

## 2020 Felix A. Anderson Image Award

### Larry Fleis, PE

President and Chairman of the Board of Directors, F&V Companies, Inc., and President of FVC and FVOP



Larry Fleis cofounded Fleis & VandenBrink (F&V) Engineering, Inc. in 1993, together with Steve VandenBrink. He served as president of the firm until 2017. Under his leadership, the company has grown from a single Grand Rapids engineering firm to include construction management through F&V Construction (FVC) and operations of water and wastewater treatment facilities through F&V Operations and Resources Management (FVOP). It has grown to more than 225 employees and nine offices in Michigan and Indiana.

Fleis has been an active member of ACEC through the years. He served as a member of the ACEC/Michigan Board of Directors for four years. He served as chairman of its Rural Development taskforce and has served as chair of the Qualifications Based Selection Coalition for nine years.

He is passionate for the engineering industry to adopt selection based on qualifications, rather than low bidding of engineers. As chair of the QBS Coalition, Fleis led the organization to develop a Strategic Plan for promotion of the QBS process in the State. He assisted in developing and making presentations to the ACEC customer base and peer organizations on the benefits of the QBS process such as Michigan Township Association, Michigan Rural Water, County Road Association, Michigan Society of Professional Surveyors, and ACEC Michigan Board of Directors. Larry has worked with the various organizations that make up the QBS Coalition on promoting the QBS process. He also has assisted in writing news releases and articles promoting the QBS process.

He has served as the president of two school boards in his past church parish schools. He has also served as both a member and chairman of the Michigan State University (MSU) CEE Engineering Advisory Board. In 2019, Larry received the Civil and Environmental Engineering Distinguished Alumni Award from MSU. He currently is the Treasurer of the Ed and Irene Fleis Education Fund that has granted nearly \$350,000 in scholarships in the last 14 years.

For more than 40 years, Larry has specialized in municipal engineering services and public project financing. Numerous communities have utilized his expertise as their Engineer of Record and has served as project manager for hundreds of design and construction projects throughout his career.

Under Fleis's leadership, F&V has received numerous state and national awards in the last decade. F&V was named "101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work For" in Western Michigan the last five years. F&V was also named "Best and Brightest Companies to Work For" in the Nation the last three years. Four times the firm was recognized as a "Hot Firm," as one of the top 100 growth engineering companies in the United States and Canada.

In the last decade, F&V has been named "Firm of the Year" twice by the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Michigan.