

## 2017 Vernon B. Spalding Leadership Award

**Robert (Bob) C. Rabeler, PE**  
Senior Vice President & Principal, SME



Robert (Bob) C. Rabeler, PE is Senior Vice President and Principal at SME with 40 years' experience (33 years with SME). He is a licensed Professional Engineer in six states, and a geotechnical engineer by training. Well-respected for his professional expertise, Bob is recognized as a leader in the professional community and in the communities where he has lived. Bob has been active in countless professional, technical and community-based organizations. Leading both by example and through active mentoring, he has inspired other SME team members and industry peers to serve.

Bob has been an enthusiastic member of ACEC/Michigan since 1983. He served as President from 2003 to 2004; Treasurer from 2000 to 2002; member of the Engineering and Surveying Excellence Committee from 1996 to 1998; and member of the Leadership Development Committee from 1993 to 1995. He has made numerous presentations to and on behalf of ACEC, provided testimony to legislative committees, and participated in strategic planning sessions. Bob has heartily supported the ACEC/Michigan scholarship program.

Over his distinguished career, Bob provided leadership and mentoring to professional and technical organizations including Michigan State University, GBA/ASFE, Michigan Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE), Society for Marketing Professional Services, American Society of Civil Engineers, AGC of Michigan, Engineering Society of Detroit, Michigan Society of Planning Officials, and Purdue University.

Through his civic involvement, Bob has helped to improve quality of life for students, parishioners, athletes, and community members at large. He has provided leadership to local organizations including the Jayne E. Rabeler Mathematics Endowment Fund established in honor of his late wife, Messiah Lutheran Church, Lansing Youth for Christ, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lansing Christian School and Knights of Columbus. He has financially supported countless organizations such as Engineers Without Borders, Gilda's Club, and Bridge of Hope. Bob has provided local government leadership by serving in his communities of residence dating back to 1986. Bob has served on planning commissions, boards of appeals, transportation committees and historic commission design teams.

According to SME CEO, Mark K. Kramer, PE, "Bob is a consummate professional and a tireless leader. He has not only contributed to the success of SME over many years, he has made remarkable contributions to the engineering profession and our communities. We are both very proud and fortunate to have Bob leading SME growth initiatives and serving as an exemplary leader to young team members."

Among his honors and awards, Bob has been recognized by MSPE as Young Engineer of the Year in 1986, as Engineer of the Year in 1992, as Outstanding Engineer in Private Practice in 1997, and as MSPE fellow in 2003.