

2022 Vernon B. Spalding Leadership Award

Amy L. Trahey, PE

President, Great Lakes Engineering Group



Overview

Amy Trahey founded Great Lakes Engineering Group (GLEG), a Civil Engineering Consulting Firm in year 2000 at the age of 28 years old. GLEG's core business is everything bridges. Amy is a proud Michigan Technological University Graduate, receiving her B.S. in Civil Engineering in 1994. She currently serves on the American Council of Engineering Companies of Michigan (ACEC/M) Board of Directors as National Director and previously served as Treasurer, President elect and the first female President of the Council. She recently completed her term on the Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association (MITA) Board of Directors and is active in the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). In 2019 Amy was awarded ASCE Outstanding Civil Engineer of the Year for the Michigan Section. Amy served on the Civil and Environmental Engineering Advisory Board for Michigan Tech (2007-2012) and on MTU's Presidential Council of Alumnae that encourages and supports women in engineering. Amy is an avid diver and enjoys inspecting Michigan's bridges as part of her profession, such as the Mackinac Bridge, Zilwaukee Bridge, Grosse Ile Bridge, Blue Water Bridge, Belle Isle Bridge, and the Houghton-Hancock Lift Bridge. Amy's passion is bridges.

Amy is serving her second 3-year term on the Michigan Department of Education, Special Education Advisory Committee, a committee that is near and dear to her heart and advocates for the rights of students with disabilities, such as her 18-year-old son Quinn who is Autistic.

The Mackinac Bridge inspired Amy to become a civil engineer. In 2012, she along with other engineers and divers at Great Lakes Engineering Group performed the underwater safety and structural inspection of the Mackinac Bridge. This opportunity was a defining moment in her career that brought her journey full circle and a true sense of fulfillment. If you can dream it...you can do it!

In 2019, Governor Gretchen Whitmer appointed Amy to the Mackinac Bridge Authority. Amy was then elected in 2020 as Co-Chair of the Mackinac Bridge Authority and Chair of the Finance Committee.

Personal Life

Amy was born and raised in Lansing and lived in the Upper Peninsula for 4 years while attending college at MTU. She continues to visit the U.P. often for work and pleasure. Amy married her husband Brian 24 years ago and they have 2 sons, Ty (16) and Quinn (18). Amy remains active outside of her work adventures by hiking, skiing, diving, biking, traveling, and practices yoga and meditation.

Amy, her family, and GLEG suffered a great loss on July 7, 2021. Brian tragically died while performing a dive inspection of the Allegan County dam in Allegan County, Michigan. In addition to being a diving enthusiast, he was an avid hunter and loved cars.