a reputation for passing along their servant spirit and the insights he learned from them. He is highly respected by both his peers and his proteges, who awarded him WEF's W. Wesley Eckenfelder Award in 2012.

Joe has always exhibited the greatest breadth of communication and collaboration. He has demonstrated the depth of technical insight to analyze complex wastewater challenges, meet them at the level of scientific fundamentals, and communicate effectively with both academics and practical facility operators.

Mr. Cleary's service to both Water Environment Federation and the Member Association has extended through his entire career. Joe has led and coordinated the technical committees, and earned a reputation for effective technical leadership, as he repeatedly organized the efforts of a team, bringing growth and opportunity to newcomers and effectively distributing workload to achieve excellent programs.

People who have worked side-by-side with Cleary speak of his dedication to productive partnering, his attention to detail, his command of both the fundamentals and of emerging concepts and processes, and his determination to support classical and innovative thinking and investigation.

Joe Cleary's application for WEF Fellow was supported by numerous letters from highly respected water quality champions, including two past presidents of the organization, accomplished cohorts he has mentored, and business associates who have witnessed his continued fairmindedness and dedication to productive collaboration.

Among Joe's accomplishments are leadership and participation in innumerable conference presentations, seminars, workshops and educational events, authorship and editorship of seminal volumes on industrial waste treatment and development of analytical methods and treatment processes.

Joseph Cleary was named a Fellow of WEF in the tradition of high moral character, unselfish advancement of the environmental engineering and water profession and the admiration and respect of his peers.

Dr. Christian Davies-Venn, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, BCWRE, F. ASCE

Chesapeake Water Environment Association,
Federal Water Quality Association

Dr. Christian Davies-Venn has been a dedicated practitioner of wastewater engineering that has included facilities planning, design, operation and maintenance program and construction management of a range of handling systems for more than 40 years. Christian is a Board-Certified Environmental Engineer with 46 years of experience, with 25 of those years in senior management positions in a broad variety of activities spanning many aspects of environmental engineering. Since 2019, he has been a life member of WEF in good standing and is also a member of AWWA and AAEES. I personally conferred upon Christian the distinction of the FWQA Select Society of Sanitary Sludge Shoveler's Award (SS) in 2008.

WEF has previously recognized Christian for his outstanding performance and contribution to the profession. He is the recipient of the Water Environment Federation's William D. Hatfield Award in 2011 for outstanding performance and professionalism. The recipient has contributed to the dissemination of information concerning advancements in the field of operations.

Christian has served as Vice President and Chief Engineer with PEER Consultants in Washington, DC, as well as Director of Water and Wastewater (WW) engineering with PEER Consultants in Rockville, MD over the past two decades, as well as a senior project engineer and development manager with Parsons in Fairfax, VA. He also has international experience as an engineer in Freetown, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Gambia that were sponsored and funded by the World Bank, the European Economic Community, and the African Development Bank in a variety of engineering studies and designs of civil, structural, bridge design, commercial building and highway development projects.

Christian is and has been a lecturer since 2010 at the Johns Hopkins University Whiting School of Engineering in Baltimore, MD. He has taught graduate level courses in environmental engineering, including principles of water and wastewater (WW) treatment, water supply and WW collection as well as WW treatment plant design. Christian has authored or co-authored over 20 peer-reviewed papers, presentations, and journal articles dealing with a wide range of WW treatment, including odor control, biosolids, nutrient removal, emissions testing at sludge management facilities, anaerobic processes, pressure filtration and other related topics.

Christian is Past President of the American Academy of Environmental Engineers & Scientists (AAEES), and is an active life member of this organization, having served in numerous capacities in AAEES since 2006. Christian is an active Life Member since 2019 of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and a Member of the National Capital Section of ASCE. He is a member of the executive committee of the Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards from 2005 to the present, having served also as a member of the Accreditation and Admissions Committee and Chair of the Graduate Engineer Certification Committee, as well as a Chair of the Professional Engineer Specialty Certification Committee.

Christian is a leader in the FWQA, having served these past three years as its' President, guiding the organization through the challenging times of the COVID-19 Health Pandemic, as it ran nearly all our activities virtually from 2020 through 2023. Christian is also a member of the FWQA Scholarship Committee, a FWQA Judge at the regional science fairs, a Water Quality Instructor and a helpful presence at nearly every event of the FWQA. Christian is also a member of the Residuals and Biosolids Committee of the Chesapeake Water Environment Association (CWEA), a MA of WEF.

He is a nationally recognized expert in process modeling, enhanced nutrient removal and anaerobic processes, and biosolids management. His technical abilities are well documented and he is an asset to the profession. His technical expertise and experience are impressive, acknowledged by the view of his peers at the value of his input and involvement in a wastewater engineering project.

While his technical achievements are significant, his contributions to the development of WEF Member Associations and especially young professionals is even more noteworthy. Christian has served in many roles for FWQA including currently in the position of President. Many members of WEF state their intentions to support the development of young professionals within the profession, however, Christian actually invests the time and effort to make it happen.

Christian invests personal time to engage and support young members in beginning their involvement in FWQA and WEF and other aspects of their careers. In his various roles on the Board of Directors for FWQA he always focuses the conversation on how we can engage and support young professionals to enhance the organization. Christian's ability to serve as a mentor to young professionals is admirable and serves as a model for other WEF member associations.

Christine deBarbadillo

Chesapeake Water Environment Association

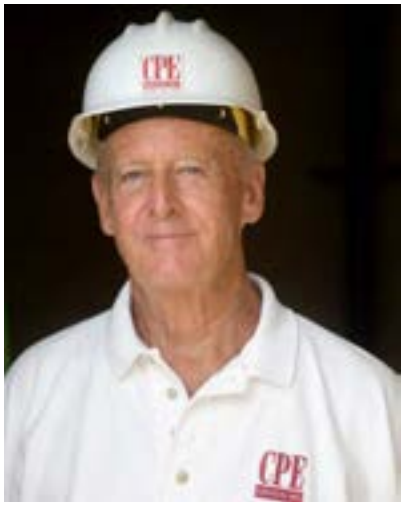
Christine is well known and respected in our industry as an innovator and collaborator. Chris has worked as a consultant and for a large utility as an innovation leader for over 30 years. She previously served as the director for Black & Veatch's Wastewater Treatment Technology Department and is currently serving as Black & Veatch's Plant Optimization Practice Leader. As a process engineer, Chris performed detailed assessments for over fifty wastewater treatment facilities to optimize performance and develop upgrade strategies, with many of them focused on achieving stringent nutrient limits. Chris is a professional Engineer in Virgina and Delaware and holds an ABC Class IV Wastewater Operator license.

Chris recently worked for nine years at a large Utility where she focused on commissioning, operations training, and optimization of advanced biosolids processes, nutrient removal to stringent limits, and sidestream deammonification processes along with research and development efforts oriented toward next-generation process improvements. She is well versed in conventional and developing processes and has a keen interest in integrating biosolids and liquid stream processes for optimal performance.

Chris is an active member of WEF and the North Carolina One Water member association. She has served on the steering committee or as chair for numerous WEF conferences any symposiums including the WEF Innovations in Process Engineering Conference in 2022, the WEF Specialty Conference on Nutrient Removal and Recovery in 2016, the James Barnard Emerging Trends in Phosphorus Removal and Recovery in 2019, WEF Specialty Conference on Nutrient Removal in 2008 and 2011, and the WEF/IWA Specialty Conference on Nutrient Removal and Recovery in 2013, just to name a few. She also served on the WEF Plant Operations and Maintenance Committee and the WEFTEC Program Committee from 2006 to 2022.

Chris has also contributed to several WEF books including the WEF Manual of Practice (MOP) 30 Biological Nutrient Removal Operation in Wastewater Treatment Plants, MOP 35 Biofilm Reactors, and MOP 8 Design of Water Resource Recovery Facilities. Additionally, she has served as technical practice committee liaison for the Municipal Design Committee for several WEF publications including Grit Removal, Nutrient Roadmap, and Short-cut Nutrient Removal.

She has authored or co-authored a significant number of papers and presented at numerous conferences on a variety of topics such as biological nutrient removal, fermentation, treatment of return streams from thermal hydrolyses plants, short-cut denitrification and especially on denitrification filters. In 2004, Chris and several colleagues were awarded the WEF George Bradley Gascoigne medal for a paper detailing solutions to biological phosphorus removal operations issues.



John K. Esler, P.E.

New England Water Environment Association

John Esler's career spans over 60 years and he has long been recognized as a leading technical expert in clarifier design, operation, and optimization. John has served as the design associate on civil engineering projects, project manager on construction projects, Section Chief for New York State – Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS-DEC's) certification, training and technical assistance program, and the Director of O&M on a large international wastewater treatment project. In 1989, John founded his clarifier consulting company, Clarifier Performance Evaluations, Inc. Over the course of his career, John has directly tested and made recommendations to improve the operation of hundreds of clarifiers in the United States and Canada. In conjunction with his work at the Los Angeles Hyperion facility, he was part of the development of the Los Angeles - Energy-Dissipating Inlet (LA-EDI). Although the original patent on the LA-EDI (US Patent Ser. No. US 6,276,537 B1) has expired, this EDI is still used by many clarifier designers today and has greatly improved clarifier performance.

For well over 50 years, John has been a member of and volunteered for WEF, NYWEA and NEWEA to educate wastewater professionals to get improved performance from their clarifiers. John has been an active member of the WEF Plant Operations and Maintenance Committee (PMOC) and the Industrial Waste Committee for many years. He also served as WEF POMC Chair in 1995.

John has contributed to increasing the body of knowledge available to support students, engineers and operators through being an author for numerous books, articles, and papers around clarifier design and performance. While with NYS-DEC, Mr. Esler was a contributor author to the "Ten States Standards for Wastewater Treatment Works". He was also a contributing author to the New England "Guides for the Design of Wastewater Treatment Works" activated sludge chapter, a peer reviewer and contributor to the CSU/Sacramento "Operator Training" series, and a peer reviewer to the EPA manual "Retrofitting POTW's". He was also the lead author for Chapter 7, Field Testing, in the 2005 Edition of WEF's MOP No. FD-8, "Clarifier Design".

John also has presented many technical papers over the years at WEFTEC, Member Associations, and other operator training events. Additionally, from 2003 to 2022, John conducted a clarifier station at the Activated Sludge BNR Hands-on Workshop held at WEFTEC each year. While various rotational stations have come and gone, John's station has been one of the more popular stations in the rotation. This is a tribute to his ability to transmit his knowledge as well as his technical abilities.

John has inspired and educated hundreds, if not thousands, of engineers and operators to put extra emphasis on getting the best possible performance out of the clarifiers they have worked on. John seizes every opportunity to teach and to mentor young professionals entering the wastewater workforce today. John is currently conducting a series of webinars with design engineering firms to share key design insights that he has gleaned from collecting and analyzing performance data from hundreds of clarifiers over the past 35 years. He loves to pass along the lessons he has learned from collecting and analyzing clarifier performance field data. In this way, his positive impact will continue to be realized in the design and operations of our clarifiers in the future.

Patricia Kennedy, P.E.

AZ Water Association

Colleagues describe Patty as a dedicated engineer who is passionate about the water sector as witnessed by her professional and technical contributions in the practice of water and wastewater engineering both as a consulting engineer and as a utility manager and leader for the past 30 years. In her current role as Deputy Director of Wastewater Engineering of the City of Phoenix, AZ, Patty is responsible for the day-to-day functions of the Wastewater Engineering Design and Construction Management Division and manages a CIP of approximately $124M, providing wastewater service to over 2.5 million customers. Today, the Phoenix Water Services Department is the sixth largest water utility in the United States, with over 7,000 miles of water lines and 5,000 miles of sewer lines, six water treatment plants, two wastewater treatment plants, including the 230 MGD 91st Ave WWTP (largest in the state), and over a 540 square-mile service area. During her role as the Deputy Director of Wastewater Engineering, there have been numerous successes for both her and her department, that are important contributions to communities served, the water industry, and the profession of Civil Engineering.

One notable achievement credited to the leadership of Patty and her team includes a partnership and investment to provide significant environmental benefits, while adding revenue to the City. As part of her role as the Deputy Director, she serves as a member on the Sub-Regional Operating Group (SROG) Committee of the Joint Municipal Water Reclamation System, which includes the City's 91st Ave WWTP. The SROG cities partnered with Ameresco, a Massachusetts-based energy company, to convert the byproduct methane gas into usable natural gas, or RNG. The Ameresco RNG plant, in operation since 2019, provides over $1 million in annual revenue for the SROG cities. Approximately 600,000 mmbtu of methane is converted to natural gas which according to Ameresco, saves the equivalent of over 44,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year. This project was acknowledged for its significance by the AZ Water Association, as the 2020 Outstanding Sustainability Project of the Year.

Since starting her career in the water sector industry, Patty has been a committed and dedicated leader in AZ Water, WEF and other professional organizations. She has served as Secretary, Treasurer and President and on numerous committees in AZ Water where she was instrumental in the development of long-standing financial procedures and the MA strategic plan. She represented AZ Water as a Delegate to the House of Delegates during 2016-2019 and again as a Delegate at Large from 2019-2022. During her terms as a Delegate, Patty served on the HOD Budget and WEF Audit Committees. It was through Patty's efforts as she served on these financial committees, that the Member Association Grant program was established. The Grant Program provides funding to MA's for a variety of projects that support the MA's and WEF's mission and vision. She also organized two successful WEFMAX meetings in 2012 and 2019. Additionally, she has participated in various ASCE local and regional conferences. Patty volunteers her time to the professional licensing and development for the Civil Engineering Industry, where she has been, and continues to participate with the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), where she participates in exam development for the FE exam.

Patty is recipient of the 2015 Arthur Sidney Bedell Award, 2015 AZ Water Kachina Award and AZ Water's 2006 Young Professional of the Year. In addition she was recognized in 2021 by the ASCE with the National Government Civil Engineer of the Year.

James S. Kumagai, Ph.D., P.E.

Hawaii Water Environment Association

Considered a "giant" among his peers, Dr. James Kumagai had an extraordinary career impact over more than six decades. He has been a mentor and source of inspiration to many and is seen as a visionary who has been uniquely influential in the fields of water quality protection and land use planning in Hawaii. Leading a wide variety of engineering projects in the public sector, Dr. Kumagai consistently advocated for and practiced "doing the right things for the right reasons" and based on sound science.

After graduating with a BS in civil engineering from the University of Hawaii, Dr. Kumagai began his working life with military service followed by work in engineering, surveying, and teaching positions before he returned to graduate school. He obtained a masters in civil and sanitary engineering from Washington University in St. Louis and a PhD in engineering from Berkeley.

Dr. Kumagai worked for many years as a consulting engineer providing leadership on issues ranging from planning and prioritization, to water resource development and water/wastewater system design, to environmental impact assessment, and marine/industrial discharge management. He also worked for eight years for The Queen's Medical Center, Honolulu, Hawaii, leading the planning design, and construction of critical elements of this healthcare facility.

Dr. Kumagai is credited with influencing approaches to many of the major water and environmental issues facing Hawaii during his career. In addition to these contributions through his engineering skills and practice, he served for five years as director of environmental programs for the department of health and developed a landmark plan for water quality protection in Hawaii. While he worked on many of the water quality challenges of his generation, his unusual drive and outstanding personal qualities allowed him to influence more than specific projects and to use his respected and authoritative voice for wider positive impact.

Dr. Kumagai's community service is notable and wide ranging, for example he served on boards or in leadership roles of wide ranging organizations in the health and medical fields and was also chair of the Democratic party in Hawaii from 1980 to 1986. Active in professional organizations, he is a life member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Water Works Association, and the Water Environment Federation. In 2022, he was the recipient of the annual lifetime achievement award from the Hawaii Council of Engineering Societies. An engaged Hawaii Water Environment Association (HWEA) member Dr. Kumagai served on numerous committees and task forces, is a Bedell award recipient, and a past HWEA President.

Rebecca Lewis

Kansas Water Environment Association

Rebecca Lewis is a seasoned professional in the field of wastewater management, bringing over four decades of expertise beginning her career as a Water Laboratory Bacteriologist and then to her role as Wastewater Division Manager. Based in Wichita, Kansas, Rebecca has dedicated her career to ensuring the efficient and sustainable wastewater treatment and utility management for the City of Wichita and her community.

Throughout her tenure, Rebecca has amassed a wealth of experience and garnered numerous accolades for her outstanding contributions to the field. Her commitment to excellence and innovation has not only elevated the standards of wastewater management in Wichita but has also served as a model for other municipalities.

Rebecca's passion for her work is evident in her unwavering dedication to finding solutions to complex challenges in wastewater and utility management. Her leadership has been instrumental in implementing cutting-edge technologies and best practices, resulting in improved efficiency, cost savings, and environmental stewardship.

In recognition of her remarkable achievements, Rebecca has been honored with multiple awards in wastewater management and various association services. These accolades not only acknowledge her professional excellence but also highlight her significant impact on the industry and the community at large.

Beyond her professional endeavors, Rebecca is known for her commitment to community service and environmental advocacy. She actively engages in initiatives aimed at promoting sustainability and environmental conservation, reflecting her deep-rooted values and dedication to making a positive difference in the world.

As Wastewater Division Manager, Rebecca Lewis led with integrity, expertise, and a relentless drive to ensure a cleaner, healthier future for the City of Wichita and beyond.

Dave Mason

Water Environment Association of Texas

Dave Mason has more than 40 years' experience in water and wastewater treatment and management. With a BS degree in aquatic biology from Bowling Green State University in Ohio, Mr. Mason has been certified as a wastewater or water treatment operator in more than a dozen US states, and is also a certified maintenance and reliability professional. He is widely published including in key WEF technical offerings. Mr. Mason's experience has been described as "unique" and is certainly unusually broad ranging. His career includes work in operations, consulting, technology development and deployment in municipal and industrial applications, and roles as a management/business leader. His ability to identify and share meaningful lessons learned between the municipal and industrial sectors has been cited as being especially noteworthy.

Mr. Mason is widely-recognized for the depth of his expertise in wastewater treatment and his superior ability to troubleshoot and solve thorny treatment challenges. His career impact, however, reflects not just the depth of his knowledge and competence but his personal qualities including his approachability and humility. He is valued by his peers for his commitment to go beyond solving problems, to mentor, teach, and develop others, applying "patience" as well as "passion." While Mr. Mason's personal contributions are noteworthy, he is also recognized as a broader advocate for the development of the next generation of operations professionals.

Mr. Mason's volunteer and community service contributions are also impressive. He has been active in the Water Environment Federation (WEF) for more than 30 years as both a consistent, reliable, and hardworking individual contributor and also as an effective leader. His personal contributions include authoring and reviewing WEF manuals of practice and training materials; presenting conference papers and teaching WEFTEC workshops; and supporting operations challenge in a variety of roles. He has been and remains active on a number of WEF technical committees, is a past chair of POMC (plant operations and maintenance committee) and the PDC (professional development committee), and also has been an active contributor to several MAs. In reflecting on Mr. Mason's effectiveness as a volunteer leader, peers have noted his energy and his commitment to encouraging and engaging others as well as his value as a role model.

Mr. Mason is a life member of WEF, of the American Water Works Association (AWWA), and of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. In addition to his extensive WEF contributions, he has volunteered for AWWA, and has served a number of roles with the Boy Scouts of America.

David William Oerke, P.E., BCEE

Rocky Mountain Water Environment Association

David W. Oerke, PE, BCEE, is a distinguished environmental engineer with over 43 years of experience gained by working in municipal agencies and consulting firms specializing in wastewater treatment and biosolids management. Holding a Master of Science in Environmental Engineering from Marquette University and a Bachelor of Science in Civil/Environmental Engineering from the University of Cincinnati, David has developed a profound expertise that has led to his recognition as a national leader in the environmental field.

David's career began with roles such as an Environmental Engineer at Camp Dresser & McKee (now CDM Smith) from 1979 to 1981, where he worked on wastewater treatment plant designs and sewer system evaluations. His early experience laid a strong foundation for his later work, which has consistently demonstrated a commitment to advancing wastewater treatment technologies and processes. Throughout his extensive career, David has managed numerous complex projects, including municipal wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) projects with construction costs ranging from $10,000 to $40 million. His role often involved detailed evaluation, quality control review, and innovative design approaches that resulted in significant cost savings and enhanced operational efficiency.

From 2011 to 2016, as a Senior Technology Specialist, David led the quality control review for major projects such as the Northern WWTP for Metro Water Recovery in Brighton, Colorado, a $250 million project. His expertise in process mechanical design was further demonstrated in his role as a Senior Technologist at the Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant in Washington, DC, where he contributed to a $750 million project involving advanced dewatering technologies.

David's leadership extended beyond project execution to shaping industry standards and knowledge dissemination. He was the Global Technology Leader of the Jacobs Residuals Resource Recovery Group from 2015 to 2018 and has been a key contributor to influential publications, including the WEF Manual of Practice and the EPA/WEF/WERF Solids Processing Design and Management Manual. His work includes authoring and reviewing critical chapters on stabilization, thickening, and dewatering.
His dedication to the field is also evident in his numerous professional presentations and publications, where he has shared insights on topics like gravity and centrifuge thickening, biosolids dewatering, and energy optimization at water resource recovery facilities. David has presented at prestigious events such as the WEFTEC and WEFRBC conferences, reflecting his standing as a thought leader in environmental engineering.

Recognized with multiple awards, David's projects have won accolades such as the AAEE Grand Prize Design - Excellence in Environmental Engineering and Science Awards, the WERF Excellence in Innovation Award, and the DBIA National Awards of Excellence and Merit. These awards highlight the impact and excellence of his contributions to the field.

Based in Greenwood Village, CO, and licensed as a Professional Engineer in multiple states, David continues to influence the field through his work as a Senior Fellow Technologist, Professional Senior Subject Matter Expert, and Vice President at Jacobs Engineering. He is an Eagle Scout; and his involvement with scouting activities in his years of youth surely inculcated the spirit of service to the environmental field by building and working with teams. His career is a testament to his dedication to environmental sustainability and innovative engineering solutions in wastewater treatment and biosolids management.

Dr. Ana J. Peña-Tijerina, P.E., BCEE

Water Environment Association of Texas

Combining technical skills, energy, positivity, and dedication, Ana Peña-Tijerina has helped the water sector and the water quality community grow and innovate and has made WEF and WEAT more effective/impactful organizations. Ana's role model illustrates how, through a diverse water profession, WEF is increasing our collective impact on public health and the water environment.

Ana's impeccable credentials comprise a BS in chemical engineering, an MS in environmental engineering, and a Ph.D. in civil engineering. Ms. Peña-Tijerina is a professional engineer and a Board-Certified Environmental Engineer, a graduate of WEF's Water Leadership Institute, and is now pursuing her Class A Wastewater Operator License. Her 25 years of broad experience include wastewater planning and design engineering, service to an environmental non-profit, academic service as an adjunct professor and university guest lecturer, and leadership in partnerships between WERF and her water utility. Ana has been a contributing author to a wide array of WEF technical publications dealing with nutrient removal and water resource recovery.

Peña-Tijerina has been a tireless servant of WEF and Member Association WEAT. She has served the organization through the chairs, leading development and execution of numerous workshops, seminars, and conferences. Ana's commitment to lay audiences and school children is exemplified by her service as a judge of the US National Stockholm Junior Water Prize and Fort Worth "Waterama," and her leadership in WEAT's Student Design Competition.

Ms. Peña-Tijerina has proven the value of bridging the gap between managers, engineers, and operators. Nearly ten years as Engineering Manager at a large WRRF gave her an appreciation of the value and perspective of operators that drives her career. Her skill at explaining complex engineering concepts is matched by her commitment to personal action to solve problems, logistical gaps, or unmet needs.

Ana's outreach to water environment policy and the regulatory community has made her a "go to" person for water professionals/organizations seeking to understand the latest developments and implications. She contributed to Texas' development of nutrient criteria and the Texas Surface Water Numeric Nutrient Criteria.

Ana Peña-Tijerina is a truly admirable water professional, subject matter expert and volunteer. In her humility and service, she exemplifies the essence of career impact and volunteerism the WEF Fellows status was developed to recognize.

Joseph C. Reichenberger, P.E., BCEE

California Water Environment Association

Mr. Joseph C. Reichenberger has over 60 years of professional experience in a variety of positions in the field of civil and environmental engineering. After graduating from Marquette University, he began his career in California. He is a registered engineer in five states, and also a certified water treatment plant operator in California. Over the years, he has held multiples positions as a consulting engineer, working on more than 100 wastewater treatment and water plants projects across the country and overseas.

Joseph is also very active with professional organizations, being life members of the American Society of Civil Engineers, American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists, American Water Works Association, and Water Environment Federation.

He has served on multiple committees and also was active in community involvement, having served at the California Association of Sanitation Agencies, San Gabriel Valley Water District, San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, City of Monterey Park, as well as being a Scout Master. He received the Water Vision Award from his work for the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water Authority in 1996.

Perhaps the most noted contributions Joseph has made to the field is as an educator. He is a professor at the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department of Loyola Marymount University since 1993. Over the years, he has trained over 400 undergraduate and graduate environmental engineers, most of them now serving in various positions in southern California and elsewhere.

To quote one reference, “his most important achievement in his professional career has been the application of his hard engineering experience to the development of implementation-oriented environmental engineers at the Bachelor’s and Master’s levels. There is no other educational institution with such a record of accomplishment in Southern California, and meeting the demand for talent and this record exists because of the work and experience of Professor Reichenberger”.

Matthew Paul Ries, Ph.D., P.E.

Virginia Water Environment Association

Matthew Ries has 30 years of experience as a professional engineer and five years as a public wastewater utility Director. His experience includes work in the private and public sector with projects in municipal water, wastewater, and stormwater.

Matthew Ries begun his career in the water industry working for the City of Elmhurst Department of Public Works as an engineering technician while studying for his Civil Engineering degree at Valparaiso University, in Indiana. He continued his studies at the University of Notre Dame where he completed his Masters in environmental engineering.

Following his Master's degree, Matthew spent almost ten years working for several consulting companies, developing his skills and acquiring experience in the design of several processes. In addition to his design project work, during his time with Hazen and Sawyer, Ecology and Environment, Inc. (now WSP) and Earth Tech, Inc. (now AECOM) he also provided construction management and start-up services as well as operator training and environmental compliance inspection services.

Between 2005 and 2017 Mathhew served as the Chief Technical Officer and Managing Director of Technical & Educational Services for the Water Environment Federation. He managed WEF's Water Science & Engineering Center and Education & Training programs, with budgets over $4 million and 20 staff. He supervised the development and delivery of WEF's conferences and educational programming, including the WEFTEC technical program and worked with the WEF Board of Trustees, WEF leadership, sector leaders, members, and staff, to develop WEF's Stormwater Institute (2015), WEF's Innovation Program (2011) and WEF's Specialty Conference program.

During his time at WEF he led the creation of programs in new practice areas and championed innovation, while pursuing his Ph.D. research at the University of South Florida on a framework to assess top practices and key attributes of sustainable, U.S. urban water utilities. He served as the primary contact or originator of organizational partnerships and collaborations with the US EPA, NACWA, the Water Research Foundation, the Johnson Foundation at Wingspread and The Alliance for Water Stewardship.

Following his significant contributions to WEF, Mathhew sought a new challenge with DC Water. Over the last six years he has held a variety of technical, managerial, and leadership roles at DC Water with a focus on strategy, performance, and sustainability. His current role is that of Vice President (Strategy and Performance). In this role he oversees the Enterprise Performance Management Office (EPMO) as well as DC Water's overall strategic plans on innovation, sustainability and policy among others.

In addition to his contributions to the technical advancement of the water resources field, Matt's work has focused on the policy and social components of water treatment and distribution and at DC Water he has been actively implementing such approaches. One such example -ground breaking for water utilities - is ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) reporting.

José F. Velazquez, P.E.

Rocky Mountain Water Environment Association

José Velazquez has over 41 years of experience in the planning, design, and construction of water, wastewater and biosolids systems. He has been involved in all phases of consulting engineering as a design engineer through project and client management, Owner's advisor and as the project principal.

He manages water infrastructure teams, as well as business development efforts, proposal preparation and client relationships. He serves as the biosolids Practice Lead, supporting key solids-related pursuits and projects.

Experienced working in engineering consulting with firms ranging from small, privately held practices to large publicly held companies. He has supported international projects in Canada, Australia, Mexico, and Central Asia. He is also active in the Water Environment Federation (WEF) and Rocky Mountain Water Environment Association and served as the lead editor for the second edition of WEF Manual of Practice 28 – Planning, Design, and implementation of New and Upgraded Water Resource Recovery Facilities.

Mr. Velazquez has provided long-term, ongoing project engineering and management services on as-needed contracts for several clients across the nation. He was involved in the permitting and design of the water treatment systems, treated water distribution systems in multiple locations across the State and nationally.

Mr. Velazquez has served in the role of principal-in-charge, project manager, and project engineer on wastewater projects. He specializes in wastewater collection, pumping, and treatment, and has evaluated pumping facilities, odor containment, and control systems in sewer systems and at treatment facilities. He has provided engineering, master planning, and design services for many collection systems, pumping, and treatment facility projects across the United States.

James C. Young

Arkansas Water Environment Association

Dr. Young, a registered Professional Engineer (Arkansas), is the President of Respirometer Systems and Applications, LLC., and the Principal of JCY Environmental. Prior to his current positions, he was a Research Professor of Environmental Engineering at the University of Arkansas (1997-2010), the Kappe Professor of Environmental Engineering at Penn State University (1991-1996), Professor and Head of Civil Engineering at the University of Arkansas (1982-1991), and an Assistant/Associate/Full Professor at Iowa State University (1968-1982). He received his BS and MS degrees in Civil Engineering from New Mexico State University and a PhD from Stanford University.

His research focuses on the design, operation, and performance of water and wastewater treatment systems and development and evaluation of analytical methods for assessing the effects of pollutants on water quality. He has published more than 150 articles in Journals or Proceedings of technical conferences and received 7 granted US patents.

Dr. Young has produced a great deal of knowledge as well as equipment for the science and art of respirometry. He has held a number of patents and owned several companies that produce this equipment. His equipment has been instrumental for evaluation to determine biological parameters with respect to biodegradability, reaction rates, biomass growth, toxicity, and modeling kinetics, which are keys for design, construction, and operation of wastewater treatment plants. He has authored a book on respirometry, “Respirometry for Environmental Science and Engineering”, which is an important textbook for understanding respirometry and how to perform respirometric testing.

He is an active member of the WEF family. He has served on the Honors Committee, on the Industrial Waste Committee (~1975 to 1996), and as WEF's representative to the BOD Committee of Standard Methods (as Chair for 1981 - 2010). Dr. Young has presented at numerous WEF Member Association conferences and has been a prominent WEF Exhibitor Member with his company RSA.

In 1992, Dr. Young received the Willem Rudolfs Medal from WEF for outstanding contributions to industrial waste treatment practice. He was recognized by the Water Pollution Control Association of Pennsylvania with a Research Award in 1993 for outstanding research in the field of water pollution control. He received an Outstanding Paper Award at the Fifth International Symposium on Emerging Technologies in Hazardous Waste Management (1993). In 2015, he received the W. Wesley Eckenfelder Industrial Water Qualify Lifetime Achievement Award from WEF.

2024 WEF Fellows

Paul T. Bowen, Ph.D.
Georgia Association of Water Professionals, Water Environment Association of South Carolina

Joseph G. Cleary, P.E., BCEE
New York Water Environment Association

Dr. Christian Davies-Venn, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, BCWRE, F. ASCE
Chesapeake Water Environment Association, Federal Water Quality Association

Christine deBarbadillo
Chesapeake Water Environment Association

John K. Esler, P.E.
New England Water Environment Association

Patricia Kennedy, P.E.
AZ Water Association

James S. Kumagai, Ph.D., P.E.
Hawaii Water Environment Association

Rebecca Lewis
Kansas Water Environment Association

Dave Mason
Water Environment Association of Texas

David William Oerke, P.E., BCEE
Rocky Mountain Water Environment Association

Dr. Ana J. Peña-Tijerina, P.E., BCEE
Water Environment Association of Texas

Joseph C. Reichenberger, P.E., BCEE
California Water Environment Association

Matthew Paul Ries, Ph.D., P.E.
Virginia Water Environment Association

José F. Velazquez, P.E.
Rocky Mountain Water Environment Association

James C. Young
Arkansas Water Environment Association

2023
WEF FELLOWS

BIOGRAPHIES

Created to celebrate outstanding contributions to the global water sector by long-time Water Environment Federation (WEF) members, the WEF Fellows Recognition Program each year recognizes the professional achievement, stature, and contributions of WEF members to the preservation and enhancement of the global water environment.

The following 15 WEF members have been selected fellows in 2023 for their lasting difference for public health and the environment.

Water Environment Federation®
the water quality people®

SOMNATH BASU, PHD, P.E.

Water Environment Association of Texas

Dr. Somnath Basu has over 35 years of experience in process engineering for the chemical, energy and water and wastewater treatment sectors. He leads technology and product development activities at his current firm and at his previous affiliations. A few of his career highlights are:

- Headworks Intl. in Collaboration with Rice University, Black & Veatch and City of Houston: Leading a pilot research project sponsored by NSF "GOALI: Collaborative Research: Advancing wastewater treatment resiliency and sustainability goals in the face of climate change," BlueTech Research, Cork, Ireland.

- Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA): Deer Island Treatment Plant, Boston: Program Manager of Process Engineering: played a leadership role from pilot to design to startup and commissioning of new 1200 mgd wastewater treatment plant for the City of Boston, which won the 1998 Excellence in Design Award from the MWRA.

- US Filter/Veolia/Siemens Water Technologies: Manager of Municipal Wastewater R&D of the North American Technology Center (NATC), Director of Process Engineering responsible for overseeing R&D program for Siemens Water Technologies.

- CDM: Industrial Wastewater Treatment Practice Leader.

- AECOM: Executive Director, AECOM Asia and Technical Practice Leader for the oil and gas business sector. He was responsible for developing market in Asia region of AECOM. Responsible for building upstream water/wastewater treatment practice for AECOM in collaboration with Baker Hughes.

- Shell Global Solutions: Served as a global technical expert in the water team of the engineering and R&D organization of Shell Oil Co.

Dr. Basu has taught undergraduate and graduate environmental engineering courses as an adjunct faculty member at several universities in the Boston area. He has two patents, numerous technical publications, and has given many global presentations.

Dr. Basu is considered by his peers to be one of the most capable and knowledgeable persons in process engineering for the chemical, energy and water and wastewater treatment sectors. He has been a great mentor to many young professionals in WEF under the umbrella of Industrial Wastewater Committee (IWWC), as well as Technical Practice Committee (TPC). He has contributed, co-authored, and peer-reviewed several Manuals of Practice publications for WEF.

Dr. Basu has tremendous knowledge relevant to academia as well as industry practices. He currently serves as the Chair for the Publications subcommittee of WEF Industrial Water & Wastewater Committee, Chair of the Technical Practice Committee and is a member of the Government Affairs Committee. Additionally, has authored two chapters of the book Industrial Water Reclamation & Reuse to Minimize Liquid Discharge published by WEF in 2018.

Due to his deep knowledge about different aspects of our water and wastewater industry, he was invited to speak at one of the PFAS workshops at WEFTEC 2021. For WEF's first book on PFAS, he is managing a a chapter on emerging technologies of PFAS treatment and helping the editorial team successfully publish the book. He is a true leader of our industry and WEF.

DR. LYNN E. BROADDUS

Central States Water Environment Association

Lynn is an inspirational convener, connecting the dots creating unique combinations within the knowledge and energy trust of the water industry, causing those involved to finally see connections that have always been there, but never fully realized.

With nearly 40 years in the water, biodiversity, and ecosystem conservation sectors, Lynn's experience combines executive and governance leadership, convening for impact, project management, program assessment, stakeholder input, and strategic guidance. She is known for bringing novel solutions to long-standing challenges, particularly where water, equity, and sustainability intersect.

Lynn is highly regarded as a national expert on water systems and sustainability, particularly in distributed water infrastructure. As founder and president of Broadview Collaborative, Inc., she serves as a strategic advisor providing consulting expertise, including presentations, speeches, and thought pieces on water systems and sustainability, convening and facilitation, stakeholder engagement, and program assessment services and strategy development. Her clients include funding organizations, national and regional conservation NGOs, higher education institutions, and water innovators. She is the author of Opportunities in Distributed Water Infrastructure (2019)and H2Equity: Rebuilding a Fair System of Water Services for America (2020).

She has led the Johnson Foundation's environment program (2004-2008), and under the umbrella of "Charting New Waters," she has convened hundreds of leaders address national water sustainability and resilience. Earlier, she held leadership roles with Milwaukee Riverkeeper, The Nature Conservancy, and NatureServe. Lynn also served energy conservation specialist and a biology/mathematics teacher. She earned her PhD from Duke University, her M.B.A from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and her bachelor's degree from University of Virginia.

Lynn is a former Trustee and Past President of WEF. She is a past chair of the River Network's Board, and is a member emerita (past chair) of the University of Wisconsin Madison's Nelson Institute of Environmental Studies Board of Visitors.

RALPH ERIK EXTON

Pennsylvania Water Environment Association

Ralph Exton joined Grundfos in November 2022 as VP - Water Utility and Chief Marketing Officer, where he is the global leader for Solutions and Marketing, Product Management, and Business Development. Prior to Grundfos, Ralph was a member of the overall Suez Top Executive (TOPEX) team and was responsible for providing leadership and program direction for SUEZ –Water Technologies & Solutions in the areas of: strategic marketing activities, communications, business development, digital, and business strategy. He also led several integration workstreams for the merger with Veolia.

For 16 years, Ralph worked for GE Water & Process Technologies in a Senior Executive capacity and served for six years as CMO. Ralph joined the business in 1994 and held numerous roles with increased responsibility for product management, commercial operations, business development, channel strategy, digital marketing, global sales management, global key accounts, digital IoT and M&A projects. During his time with GE, he was also the business program manager for the leadership development programs, which were designed to recruit, develop and grow future commercial leaders.

Ralph was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Water Environment Federation (WEF), an international organization of water quality professionals, for five years (2012-2017), where he served as Treasurer/Officer for three consecutive years and chaired the Audit committee. He was elected to the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Board Committee in 2020 and is currently serving in this capacity. In 2023 he joined the WEF Circular Economy Advisory Committee. Ralph is a long-time member of the PA Water Environment Association (PWEA).

Ralph is the Co-Founder and Board Director of Partnering for Impact (PFI), a not-for-profit platform for influencers inspiring the water sector to achieve sustainability and resiliency goals, drive equitable economic prosperity, encourage the next generation of professionals, create innovations, and build research and development capacity. Ralph was also the founding co-chair of the AIChE International Society for Water Solutions from 2012-2014. Additionally, he is currently a member of the Advisory Board for BlueTech Research, and on the Accelerator Judging Team of Imagine H2O.

He has frequently been asked to speak and keynote at industry events and has participated in several think tanks and thought leadership sessions on the importance of global water issues. Ralph earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Pennsylvania State University in 1987.

Ralph has over 36 years of experience in the water sector and has dedicated his career to the protection of the environment and sustainability of our most precious natural resource, water.

HENRY E. GIBSON

Water Environment Association of South Carolina

Henry Gibson began his lifelong career in the water industry working for the South Carolina Pollution Control Authority (SCPCA) as chemist in the Florence Regional Laboratory after graduating from Wofford College in 1960. He took a hiatus from public service to attend graduate school at the University of Oklahoma during 1968 but returned to the South Carolina Pollution Control Authority a year later as Chief of the Laboratory Services Branch. During his tenure at the SCPCA, in various leadership roles, Henry oversaw the performance of special water quality studies, implemented an Analytical Quality Control Program for all lab, and developed and implemented a comprehensive Biological Monitoring Program.

After the 1973 merger of the Pollution Control Authority and the State Board of Health, his responsibilities expanded to include the statewide investigation of oil spills, hazardous material spills, fish kills, specific lake studies, and special water quality studies. Additionally, he supervised and conducted Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) inspections statewide for Region 4 of the Environmental Protection Agency and served as the On-Scene Coordinator for South Carolina working with the US Coast Guard and the Environmental Protection Agency in the cleanup of and hazardous material spills, and training exercises.

During the 1980's, Henry's career moved into administration and enforcement of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and managing the Industrial and Agriculture Wastewater permitting for South Carolina. In this capacity he also wrote NPDES permits and developed the Rationale for Aquacultural facilities.

After retiring in 1994, Henry was contracted as a Consultant/Environmental Manager for the Agricultural & Stormwater Section of the Bureau of Water where he assists with the siting and permitting of dairies, swine, and poultry facilities. Now at 85 years of age, he still maintains office hours three days a week at SCDHEC in the above capacity.

In the early implementation of the Clean Water Act, Henry became involved in environmental systems operator training and certification. He served as the Director of the South Carolina Board of Certification for Environmental Systems Operators from 1973-1974. He taught water and wastewater courses at Clemson University Short Schools and Technical Education Centers, administered, reviewed and graded exams.

Henry has been a member of the WEASC for 60 years. He has held every leadership role, from committee chair to secretary, treasurer, president to WEF Director from 1985-1988. He mentored numerous future leaders of the WEASC, is a charter member of the WEASC 5-S (1982), and was elected Influent Integrator for Life. He is the recipient of the Arthur Sidney Bedell Award.

For his dedicated and unselfish service to his Member Association, the Henry Gibson Service Award was established in 2016.

JEANETTE KLAMM

Kansas Water Environment Association

Jeanette Klamm is a recognized national expert and leader in residuals and biosolids management. Throughout her 26 years in the industry, she has worked in all aspects of wastewater treatment including operations maintenance, design, and developing training programs for Operational staff.

Ms. Klamm has been with the American Public Works Association as the Senior Manager of Accreditation since February 2022. Prior to that she was with Johnson Country Wastewater in Mission, Kansas as the Assistant Director of Operations and Maintenance for 4 1/2 years and the City of Lawrence, Kansas Department of Utilities in various positions for 21 years.

She has been a member of WEF since 1996 and is currently a member of the Residuals and Biosolids Committee, Utility Management Committee, and Plant Operations and Maintenance Committee, where she has served as the Operator Essentials sub-committee chair providing monthly Operator Essentials articles for the WE&T magazine.

Ms. Klamm has been a key participant in the National Biosolids Partnership (NBP). In 2000, the NBP approached the City of Lawrence, Kansas Utility Department about becoming a charter agency for the development of the NBP EMS Program. At the time, she was serving as the residuals coordinator for the utility and agreed to serve as the champion for the development of the utility's EMS and as the liaison with the NBP for development of the program.

Over the next few years, she provided input to the NBP EMS consultants to assist with their development of the standard and the progress of implementing the standard in Lawrence. In 2005, Lawrence became the 10th charter agency to undergo an external audit and be fully certified under the NBP EMS program under her oversite.

Over the past 25 years, she has made multiple presentations on the management system value and principles at WEF and Kansas Water Environment Association (KWEA) events and to other environmental and water related associations.

Ms. Klamm volunteered for the KWEA where she invigorated a stagnant Biosolids Committee, implemented a new voluntary certification program for biosolids in Kansas, and served on the KWEA executive committee including serving as KWEA President. She also worked with WEF and NACWA to provide stakeholder support to EPA's renewed Biosolids oversight beginning in 2019 and that work continues through today.

For the last 10 years, she has had broader wastewater utility and operations and maintenance experience at Lawrence and Johnson County Kansas, and she has been a leader in the Utility Management Committee and Plant Operations and Maintenance Committee. She has helped implement "operator essentials" training and has been involved in national workforce development activities.

Ms. Klamm is a past recipient of the KWEA 5S and the Arthur Sidney Bedell Award for her service to KWEA.

DALE E. KOCAREK, P.E., BCEE

Ohio Water Environment Association

Dale E. Kocarek has over 39 years of experience as a professional engineer and project manager. His experience includes regulatory, private, and public sector work. He started his career with the Ohio EPA, then later as an engineering consultant, and is currently serving as the Assistant Wastewater Facilities Manager for the City of Aurora, Ohio. He is highly experienced in the areas of planning, design, process design, compliance management, and financing of sanitary sewer systems; infiltration and inflow studies; and process design for water and wastewater treatment plants. His area of expertise is serving small and medium sized municipal communities.

Mr. Kocarek began his career in service to the citizens of Ohio by working several years for the Ohio EPA. During his tenure, he served in three major roles including District Engineer for the Central District Office, Project Engineer for the Division of Construction Grants (currently the Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance), and as Engineering Unit Supervisor for the Division of Construction Grants. His roles at the Ohio EPA allowed him to provide technical assistance to agency personnel for enforcement cases, along with guidance to consulting engineers and communities regarding programmatic requirements, policies, and technical issues. He also assisted with the development of program policy within the Division of Construction Grants. During his 32 years in consulting, he provided professional engineering services for many communities around the state of Ohio and a few projects in Indiana.

Mr. Kocarek has one of the longest spans of Ohio WEA volunteer service in the history of the organization. He has served on the Ohio WEA Executive Board for over 20 years including holding offices of Section Delegate, Board Officer, WEF MA Delegate, and lastly being re-appointed back on the Executive Board as the Secretary-Treasurer. He also served years on countless committees for both Ohio WEA and WEF, presented numerous technical papers, and has authored over 60 articles for the OWEA Buckeye Bulletin. He has been a previous recipient of the Ohio WEA 5S, the Ohio WEA Lifetime Engineering award, and the Ohio WEA Larry Moon award - an award for service to the member association.

Over his four decades of service in the water industry, Mr. Kocarek has shown his expertise in design, education, operations, regulations, research, utility management, and leadership.

JENNIFER KELLY LACHMAYR, P.E., BCEE

New England Water Environment Association

Jennifer Lachmayr has made tremendous contributions to the water sector in her 35-year career as a technical expert and project leader, through her volunteer leadership with WEF and the New England Water Environment Association (NEWEA), and in the development of the next generation of water leaders. Her primary expertise and much of her technical work has been in collection systems, having led the planning, design, and construction of countless successful collection systems related projects across the New England region.

Ms. Lachmayr's professional work activities include serving as a Vice President and Area Leader (New England) for Arcadis U.S., Inc. where she serves as Contract Principal for numerous municipal clients in New England. She has a strong background in all phases of municipal engineering projects from planning and design through construction. She has managed or designed more than 50 miles of pipe, and has extensive experience in pump station sizing, design, and modifications, and helping clients meet the EPA's CSO policy and inflow/infiltration evaluation and elimination projects. She has provided direct oversight in illicit connection detection, best management practices, and stormwater receiving water quality sampling programs.

Ms. Lachmayr's technical contributions to the sector are just a fraction of her impact to the water sector. She has been tireless and ever enthusiastic in giving back to the water community and inspiring the next generation of leaders both at the MA level and WEF level, as well as at Arcadis. She has been an engaged volunteer leader in both NEWEA and WEF since 2003.

For NEWEA, she contributed to several committees and workgroups that aligned with her passions, including serving as the President, Chair of the NEWEA Public Awareness Committee, and NEWEA's WEF Delegate. She is a recipient of the NEWEA 5S award. With WEF, she has served various roles in the House of Delegates (HOD), the WEF Collections System Committee, and the Government Affairs Committee. For the Collection System Committee, she served as a subcommittee chair on two occasions, as well as on the Steering Committee for a three-year period. She also served as the Collection System symposia Chair for WEFTEC on the program committee. In recognition of her significant contributions to the field, she received a Golden Manhole award from the Collection Systems Committee in 2009.

During her service to WEF and NEWEA, one area of personal passion she strove to expand on was increased public awareness of our profession and the need for funding infrastructure. This played a key role in her decision to take on the role of Communications Council Director for NEWEA and her work to guide the NEWEA Newsletter, Journal, Website and Public Awareness committees to increase NEWEA's visibility and to seek new like-minded partners.

She also served as the chair for the WEF HOD Public Communication and Outreach for Member Association Workgroup. Through her work as NEWEA Communication Council Director she assisted the committees to develop a new sponsor program and advertorial campaign. You can see these materials here, but in short, under her leadership NEWEA was able to expand outreach from sponsors and advertisers to include partners and donors.

WILLIAM J. MITSCH, PH.D.

Florida Water Environment Association

As a world-renowned wetlands scientist and pioneer in the field of ecological engineering, Dr. Bill Mitsch's contributions differ from those of many WEF members but are aligned with the interests of all, and certainly very worthy of acknowledgement via a program that recognizes the "stature and contributions of WEF members to the preservation and enhancement of the global water environment.

WEF is a sponsor of the Stockholm Water Prize (SWP) and WEF's leaders had considerable interaction with then Professor Bill Mitsch in 2004 during World Water Week in Stockholm, when he was awarded the Prize jointly with the late Professor Sven Erik Jørgensen of the Danish University of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

The breadth and significance of Dr. Mitsch's career contributions are clear in his Laureate profile on the Stockholm International Water Institute's web site. Almost 20 years ago, his achievements deemed worthy of recognition via the SWP included:

- Helping establish the Olentangy River Wetland Research Park at The Ohio State University, and showing how constructed wetlands can be used as buffering and treatment systems.
- Co-authoring the groundbreaking textbook, Wetlands, and founding the leading journal, Ecological Engineering.
- Influencing the global community of professionals responsible for lake and wetlands protection.

After he had received the SWP, Dr. Mitsch went on to found and direct the Everglades Wetland Research Park (EWRP) at Florida Gulf Coast University in Naples, FL where he continued to conduct research, teach, and engage with the public. Over a 47-year career as a professor at five institutions, Dr. Mitsch guided 85 graduate students, authored/coauthored almost 800 publications, and received numerous honors and awards. For example, he was selected four times to receive Fulbright Fellowships and elected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Mitsch has engaged in international research and knowledge exchange including through organizing conferences and travelling for and hosting international fellowships. His collaborative approach was clear in the willingness of researchers from outside the US to endorse Dr. Mitsch's nomination for the Lee Kuan Yew Prize and state how he had positively influenced their organization and/or practices in their country.

A tireless advocate for the preservation of wetlands, Dr. Mitsch has worked to educate the public on their importance, including through frequent press interviews and speeches to citizens groups. The EWRP is located on the campus of the Naples Botanical Gardens and Dr. Mitsch organized regular programs to engage with the public as well as the university community. Entitled Moonlight on the Marsh, the program includes distinguished lectures and workshops on a variety of water-related topics from harmful algal blooms to the impacts of climate change, and of invasive species.

MARK POLING

Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association

Mark Poling's career and contributions can be summed up in one word: Service. He has dedicated his life to mentoring others, protecting our communities and environment, and providing industry leadership. Mr. Poling's expertise in utility management has led to innovations in the water sector with new technologies, funding strategies to obtain and implement new ideas, and a relentless pursuit of quality outcomes. He has over 25 years of experience, which led him through a pathway of operations, management, leadership, and finance. He now operates a successful consulting practice, Clean Water Management, focusing on utility management.

Mr. Poling spent the first 13 years of his career with King County, Washington serving as the Plant Manager at the West Point Wastewater Treatment Plant where he conducted process engineering, process supervision, and overall plant management. Following his success with King County, he joined Clean Water Services in Hillsboro, Oregon. His leadership through multiple roles helped Clean Water Services gain a reputation as one of the nation's most innovative and outstanding water organizations.

At Clean Water Services, Mr. Poling began as Wastewater Treatment Department Director where he was responsible for two large, advanced water resource recovery facilities, two smaller facilities, and 40 pump stations. As Director his responsibilities included oversight of both the operating and capital program. Under his leadership, the department has been recognized with numerous awards.

Mr. Poling served in two additional Director-level roles at Clean Water Services: Business Operations Director and Business Strategy & Performance Systems Director. Both roles required an advanced understanding of utility management expertise and leadership impact. As Director of the Business Operations Department, he led the District's Financial Services, Information Technology, and Risk and Benefits Programs. The financial program was recognized for excellence including receipt of Government Finance Officers Association for Excellence in Budget Presentation and for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. He led the District's performance excellence initiative that included business process improvement through Lean Six Sigma and other business process improvement techniques.

Mr. Poling was also part of the leadership of the Clean Water Institute, a not-for-profit corporation formed by the District to advance water quality innovation and research. His role included business planning for the Institute.

Mr. Poling has volunteered for WEF and the Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association (PNCWA) for many years. For WEF, he has served on the Board of Trustees, and was a member of the Leaders Innovation Forum for Technology (LIFT) Steering Committee, member of the Automation and Information Technology Committee, and was involved in the publication of the Water Reuse Roadmap. He continues serving WEF as a Delegate-at-Large in the House of Delegates.

For PNCWA, he served on the Association Board including the role of President and has served on numerous committees. He also coached the PNCWA River Rangers Operations Challenge team for ten years. Mr. Poling served as Chair and a committee member of the Orgon Water Education Foundation (ORWEF) Water Environment School which holds a three-day water environment school for operators. Mr. Poling is the previous recipient of the Arthur Sydney Bedell Award, the PNCWA President's Award, and the PNCWA Individual Distinguished Achievement Award.

F. MICHAEL SAUNDERS, PHD

Georgia Association of Water Professionals

Dr. Michael Saunders has been contributing to the understanding of water treatment practices and sustainable water management for over 50 years. Beginning his career at the Virginia Water Control Board in 1967, Dr. Saunders moved into Academia at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and made a deep impact in water research. As a professor and consultant at various international institutions, including the University of Copenhagen and the National University of Singapore, and on to the Georgia Institute of Technology (where he established the WEF Student Chapter), Dr. Saunders influenced hundreds of students to become actively involved in the water sector and in WEF and their respective Member Associations. He led the Department of Environmental Engineering from its inception to national Prominence.

Dr. Saunders received the Gordon Maskew Fair Medal from WEF and the Georgia Association of Water Professionals, and has been recognized at length for his dedicated involvement in activities for WEF including:

- A member (1976-1984, as Activated Sludge review editor) and the Chair (1985-1995) of the Research Committee that annually oversaw the development, editing and publication of the Annual Research Review issue in the WEF journals.

- Editor, Journal Water Pollution Control Federation and then Editor, Water Environment Research over the period of 1989-1992. In this role Saunders was also the Chair of the Editorial Board of WER as well as Chair of the WEF editorial committee that founded the new journal as it transitioned from JWPCF.

- MOP 8 Committee from 1985-1999.

- Currently serves on the WEF Awards Committee for the Gordon Maskew Fair Medal

- Served on the ABET Certification Committee (nonprofit, ISO 9001 certified organization that accredits college and university programs in applied and natural science, computing, engineering and engineering technology) maintaining and evolving rigorous, high quality standards of education in engineering.

Dr. Saunders has provided input and advice to many people that is thoughtful, accurate, beneficial and appreciated. He resides in the category of “remarkable” as a servant and thought leader in the broad areas of water quality engineering and the water environment community both in the US and around the world.

DIANNE M. SUMEGO, P.E., O.I.T.

Ohio Water Environment Association

During her thirty plus year career as a consultant and now as the president of her own company, dms water solutions co., llc, Dianne Sumego has devoted her time, talent and energy into conveyance systems design, project management from concept to completion, strategic planning, operator training all with a focus on environmental protection and sustainability and client/customer satisfaction. Diane has freely shared her knowledge and expertise through multiple presentations at MA, WEF and Civic organization meetings and conferences and by her participation either as author, co-author or reviewer of MA and WEF publications.

As President of dms water solutions, Dianne is responsible for securing and performing all work for her company. She expanded services beyond typical engineering design and project management to include development of training materials for collection system certification training, pump station O&M training, and sewer system O&M for multiple utilities, which she has personally provided the instruction for these courses which provide approved CEU credits through the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

During her tenure as a consultant, Dianne was a subject matter expert in conveyance systems as well as responsible for business development into new geographic territories, project team management along with project management. She developed strategic plans for business development within her firm as well as strategic planning for the clients resulting in an increase in partnerships for her firm and client project successes.

Joining WEF and Ohio WEA shortly after graduating the University of Akron, Dianne became immediately engaged with Ohio WEA committee work, progressing into Member Association leadership roles eventually doing the same in WEF. She has served in numerous capacities on HOD and WEF committees, workgroups, task forces and advisory panels, serving in numerous leadership positions including Community of Practice Director for the Committee Leadership Council.

Due to her past service, leadership experience, knowledge of Member Association (MA) and WEF structure and governance, and consensus building skills that she was asked to participate on the Membership Engagement Transformation task force to update the current WEF committee structure and improve the WEF member/volunteer experience.

Dianne has made numerous presentations at Member Association annual conferences, WEF conferences, client meetings and civic groups. She authored or co-authored reports, BMP's and chapters for Member Association and WEF publications. Dianne is the recipient of the Arthur Sidney Bedell Award, WEF's Golden Manhole and the Volunteer Recognition Award and is a member of the OWEA 5-S.

BOB SWARNER, P.E.

Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association

Robert E. (Bob) Swarner has served the people of King County for the past 34 years by providing vital information that has been used to make multi-billion dollar policy and investment decisions in the King County Wastewater Treatment Division's (KCWTD) operating and capital programs regarding regional wastewater treatment plants, large conveyance projects and combined sewer overflow (CSO) projects.

Over the past 30+ years, he has mentored the modeling engineers that he supervised, such that they are well equipped to effectively carry on the work after his retirement. There has been good succession planning, and the wide variety of experience in the group bodes well for continuing the preeminent service provided by the Modeling Group into the future. He has also mentored to two consultants over two 2-year periods in a program set up by the Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association (PNCWA).

Bob has been a member of WEF and the PNCWA for over 30 years and served both organizations in leadership positions on committees and Technical Program Committees. He has won awards for outstanding contributions in the field of wastewater collection system maintenance and operation.

Bob's accomplishments and contributions to the wastewater collection field, as demonstrated by his career's work, by the respect and trust of his peers, and by his numerous professional papers and publications exemplify exceptional achievement.

Bob is a recognized expert in the field of hydraulic and hydrologic modeling, acknowledged for his commitment to continual improvement, knowledge transfer and passion to evaluate and solve the technical challenges facing wastewater management.

JOHN TROFATTER

Florida Water Environment Association
New England Water Environment Association

John Trofatter, Teledyne Water Director of Business and Strategic Development, is a strategic organizational leader, mentor, operations challenge advocate, and innovator. He is dedicated to advancement of industry organizations through hard work, innovation, and commitment to people he works with. John's career began in wastewater flow measurement technologies and he transferred that expertise to business development and senior management roles.

He is recognized for his ability to solve challenging flow monitoring problems, leveraging innovative technologies in the marketplace, and trailblazing the sampling and monitoring technologies that helped detect COVID-19 surges through wastewater surveillance. Much of John's career has been with three leading manufacturers of wastewater equipment – ADS, Duperon, and now Teledyne Water.

Since 1989, John has been an active WEF member focused on serving the industry in broad, strategic ways. Among John's significant contributions to WEF is his championing the organization's Operations Challenge. John has served as event coordinator, vice chair, and chair of the Operations Challenge Committee. He was instrumental in the delivery of additional professional operator resources through WEF, including the Wastewater treatment Fundamentals training series and the On Demand Wastewater Library (OWWL). John's mentorship and encouragement has inspired many to become involved with the Operations Challenge as competitors, judges, event coordinators, and committee chairs, as well as serving for other WEF committees or Member Associations.

John has parlayed his passion and energy into WEF leadership, as chair of the Committee Leadership Council (CLC). He assumed responsibility for updating the WEF Volunteer Handbook, developed the WEF Committee Manual, and assisted the establishment of the Volunteer Service Recognition program. He also implemented organizational and leadership changes within unproductive WEF committees.

As a member of the Board of Trustees, he drafted the WEF Strategic Plan and represented WEF at numerous national and international events. He was recently named WEF's representative to the US Department of Commerce Environmental Trade Advisory Commission under Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo. John is the recipient of the WEF Volunteer Service Recognition Award and is a member of the 5-S in both New York WEA and New England WEA.

BILLY G. TURNER

Georgia Association of Water Professionals

Billy Turner is a seasoned professional in issues related to water resources management, strategic planning, policy and government relations. He has more than 50 years of progressive experience in the public and private sector related to the management of water resource facilities.

He has served as an officer, trustee, board or committee member on many important local, state and national water related organizations. He is the author of many scientific articles and publications dealing with water resources. Since retirement in 2009, Mr. Turner has consulted with businesses and agencies in addressing their water related issues.

Billy Turner served as President of Columbus Water Works (CWW) for 20 years starting in 1989. During his service CWW received over 70 state, regional and national awards including: EPA O&M, Best Operation, and Combined sewer Control Excellence Awards, American Academy of Environmental Engineers "Grand Design" Award for the Riverwalk/CSO program as well as many state and local awards for excellent performance in water resources.

Prior to coming to Columbus, he served as the General Manager of the Commission of Public Works of the City of Spartanburg and the Spartanburg Sanitary Sewer District, in Spartanburg, SC. His 15 years with a major Southeastern, Atlanta based, consulting firm as vice president provided broad experience in managing major projects for clients. There he led projects for both governmental and the private sector ranging from local water supply and wastewater projects, to effectiveness of state organizations for their environmental programs, to national wet weather studies.

Billy served as the environmental manager for a major pulp and paper company while also conducting research on effective water treatment systems. His initial employment was with the Tennessee Valley Authority where he performed field studies of water quality in lakes and rivers before moving into their tributary development program where he helped cities and counties assess their potential for economic growth from a water resource standpoint.

Since retirement in 2009, Billy has been involved as consultant and volunteer on two major regional water projects. In the River Restoration/Whitewater project on the Chattahoochee River, he served as Program Manager during the concept, permitting, consultant and contractor selection phases and then continued as a member of the five-member team that managed the project through construction. In the ACF Stakeholders, Inc. efforts to develop a sustainable water management plan for the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee, and Flint Rivers to offer a possible solution to the 20+ year water wars between Alabama, Florida and Georgia, Billy has served on the Executive Committee for four years and is the current Chairman of ACF.

Billy is a past member of the WEF Executive Committee, serving as WEF President 1996-1997. He represented the Georgia Water and Pollution Control Association (GW&PCA) as WEF Director and his service to WEF includes considerable committee experience. Billy held leadership roles in both the GW&PCA and WEASC and is the recipient of the Arthur Sidney Bedell Award, a member of the 5-S and was awarded a WEF Honorary Membership. In addition, he was a member of the Board of Directors of the Water Environment Research Foundation from 1989-1998.

TODD O. WILLIAMS, P.E.

North Carolina One Water
Virginia Water Environment Association

Todd Williams has served the wastewater industry for over 40 years and is recognized as an authority in biosolids management planning having assisted dozens of communities and utilities of all sizes throughout the US and Canada in developing effective biosolids management programs. As a recognized biosolids compost engineering expert, he has led or participated in the design of more than two dozen operating composting facilities, which produce hundreds of thousands of tons of high-quality marketed biosolids compost annually. He has trained dozens of operators at these facilities and has helped develop multiple successful compost product utilization programs.

Mr. Williams began his career managing the 20-mgd James River Treatment Plant at Hampton Roads Sanitation District for six years prior to moving into engineering consulting. Because of his passion for producing high-quality biosolids products, his focus shifted towards serving the sludge and biosolids management space by gaining expertise in all biosolids technologies. Since 2005, he has worked at Jacobs Engineering (formerly CH2M), and currently serves as Jacobs' Residuals and Resource Recovery Global Technology Leader.

Mr. Williams served as co-author on several WEF manuals of practice, and specialty publications on biosolids composting, odor control, and biosolids management. His body of work includes more than 200 publications and presentations specific to residuals management and as a contributing author for several articles and books significant to residuals management, composting, and odor control.

Further proof of his expertise and innovation is demonstrated by his receiving two patents for an odor reduction technology (US 7,537,699 B2 entitled Methods for Reducing Biosolids Odors) in May 2009 and the second entitled "Method for Reducing Biosolids Odors" issued February 21, 2012; this proven technology effectively reduces odors of stored dewatered biosolids cake by 75 percent, as compared to odors produced from normal storage of dewatered cake.

As a visionary in the biosolids business, Mr. Williams recognized a paradigm shift in the wastewater field, and understood that the value of converting residuals into energy, nutrients, and valuable organic materials deserved more focus and needed better promotion.

In 2011, as Chair of the WEF Residuals and Biosolids Committee, he submitted a proposal to the WEF Board of Trustees to establish a Task Force to consider rebranding the term “Wastewater Treatment Plants” to “Water Resource Recovery Facilities”. A report that supported this name change and recognized the value of commodities recovered from wastewater and residuals was submitted to the Board of Trustees, who formally adopted the term Water Resource Recovery Facilities (WRRF) in 2012. Today, many agencies around the US, Canada, and overseas have formally changed their names to convey the important value of these facilities as well as the professionals who operate them.

2022 WEF Fellows Recipients

The WEF Fellows Recognition Program underscores the Water Environment Federation's role as a valuable water quality resource, which is due in large part to the expertise of its diverse membership. WEF Fellows are recognized in various areas of expertise including, but not limited to design, education, operations, regulation, research, utility management, and leadership.

Angela D. Charles
NC One Water

Angela Charles is the Director of Charlotte Water. Ms. Charles has been in the water industry since 1988.

"Angela is a valuable leader in Charlotte Water. She has been instrumental in affecting change and improving processes for nearly 1 million customers throughout Charlotte and Mecklenburg County," said City Manager Marcus D. Jones.

As director, Angela is responsible for the regional, countywide water treatment and distribution, wastewater treatment and collection, utilities planning, and most recently the city's storm water system along with management activities. She leads a staff of approximately 1,200 with a combined operating budget of over $746 million, and a combined five-year Community Investment Program budget of approximately $3.2 billion. Charlotte Water maintains more than 11,000 miles of water, sewer, and storm water pipelines, with approximately 300,000 water connections countywide.

Angela holds a Master of Public Administration degree from UNC Charlotte and a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering from North Carolina State University. She was the 2017 chair of the North Carolina American Water Works Association and North Carolina Water Environment Association (NC AWWA-WEA) and is a Grade A water distribution operator. Angela has served on many committees including the WEF Collection Systems Committee and has received many water industry awards, including the WEF Collections Systems Award, the Warren G. Fuller Award, and the prestigious Arthur Sidney Bedell Award.

Kim Furry
Ohio Water Environment Association

Kim Furry is currently the Wastewater Treatment Plant Manager for the City of Lima, Ohio. She holds a Class IV Wastewater Operator and Class II Wastewater Laboratory Analyst license in the State of Ohio. She has a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Toledo and a Master's in Organizational Management from Bluffton University.

She has over 20 years' experience in the water and wastewater industry and has given numerous presentations on wastewater operations, membrane filtration in wastewater, ATAD operations, management and laboratory related topics. She is also a Past President of the Ohio Water Environment Association. Kim has served as Chair of the WEF and OWEA Plant Operations

and Maintenance Committees, is the incoming Vice-Chair of the WEF Operations Challenge Committee and is a past WEF HOD member. She is a member of the Crystal Crucible and 5S Societies in Ohio and has received awards for laboratory excellence and operator training through OWEA. Kim served as one of the lead authors on the WEF publication Wastewater Treatment Fundamentals II – Solids Handling and is currently appointed to the Ohio EPA Operator Advisory Council.

Joan Hawley
Central States Water Environment Association

Joanie Hawley has been a member of WEF for 36years and a member of Central States Water Environment Association. She served many different roles as a volunteer in Central States including Wisconsin Section President, Collections Systems and Management Committees and Conference Planning. She has been a member of WEF Collection Systems Committee since 1992 served on the Steering Committee from 2001 to 2010 and Vice Chair from 2005-2008 and Chair from 2008-2010.

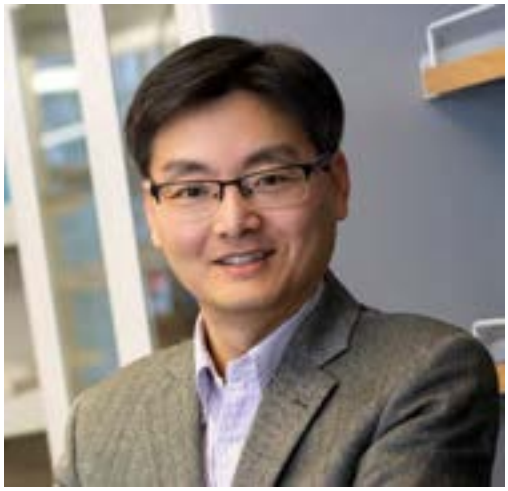
She was the Vice Chair of the Committee Leadership Council from 2009-2012 focusing on the volunteers of the future and committee leadership and was Chair of the CLC from 2012-2015. She was nominated to the Board of Trustees in 2015and served to 2019and is on the WEF Bylaws Committee since 2015. She volunteered for various Board committees including the task force on Operators Initiatives which formed the now Operators Advisory Panel (OAP) in 2016.

Joanie is currently serving on the OAP steering committee which serves to promote and develop operators throughout North America and is a strong advocate for operators. She is the recipient of Central States Collection Systems Award, 7 S Award and Golden Manhole Award and the recipient of WEF Collection Systems Award and Golden Manhole Award. She is also a lifetime member of Wisconsin Wastewater Operators Association since 1990. Credentials include a B.S. from Marquette University in Civil Engineering and a M.S. in Environmental Engineering from University of Texas at Arlington.

She is a professional engineer registered in Wisconsin, Washington, and Michigan. She is a Collection Systems Professional Operator and a Grade IV Wastewater Operator in Wisconsin. She started Superior Engineering, LLC in 2002 as a women owned business focusing on to providing environmental solutions to operate and maintain infrastructure cost-effectively. With her background in operations, she strives for operations excellence. Joanie has presented at many conferences locally and nationally to implement successful Operations and Maintenance Programs and has focused on Operator Training including equipment and process startup.

Personal Notes –my favorite winter sport is alpine skiing. You can typically find me at the “Porkies Ski Hill” at the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park skiing in the woods. Favorite summertime activities are walking on the beach and boating on Lake Superior. I have the huge support of my husband Richard Schluge “Schluge” and our daughters Erika and Chelsea to support my volunteer efforts as well as our dog Autumn Ale–who is a great sounding board because she doesn’t talk back. I am honored to get this award and thank my colleagues for nominating and supporting me. We are in a great profession where people support each other.

Zhen (Jason) He, PhD
Missouri Water Environment Association



Dr. Zhen (Jason) He is a Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Energy, Environmental and Chemical Engineering at Washington University in St. Louis (WashU). Prior to that, he was a Professor/Associate Professor at Virginia Tech and an Assistant Professor at University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. He received a BS from Tongji University, a MS from Technical University of Denmark, and a PhD from Washington University in St. Louis, all in Environmental Engineering. Dr. He is directing the Environmental Biotechnology & Bioenergy Laboratory with a focus on resource recovery from wastewater and innovative technologies for wastewater treatment. He has published nearly 250 journal papers, received 3 US patents, and graduated 20 MS students and 14 PhD students. Many of those graduates started their careers in water/wastewater companies and state environmental agencies. Some continued to their PhD studies or found tenure-track faculty positions at universities like University of Wisconsin – Madison, Temple University, Auburn University, and North Dakota State University.

Dr. He has had a track of collaboration with wastewater utilities in research of innovative technologies for wastewater treatment and resource recovery. In 2021, he led a team consisting of WashU, American Bottoms Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility, and Greeley and Hansen won the 2nd place in the Intelligent Water Systems Challenge. Dr. He established Virginia Tech Center for Applied Water Research and Innovation and is currently the Director of Center for Water Innovation at WashU, both of which involve industrial and utility members. He was a faculty adviser of Virginia Tech student chapter of WEF/AWWA and serves the same role at WashU. From 2018 to 2019, Dr. He was the Director of Virginia Tech Water & Wastewater Training Program. In a period of two years, he managed 22 short courses, 24 broadcasts, and 2 summer short schools, which attracted more than 2,000 participants from water and wastewater utilities in Virginia.

He is the Editor in Chief for both *Journal of Hazardous Materials* and *Water Environment Research* (WER). WER is the academic journal of WEF and among the oldest academic publications in the field of water and wastewater. Under his leadership, WER's impact factor increased by 160%, from 1.24 (2018) to 3.3 (2021), and the journal continues to be an important platform for publishing applied water and wastewater research.

Dr. He was the Vice Chair of WEF's Research and Innovation Committee. In 2017, he was elected to be the President of Chinese-American Professors in Environmental Engineering and Science (CAPEES). He is a board member of IWA USA National Committee that is working to build a stronger connection between IWA and WEF. He is the Co-Chair of the 10th IWA Membrane Technology Conference (2023) and a Conference Associate Chair for the 2022 AEESP Research and Education Conference.
Dr. He was recognized by a Walter L. Huber Civil Engineering Research Prize (ASCE), Green Talent (BMBF, Germany), a 2018 Highly Cited Researcher (Clarivate Analytics), CAPEES Frontier Research Award, and Dean's Award for Research Excellence at Virginia Tech. In 2020, he was named a Fellow of International Water Association (IWA) and in 2022, he was elected a Fellow of Water Environment Federation (WEF).

Deborah Houdeshell
Ohio Water Environment Association

Deborah Houdeshell has been in the wastewater field for over 34 years and currently is the Superintendent of the City of Canton, OH - Water Reclamation Facility. She holds a Class III Wastewater Operator Certificate and is also a Professional Engineer. The combination of theoretical and practical experience she has gained over her career has proven to be a benefit for the City of Canton.

The Canton WRF is a 39 MGD membrane process facility. She started at the facility as the Facilities Engineer at the end of the construction of the change from a conventional activated sludge process. Deborah dove in and worked with the supplier's operations staff to learn the ins and outs of the new process. Using this gained knowledge she works with and trains operations staff to ensure that the process runs as smooth as it can. Working all together as a team has proven to be a success and the system performs much better today than when it was started up. Deborah moved into the role of Superintendent just 3.5 years after she began working at the facility.

Deborah has worked as a consultant, as a regulator, and in various roles for public entities. Her time working for Ohio EPA has given her a perspective that has proven to be invaluable. In each role she has held she has put the client or customer first, always looking for a complete solution to the situation. She has designed brand new wastewater treatment systems to eliminate septic systems, separated storm and sanitary sewers, upgraded treatment facilities and has written many reports and studies. Highlights of her career include the removal of the Munroe Falls Dam on the Cuyahoga River. The partial dam removal project was under construction and it was determined that there was a natural fall. The race was on to receive approvals to entirely remove the dam prior to the completion of the designed improvements.

Working on behalf of the Summit County Department of Environmental Services with Ohio EPA, Munroe Falls and US Army Corps of Engineers, the task was accomplished in a three week time period. Four night meetings and 21 conference calls took place. Other accomplishments for this to happen included securing a pro bono wetlands delineation in one week, a US Army Corps permit in less than two weeks, an amended Attorney General Consent Decree signed in four days, scheduling and participating in two emergency city council meetings held in two weeks and reducing the project cost by $0.5 million and diverting the cost savings to financing stormwater projects in the community.

Deborah spearheaded a pilot study in 2012 for the City of Akron Water Reclamation Facility to evaluate whether the chosen pilot peak-flow high-rate treatment system was capable of achieving prescribed effluent limitations and to compare its performance with that of conventional activated sludge treatment.

The study required coordination of plant staff, staff operating the pilot plant, laboratories, courier service and other support staff over an 8 month period. Her ability to schedule 24/7 staffing and respond to all wet weather events, gather and process hundreds of samples was remarkable. Her team-building management style and organizational skills were key to the success of this complex study. Deborah used this team building management style through her professional organization experience also. She has served on the board and as President of the Northeast Ohio Section of Ohio WEA, on the

board and as President of Ohio WEA and as Ohio's delegate to WEF. She headed up the committee of delegates to develop the governance of the WEF House of Delegates when it was established along with serving as Chair of the HOD before the governance and as the first Speaker of the HOD. She served on the WEF Board of Trustees 2008-2011. She was involved in the Stockholm Junior Water Prize and WEFTEC Program Committee.

Deborah has presented in Ohio, New Jersey and also at WEFTEC. She is a member and has been involved with the American Society of Civil Engineers. She has been a member of the Ohio Northern University College of Engineering Advisory Board and served as Chair. She is a member of Tau Beta Pi and has been recognized as an Eminent Engineer.

Deborah holds a Bachelor's of Science in Civil Engineering from Ohio Northern University and a Masters in Civil Engineering from the University of Akron. She and her husband John live in Copley, Ohio and have two adult children, Hannah and Nathan.

Thomas Jenkins, P.E.
Central States Water Environment Association

Tom Jenkins is an engineer, entrepreneur, author, and educator. He founded Jenkins Engineering Inc., now JenTech Inc., in 1982, co-founded Energy Strategies Corporation (ESCOR) in 1984 and Advanced Aeration Controls (A2C) in 2002.

Tom is widely recognized for successfully introducing many original aeration, blower, and Dissolved Oxygen (DO) control techniques to the wastewater industry, including several patented devices and systems.

He is the author of the book "Aeration Control System Design" and has written dozens of articles for periodicals. Currently the Committee Chairman for ASME PTC 13, he is also an Adjunct Professor (Professor of Practice) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a mentor for the UW student chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB).

Debra Leigh
Nebraska Water Environment Association

Debra Leigh is President and owner of Leigh Environmental Equipment, Inc. (A Woman-owned Business Enterprise), that was formed in August of 1999. She has over forty years of experience as a manufacturer's representative in the water and wastewater business in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, Kansas, and Missouri. The company philosophy is to work closely with consulting engineers, contractors, and owners to help solve environmental problems with high quality products.

The company represents a broad range of products including intake screens, filters, material handling equipment, UV disinfection equipment, ozone

equipment, on-site sodium hypochlorite generation systems, flat aluminum covers, solar and grid powered circulators, manhole coatings, and couplings.

Leigh has been active in many technical organizations throughout her career. She has served as President of the Nebraska Water Environment Association and the Nebraska Chapter of the American Public Works Association. She served a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the Water Environment Federation (WEF) and two terms on the WEF Executive Committee.

Luis Roberto León, P.E., BCEE, ENV SP
California Water Environment Association

Mr. León has over 37 years of U.S. and international engineering and management experience in the areas of master planning, feasibility studies, asset management, design (plans, specifications, and estimates), permitting, and construction management of public and private infrastructure projects.

These projects have included wastewater collection systems, water distribution facilities, storm drainage, transportation systems, and land development. Mr. León has also managed projects for the assessment, rehabilitation, expansion, and reconstruction of numerous utility systems for diverse and complex commercial, residential, and governmental projects. He has expertise in pipeline condition assessment, design and rehabilitation using innovative applications of trenchless technologies, and is recognized as a national leader in sewer collection systems.

Mr. León's credentials include a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Northrop University, Board Certified Environmental Engineer (BCEE) by the American Academy of Environmental Engineers (AAEE), and an Envision Sustainability Professional. He is a professional engineer registered in California, Arizona, Texas, Minnesota, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and Colombia, South America.

Luis has presented at many national and international conferences on condition assessment and rehabilitation of pipelines. He has held leadership positions within the water sector, including WEF Collection Systems Committee Chair, Community of Practice Director for Resource Recovery under WEF's Committee Leadership Council, NASSCO Board Member, and Chair and Co-Chair of NASSCO's International Committee. He was the recipient of the WEF Collection Systems Award in 2019, WEF Volunteer Service Recognition Program in 2017, and the Golden Manhole Award in 2016. Highlights of his career have been several important rehabilitation projects in the U.S. and Colombia, where he enjoyed training local engineers in condition assessment and rehabilitation.

Luis resides in Southern California, where he loves spending time with his wife Lorena, his Children Gabriela and Roberto and their respective spouses David and Courtney, and his pride and joy and first grandson Remy who will turn 4 this October. He is also anxiously looking forward to receiving their first granddaughter to the family in September. Luis loves traveling, enjoying good wine, good friends, watching great soccer, and most of all spending time with his beautiful family, who have loved and supported him throughout his life and professional career.

Stacy J. Passaro, P.E., BCEE
Chesapeake Water Environment Association

Stacy Passaro has been working in wastewater collection and water resource recovery for the past 30 years. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Civil & Environmental Engineering from Clarkson University in Potsdam, NY. She received her Masters degree in Environmental Engineering from Johns Hopkins University.

She began her career working as a designer for Stearns and Wheler in Cazenovia, NY and then moved to Maryland to work in their new Mid-Atlantic office. Years later she joined the Water Environment Federation staff in Alexandria, Virginia. She was a member of the Technical and Educational Services staff.

In 2007, Stacy started her own company, Passaro Engineering, LLC, where she has had the opportunity to partner with utilities on a wide variety of operations and maintenance focused projects. Throughout her career, she has worked on many rewarding volunteer projects through WEF and Chesapeake WEA and formed many lasting friendships with fellow committee members and volunteers.

Stacy lives with her husband in central Maryland. They have an older daughter who works as a nurse in Portland, Maine and a younger daughter who is studying bioengineering at the University of Maryland, College Park. Favorite activities include travelling, spending time with family and friends, reading, hiking, kayaking and gardening.

Sarah Reeves
Rocky Mountain Water Environment Association

Sarah Reeves holds a masters in bioresource engineering from Colorado State University and is a Vice President at Brown and Caldwell where she is the Director of Technical Services Systems and Performance. Sarah has over 25 years of experience in the water industry with specific expertise in water quality policy and regulation as well as management consulting.

In her work and volunteer activities she engages with passion and humor – focusing on listening and understanding issues, developing and driving stakeholder involvement, and influencing outcomes based on the voice and needs of the whole.

Sarah has been significantly engaged in WEF service for nearly all her career, serving for 23 years on WEF's Program Committee – in Program Leadership for 12 of those years, including Committee Vice Chair and Chair. She continues to represent the Program on the WEFTEC Advisory Committee and also volunteers in reviewing and helping to shape WEF's Operator Scholarship awards. Sarah is currently a member of WEF's Utility Management Committee and is a WEF representative on the joint AWWA/WEF Utility Management Conference Planning Committee.

Susan J. Sullivan
New England Water Environment Association

Susan Sullivan accepted the appointment to serve as NEIWPCC's executive director in 2017, following twenty-eight years on the Commission staff. She joined NEIWPCC in 1989 as an environmental analyst, and from 1997 to 2017 served as the Commission's deputy director.

Ms. Sullivan coordinates and helps implement policies and programs of the highest priority to state and federal agencies and oversees all of NEIWPCC's operational and programmatic activities, including contracts and grants. Her extensive responsibilities include providing overall supervision of the Commission's staff and office operations.

Ms. Sullivan advises NEIWPCC's Commissioners, state and federal agency staff, and the public on multiple water-related matters. She works with state staff to reach consensus on technical aspects of complex issues and serves as a technical writer on position papers. She also represents NEIWPCC and our member states through leadership roles with various regional and national organizations. This includes serving on the board of directors of the Association of Clean Water Administrators and on the executive and steering committees of the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program.

Ms. Sullivan is a Community of Practice Director for the Committee Leadership Council of the Water Environment Federation (WEF). She is also delegate at large in WEF's House of Delegates, where she is a member of the body's Budget Committee.

Before becoming deputy director, Ms. Sullivan served as NEIWPCC's assistant director for water quality protection and training. She oversaw the management of all Clean Water Act program activities as well as the operation of the Commission's Environmental Training Center in South Portland, Maine. Ms. Sullivan was also NEIWPCC's project officer for environmental education, water quality planning and standards, wetlands protection, nonpoint source pollution, watershed management, resource protection, residuals management, combined sewer overflows, stormwater, and wastewater treatment plant management.

Duyen Tran
Arkansas Water Environment Association

Duyen Tran retired in January 2022from a 35+ year career in water as an experienced consultant with technical expertise in sustainability, quality assurance, program and portfolio management, and business risk assessment. Before retirement she was the Director of Sustainable Operations at Jacobs (previously CH2M) for more than 7 years. In this position she led changes and empowered broad-based actions on sustainability to improve operations' efficiency at 200+ Jacobs-operated facilities across North America. She was responsible for:

- Developing and implementing an overall sustainability program for Operation and Maintenance (OM) Services
- Promoting and integrating sustainability in business decision making to meet business performance and enhance the environment

- Participating in cross-functional teams at the corporate level
- Tracking key performance indicators
- Ensuring that key stakeholders were included in decision-making and achieving program goals
- Managing a business risk assessment process to help identifying and mitigating business risks

At the end of her career with Jacobs, her award-winning sustainability program saved nearly $26 million for our clients and the company, reduced electrical consumption by an estimated 95 million kWh, reduced water consumption by 1.25 billion gallons, diverted more than 9.7 million pounds of recyclable wastes from landfills, and recorded over 28,000 volunteer hours.

With an expansive background of the water industry and the applications of sustainability, Duyen is a tireless advocate and promoter of water professional together with sustainability initiatives. In addition to her day-to-day job, she volunteered time to professional organizations through the years. She was the 2014–2015 Water Environment Federation (WEF) Speaker of the House of Delegates, the 2011-2013 Arkansas Water Environment Association President and has served in multiple leadership roles at local, regional, and national organizations. Among her many industry honors, she received the 2014 Living Water Award from the National Association of Water Companies, 2015 WEF President's Award, and 2020 President's Award from the Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association.

Duyen came to the United States through the US Refugee resettlement program with her family, after a difficult escape from South Vietnam in 1975. The oldest of eight children but was still at high school age, she had to enter the work force early on to help providing support for a large family. Notwithstanding the challenges induced in the making of new live in the new homeland, Duyen took on the opportunity that freedom offered to achieve her higher education goal, which eventually led her to the career path in water. She credited her ethnic background for giving her the understanding of value in diversity and hard work.

Being a wife, mother, civic leader, and business leader taught her patience and work-life balance. Besides providing leadership to the organizations in which she has served, she is also known for mentoring others and creating fun and challenging opportunities to better the organizations. It is also her mission to leave behind a sustainable environment and clean water to the grandchildren and beyond. Duyen is happily married with three grown sons, two grandchildren and resides in the beautiful Northwest Arkansas. She enjoys spending time with family and friends and stays active with outdoor hobbies like tennis, water sports, winter sports, and gardening.

Kwok-Wai (Richard)Tsang, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE
NC One Water

Dr. Tsang is a process specialist in the study, design, and construction of wastewater treatment and residuals processing facilities. His experience encompasses water and wastewater sludge handling and treatment technologies, including sludge characterization, drying, dewatering, and stabilization. He has conducted solids related projects from master planning, design, and construction for many facilities around the country and overseas.

In his 33 years' career at CDM Smith Inc., Dr. Tsang has held a number of positions providing services to municipal and industrial clients in the United States and around the world. He has served as project engineer, project manager, and technical specialist in numerous projects. He held positions as firmwide Wastewater Discipline Leader and Residuals and Biosolids Technology Leader within the firm. He has held the position of senior vice president since 2011, and is serving as technical leader on a number of projects.

While the number of projects he has contributed is too numerous to list, of note is his leadership in the completion of Biosolids planning for the Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department and Orange County Utilities in Florida, City of Raleigh and Charlotte Water in North Carolina, and Arlington County in Virginia. For ReWa in South Carolina, he led the design of the expansion of Gilder Creek WWTP. In Bogota, Colombia, he led the design of solids facilities for a new 365 mgd wastewater treatment plant. When constructed, this plant will vastly improve the water quality of the Bogota River, improving the quality of life for over seven million residents. He is currently leading the implementation of biosolids management scheme recommended in the master plan for Charlotte Water to regionalize and improve the solids treatment to facilitate growth and reduce green house gas emission.

Dr. Tsang has been very active in professional societies throughout his career. His participation in the Water Environment Federation began in 1992 when he also became a member of the NC AWWA/WEA. He served on multiple committees for NC AWWA/WEA including Residuals and Biosolids, Program, and Seminars and Workshops Committees. He was Chair of the Residuals and Biosolids Committee for several terms and was elected to the Board of Trustees in 2013. Besides serving on committees, Dr. Tsang contributed considerable amount of his time supporting the education and training of operators. He taught the State Certified Wastewater School for various grades of operators for many years. For WEF, he has been serving on the Residuals and Biosolids Committee and Program Committee for many years. From 2014-2017, he served in the House of Delegates, representing NC. For the Program Committee, he served as Vice Chair and Chair of the Residuals and Biosolids Symposium. He also served as Chair of the Specialty Conference Subcommittee of the Residuals and Biosolids Committee.

Dr. Tsang is also very active in organizing seminars and conferences. He served as Conference Chair and Co-chair for the Residuals and Biosolids Conference in 2005 and 2012. He is a member of the 5S Society. In addition to WEF, he is also very active with other associations. He is currently serving as the Chair of the Sludge Management Specialists Group of the International Water Association. Below is a summary of his other involvements.

Rick Warner, P.E.
Nevada Water Environment Association

Rick Warner, PE, is the founder and president of Warner and Associates LLC, a company focused on bringing communities together to solve complex water challenges and create unique opportunities. As a passionate and recognized water leader, Rick has served in numerous national leadership positions. He has traveled globally to share his expertise, insights, knowledge, and enthusiasm for water and has provided expert guidance to States, associations, countries, institutions, and agencies.

Mr. Warner has over 30 years of experience in the public sector. He has devoted his career to providing water policy development, strategic planning, design,

project management, permitting, and commissioning. Mr. Warner's expertise spans drinking water, wastewater treatment, and water recycling. In addition, Rick has essential experience in non-potable reuse systems for municipal and industrial uses, and is presently serving as Program Coordinator for OneWater Nevada, a regional initiative implementing municipal-scale potable reuse.

Rick inspires research and innovation by co-creating the Nevada Water Innovation Institute. Founded by the University of Nevada, Reno, and local agencies, the program advances water science and technology while enhancing economic, social, and environmental aspects.

Mr. Warner has held several leadership positions within the water sector, including 2016/17 president of the Water Environment Federation (WEF), board of directors for The Water Research Foundation (2014-2018), and president of the Nevada Water Environment Association (2000). As WEF president, Rick inspired the development of a Water Reuse Roadmap – a publication helping communities navigate the complexities of developing local water recycling programs and sustainable water management practices.

Rick has led several water sector initiatives to unite diverse stakeholders to achieve common goals. Starting in 2016, he has co-convened annual Partnering for Impact events, attracting various cross-sections of water leaders to explore synergies in advancing utility-university-industry partnerships, workforce development, and more sustainable water management practices. This effort led to a Shared Vision Movement, where national stakeholders meet to share ideas and keep the momentum for innovative solutions moving forward.

Mr. Warner is a recipient of the University of Nevada, Reno's prestigious James G. Scrugham Medal, in recognition as a distinguished alumnus of the College of Engineering. In addition, recognizing Rick's significant contributions within the water sector, he received the National Advocacy Achievement Award from the WateReuse Association. Mr. Warner is a registered professional engineer. He received a B.S. and an M.S. in civil engineering from the University of Nevada, Reno.

2021 WEF Fellows Recipients

The WEF Fellows Recognition Program recognizes distinguished accomplishments and contributions of individuals who have made an impact in the global water environment in a variety of disciplines. The WEF Board of Trustees have approved the following individuals as the 2021 group of WEF Fellows:

Janet Hurley Cann, PE
Water Environment Association of South Carolina

Sylvan Coles
Kansas Water Environment Association

Raynetta Curry Marshall, PE
Florida Water Environment Association

Peter V. Cavagnaro, PE, BCEE
Michigan Water Environment Association

Marlo R. Davis
Water Environment Association of Utah

Francis L. De Los Reyes III, PhD
North Carolina Water Environment Association

Jennifer Hartfelder, PE, PMP
Rocky Mountain Water Environment Association

Sidney Innerebner, PhD, PE
Rocky Mountain Water Environment Association

Jacqueline Ariza Jarrell, PE
North Carolina Water Environment Association

Chris Johnston, PE
British Columbia Water and Waste Association

Kristin Morico, PE, BCEE
New England Water Environment Association

Erin Mosley, PE
New England Water Environment Association

Aisha Niang, PE
Water Environment Association of Texas

Christopher Peot, PE, BCEE
Chesapeake Water Environment Association

Prakasam Tata, PhD
Illinois Water Environment Association

2020 WEF Fellows Recipients

The WEF Fellows Recognition Program recognizes distinguished accomplishments and contributions of individuals who have made an impact in the global water environment in a variety of disciplines. The WEF Board of Trustees have approved the following individuals as the 2020 group of WEF Fellows:

Lynn Burton (Burt) Curry
Chesapeake WEA, Pennsylvania WEA, Ohio WEA, and
Rocky Mountain WEA

Charles Warren Tyler
New England WEA

Eileen J. O'Neill, Ph.D., BCES
Virginia WEA

Gary L. Sober
WEA of Texas

James R. Burks
Missouri WEA

Jan Oleszkiewicz, PhD, Dr h.c. (PUT), PEng, CEng, BCEE, F.IWA, F.CAE
Western Canada WEA

Joel J. Ducoste, Ph.D., BCEEM
North Carolina WEA

John L. Willis, PhD., P.E.
Georgia AWP

Keith D. McCormack, P.E.
Michigan WEA

Paul Causey
California WEA

Robert Kukenberger, P.E. BCEE
New York WEA

Larry W. Moore, Ph.D., P.E.
Clean Water Professionals of Kentucky and Tennessee

Michael R. Pollen

Alaska Water Wastewater Management Association

Thomas Meholic
New Jersey WEA
Val S. Frenkel, PhD, P.E., D.WRE
California WEA

2019 WEF Fellows Recipients

The WEF Fellows Recognition Program recognizes distinguished accomplishments and contributions of individuals who have made an impact in the global water environment in a variety of disciplines. The WEF Board of Trustees have approved the following individuals as the 2019 group of WEF Fellows:

Bradley Fix
Indiana WEA

Adel Hagekhalil
California WEA

Jerome Iltis
WEA of Texas

Dr. Jose Jimenez
Florida WEA

Dr. Chih-Ming (Jimmy) Kao
Taiwan Environmental Engineering Association

Dr. Eakalak Khan
Nevada WEA

Dr. Richard Kuchenrither
Rocky Mountain WEA

Garry Macdonald
Water New Zealand

Dr. Johannes (JB) Neethling
California WEA

Daniel F. Riney
Iowa WEA &
Kansas WEA

Dr. Leonard Ripley
WEA of Texas

Kenneth Schnaars
Clean Water Professionals of Kentucky and Tennessee

Dr. Robert Sharp
New York WEA

Patrick Stevens
Indiana WEA

Joe C. Stowe, Jr.
North Carolina WEA
(*Honorary WEF Fellow*)

Dr. Berrin Tansel
Florida WEA

2018 WEF Fellows Recipients

The WEF Fellows Recognition Program recognizes distinguished accomplishments and contributions of individuals who have made an impact in the global water environment in a variety of disciplines. The WEF Board of Trustees have approved the following individuals as the 2018 group of WEF Fellows:

Joseph Bonaccorso
New Jersey WEA

Dave Clark
Pacific Northwest CWA

James Courchaine
New England WEA

Dr. Andrew Englande, Jr.
Louisiana WEA

Mary Evans
WEA of Texas

Michael Kyle
Pennsylvania WEA

Peter Laughton
WEA of Ontario

Dr. Helen Littleton
Chesapeake WEA &
New Jersey WEA

Robert O'Dette
Kentucky-Tennessee WEA

R. Wayne Ramey
Rocky Mountain WEA

Reynold D. "Dale" Richwine
Pacific Northwest CWA

Cordell Samuels
WEA of Ontario

Charles Stevens
Iowa WEA &
Missouri WEA

Dr. Peter Strom
New Jersey WEA

Dr. Michael Sweeney
Florida WEA

2017 WEF Fellows Recipients

The WEF Fellows Recognition Program recognizes distinguished accomplishments and contributions of individuals who have made an impact in the global water environment in a variety of disciplines. The WEF Board of Trustees have approved the following individuals as the 2017 group of WEF Fellows:

Eleanor Allen
Water for People
Denver, CO

Rajendra Bhattarai
Austin Water Utility
Austin, TX

James Clark
Black & Veatch
Los Angeles, CA

Paul Dombrowski
Woodard & Curran
Holyoke, MA

Al Goodman
CDM Smith
Pekin, IN

April Gu
Northeastern University
Boston, MA

Ed McCormick
West County Wastewater District
Oakland, CA

Sandra Ralston
Consensus LLC
Isle of Palms, SC

Thomas Sigmund
Green Bay Metro Sewerage District
Green Bay, WI

James E. Smith, Jr.
Retired Emeritus Chair
Cincinnati, OH

Daniel Zitomer
Marquette University
Milwaukee, WI

2016 WEF Fellows Recipients

The WEF Fellows Recognition Program recognizes distinguished accomplishments and contributions of individuals who have made an impact in the global water environment in a variety of disciplines. The WEF Board of Trustees have approved the following individuals as the 2016 group of WEF Fellows:

Robert Bastian
US Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D.C.

Evangelina Belia
Primodal (US) Inc.
Kalamazoo, MI

Charles Bott
Hampton Roads Sanitation District
Virginia Beach, VA

Phillip Feeney
Brown and Caldwell (Retired)
Leesburg, VA

C. Dale Jacobson
DD Consulting, LLC
Omaha, NE

Carl Janson
Riordan Materials Corporation
Blue Bell, PA

Samuel Jeyanayagam
CH2M
Herndon, VA

Liliana Maldonado
DC Water & Sewer Authority
Washington, D.C.

Donald Mavinic
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, Canada

James Mihelcic
University of South Florida
Tampa, FL

Paige Novak
The University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN

Karen Pallansch
Alexandria Renew Enterprises
Alexandria, VA

Ralph "Rusty" Schroedel
AECOM
Milwaukee, WI

Art Umble
MWH Global
Denver, CO

Thomas Wilson
Thomas E. Wilson Environmental Engineers LLC
Barrington, IL

2015 WEF Fellows Recipients

The WEF Fellows Recognition Program recognizes distinguished accomplishments and contributions of individuals who have made an impact in the global water environment in a variety of disciplines. The WEF Board of Trustees have approved the following individuals as the 2015 group of WEF Fellows:

Mohamed Dahab
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln, NE

Sarina Ergas
University of South Florida
Tampa, FL

Earnest Gloyna
The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX

Rhonda E. Harris
CH2M
Dallas, TX

Betty Jordan
Alan Plummer Associates, Inc.
Fort Worth, TX

Terry Krause
CH2M
Chicago, IL

Joseph F. Malina, Jr.
The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX

Daniel Nolasco
NOLASCO y Asociados S.A.
Buenos Aires, Argentina

James W. Patterson
Patterson Environmental Consultants
Chicago, IL

Timothy G. Shea
Waite Consulting Group
Fairfax Station, VA

H. David Stensel
University of Washington
Seattle, WA

Rebecca F. West
Spartanburg Water
Spartanburg, SC

2014 WEF Fellows Recipients

The WEF Fellows Recognition Program recognizes distinguished accomplishments and contributions of individuals who have made an impact in the global water environment in a variety of disciplines. The WEF Board of Trustees have approved the following individuals as the 2014 group of WEF Fellows:

Matt Bond
Professional Category: Consulting Engineering
Dallas, TX

James Crook
Professional Category: Regulatory Agency/Consulting Engineering
Norwell, MA

William Dee
Professional Category: Consulting Engineering
White Plains, NY

C.P. Leslie Grady, Jr.
Professional Category: Education/Research
Harrisonburg, VA

John Hart
Professional Category: Utility Engineering/Management
Saco, ME

David A. Hofer
Professional Category: Operations
Newark, DE

Kenneth D. Kerri
Professional Category: Education/Research
Sacramento, CA

Richard Speece
Professional Category: Education/Research
Nashville, TN

Enos L. Stover
Professional Category: Education/Consulting Engineering
Stillwater, OK

R. Rhodes Trussell
Professional Category: Engineering Design
Pasadena, CA

Peter Vanrolleghem
Professional Category: Education/Research
Québec, Canada

G. David Waltrip
Professional Category: Utility Management
Virginia Beach, VA

2013 WEF Fellows Recipients

The WEF Fellows Recognition Program recognizes distinguished accomplishments and contributions of individuals who have made an impact in the global water environment in a variety of disciplines. The WEF Board of Trustees have approved the following individuals as the 2013 group of WEF Fellows:

Kartik Chandran
Department of Earth and Environmental Engineering
Columbia University
New York, NY

Bruce Corwin
CDM Smith
Sacramento, CA

Davis Ford
Davis L. Ford & Associates
Austin, TX

Eduardo Jordão
Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Mike Kavanaugh
Geosyntec Consultants
Oakland, CA

Cecil Lue-Hing
Cecil Lue-Hing and Associates, Inc.
Burr Ridge, IL

Richard Luthy
Stanford University
Stanford, CA

Robert C. Marini
CDM Smith
Cambridge, MA

Keith Riley
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Northeast District Office (Retired)
Copley, OH

Bruce Rittmann
Swette Center for Environmental Biotechnology
Biodesign Institute at Arizona State University
Tempe, AZ

Julian Sandino
CH2M HILL
Kansas City, MO

Perry Schafer
Brown and Caldwell
Alexandria, VA

Henry G. Schwartz, Jr.
Sverdrup/Jacobs Civil, Inc. (Retired)
St. Louis, MO

James Stahl
MWH Global
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

2012 WEF Fellow Recipients

The WEF Fellows Recognition Program recognizes distinguished accomplishments and contributions of individuals who have made an impact in the global water environment in a variety of disciplines. WEF Board of Trustees has approved the following individuals as the 2012 group of WEF Fellows:

John Bennett
Trinity River Authority
Roanoke, TX

Jeanette Brown
Manhattan College -
Environmental Engineering
Darien, CT

Howard Carter
City of Saco - Maine
Saco, ME

Glen Daigger
CH2M Hill
Parker, CO

Thomas Dingeman
City of Greeley/Water Sewer - Colorado
Greeley, CO

David Dzombak
Carnegie Mellon University
Pittsburgh, PA

Andrew Fairey
Charleston Water System
Charleston, SC

Libby Ford
Nixon Peabody LLP
Rochester, NY

David Jenkins
University of California - Berkeley
Berkeley, CA

Barton Jones
Strand Associates, Inc.
Madison, WI

John Koon
John H. Koon & Associates, Inc.
Atlanta, GA

Perry McCarty
Stanford University
Stanford, CA

Ron Moeller
Kennedy Jenks Consultants
Chehalis, WA

Sudhir Murthy
DC Water
Washington, DC

Ron Neufeld
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA

Denny Parker
Brown & Caldwell
Walnut Creek, CA

Lutgarde Raskin
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI

Robert Reimers
Tulane University
New Orleans, LA

Ronald Schuyler
Tetra Tech, Inc.
Denver, CO

Michael Stenstrom
UCLA
Los Angeles, CA

Rao Surampalli
US - EPA
Kansas City, KS

George Tchobanoglous
University of California - Davis
Davis, CA

Jay Witherspoon
CH2M Hill
Seattle, WA

2011 Inaugural WEF Fellow Recipients

The WEF Fellows Recognition Program recognizes distinguished accomplishments and contributions of individuals who have made an impact in the global water environment in a variety of disciplines. WEF Board of Trustees has approved the following individuals as the first group of Fellows:

Pedro Alvarez
Rice University
Civil & Environmental Engineering
Houston, TX

Walter Bailey
DC Water & Sewer Authority
Washington, DC

James L. Barnard
Black & Veatch
Leawood, KS

Paul L. Bishop
National Science Foundation
Arlington, VA

Pen-Chi Chiang
Institute of Environmental Engineering
National Taiwan University
Taipei, Taiwan

Stephan D. Frank
Metro Wastewater Reclamation District
Denver, CO

Paul L. Freedman
Limno Tech
Ann Arbor, MI

Thomas E. Kunetz
Metropolitan Water Reclamation
District of Greater Chicago
Chicago, IL

Eric R. Lecuyer
Central States WEA
Crystal Lake, IL

Bruce E. Logan
Penn State University
University Park, PA

Nancy G. Love
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI

Tim Madhanagopal
Orange County Utilities
South Water Reclamation Facility
Orlando, FL

John T. Morris
Morris Water Resources Consultants
San Marino, CA

John T. Novak
Virginia Poly Institute & State University
Blacksburg, VA

Krishna R. Pagilla
Illinois Institute of Technology
Chicago, IL

James Tony Parrott
Metropolitan Sewer District
of Greater Cincinnati
Cincinnati, OH

Spyros Pavlostathis
Georgia Institute of Technology
Atlanta, GA