

2021 Felix A. Anderson Image Award

Kimberly K. Nowack, PE
Chief Engineer, Mackinac Bridge Authority



Kim received her bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Michigan Technological University (MTU) in 1985. She accepted a General Engineer position with the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) Construction Division in Kalamazoo. In 1989, she moved to the MDOT Project Office in St. Ignace where she stayed until 1997, serving in several capacities including project design and construction and as Assistant Resident Engineer. Her MDOT career continued as the Delivery Engineer for the Transportation Service Center in Newberry. In 2002, Kim accepted the position of Chief Engineer for the Mackinac Bridge Authority. She was appointed to the position of Executive Secretary/CEO of the Mackinac Bridge in 2019. She is the first woman to hold either of these positions in the Bridge Authority's 60+ year history.

Kim is a member of the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association (IBTTA). She is a member of the International Cable Supported Bridge Owners Association (ICSBOA) where she has authored and presented papers about the Mackinac Bridge at regional and international conferences. Kim is a Transportation Research Board panel member tasked with revising the federal guidelines for inspections of suspension bridge main cable systems.

In 2003, in recognition of her significant achievements, Kim was inducted into MTU's Presidential Council of Alumnae. She has served on the university's Civil and Environmental Professional Advisory Committee. She has returned to campus many times as a role model speaker for the summer youth program and as part of the Visiting Women & Minority Lecture/Scholar Series to speak to students, faculty, and staff about her current position with the Bridge Authority. Kim was recently inducted into the MTU Academy of Civil and Environmental Engineers, which was established in 1993 to honor distinguished graduates of the MTU Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

Kim enjoys hosting presentations and tours at the bridge for a broad range of student groups, including MDOT TRAC (Transportation and Civil Engineering) students, MTU National Summer Transportation Institute, Northern Michigan University Physics Club, MTU Chi Epsilon students, MDOT interns, many elementary, middle and high school groups on field trips and Boy Scout and Girl Scout groups. She also travels around the state to give presentations about the bridge at schools, libraries, service clubs, museums, and many other groups.

Kim is President of the Board of Directors of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Petoskey. She serves on the St. Ignace Public Library board and on the board of the Superiorland Library Cooperative, a consortium of over 50 libraries in the Upper Peninsula and northern lower Michigan.