

2023 Vernon B. Spalding Leadership Award

John J. Hiltz, PE

Executive Director and Chairman of the Board, OHM Advisors



John Hiltz is Executive Director, Chairman of the Board and former President at OHM Advisors, an architecture, engineering and planning firm. A licensed professional engineer, John has been with the firm since 1983, and was firm President from 2009 until his transition to Executive Director in January 2021. With nearly 40 years of engineering consulting experience for the firm and the last two decades in leadership positions, he has dedicated himself to transforming the company from a Michigan-based engineering business to a regional community advancement firm serving an array of public and private communities with 18 offices across multiple states.

John's passion for engineering is reflected by his active service as a leader at local and state levels within multiple professional and educational organizations. A past president of ACEC Michigan, John has always been a passionate advocate for the engineering profession and the issues it faces in ever-changing climate.

John is deeply committed to the issue of aging infrastructure throughout America's communities - speaking widely on the importance of proper funding. Also committed to the importance of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion efforts within the firm, he spearheaded internal DEI initiatives in 2017 which resulted in his 2020 signing of the CEO Action for Diversity & Inclusion Pledge™, and worked to diversify the AEP industry through his efforts as Chairman of Cornerstone Schools' Construction Pathway Advisory Board.

John's leadership of OHM resulted in significant growth for the firm. In the last decade, OHM Advisors has risen rapidly on the ENR's Top 500 rankings while staying focused on maintaining the organization's culture and being recognized as one of the Best Places to Work. In John's role as Executive Director, he works to enhance the firm's culture and is committed to educating clients on its mission of Advancing Communities.

As a proud Michigan alumnus, John currently serves on the Engineering Alumni Board and is a past President of the Civil & Environmental Alumni Board. He was also instrumental in partnering OHM Advisors with the U of M's Pelham Scholars Program, involving the firm as a significant donor in providing support to students traditionally underrepresented in the profession.

John is active on many community boards and commissions and dedicated to giving back. He is a past honorary chair of the National Kidney Foundation Zoo Walk and a current member of their 'Healthy Futures' advisory board. He is a current member and past president of the Plymouth Road Development Authority, current President of the Livonia Community Foundation, and a past Director of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce.

John and his wife, Debbie, reside in Livonia, Michigan and have 3 children and 6 grandchildren.