

2023 Felix A. Anderson Image Award

WILLIAM J. WINIARSKI, PE, PS



William J. Winiarski, PE, PS, has a reputation as a man who shows up and keeps showing up for his family, his profession, and his community.

He graduated from Michigan Technological University in 1973 with a B.S. in Civil Engineering and began his 37-year career with ROWE Professional Services.

That year also began Bill's career-long involvement with ACEC, serving on the State Board for 11 years and holding positions of State President and National Director. He is a National ACEC Fellow, and in 2011 he received the ACEC Michigan Vernon B. Spalding Leadership Award.

In 1986, Bill bought Rowe Engineering and developed it into an employee-owned firm focused on service. Setting the example, Bill served 25 years on the GLS Region 5 Planning Commission and was chairman of numerous County Boards including the Focus Council, the Growth Alliance, the Regional Chamber of Commerce, and the Brownfield Authority. In recognition of years of service, in 2007, he received the CS Mott Foundation Citizen of the Year Award.

Bill is a Michigan Tech Fund Life Trustee and chaired the Annual Giving Committee for three years. He was a curriculum advisor to the MTU Civil Engineering Department for six years and is a member of the MTU Academy of Civil Engineers.

Bill's family has inspired much of his most recent work. Bill and his wife Anne have been married 48 years. They have 3 children, the youngest of whom, Paul, has cerebral palsy and requires round the clock care.

Since retiring in 2008, having experienced the need firsthand, Bill has focused his volunteer efforts on Community Mental Health. He has served on the Genesee County Community Mental Health Board for nine years, three of those as Chairman. He was the founding chairman of the State Region 10 Board and is past Vice-President of the Michigan Community Mental Health Board Association. He is the Chairman of a small nonprofit that owns and manages all the buildings used for Community Mental Health programs in Genesee County. He is currently overseeing a project that will transform part of an unused college campus into the new Headquarters for Genesee Health System, accommodating new cutting-edge programs and housing over 250 employees.

The capstone of all his work however is the newly completed Children's Center For Integrated Services in downtown Flint. In 2019, Bill envisioned a beautiful building in a prominent location, combining all children's mental and physical Medicaid health services under one roof. He spent the next three years and thousands of volunteer hours in charge of programming, site selection, design and fund raising for this state-of-the-art building. The result is a 60,000 square foot, 23 million dollar building that is a model for the delivery of children's healthcare services.