

2025 Felix A. Anderson Image Award

James Escamilla, PE, MBA

Vice President, Abonmarche Byce

Former President/CEO, Byce & Associates, Inc.



Jim's remarkable career exemplifies dedication to the engineering profession and leadership in fostering growth, innovation, and a commitment to excellence. Serving as Vice President at Abonmarche Byce, Jim brings over four decades of experience, beginning his journey as a mechanical designer in 1981, a graduate from Michigan Technological University. His path has been marked by significant growth, including roles as Mechanical Engineering Manager and eventually Vice President of Engineering at Tower Pinkster, as well as Mechanical Division Manager at WBDC. These experiences set the stage for Jim's later purchase of RC Byce & Associates in 1997, where he spent 26 transformative years as President/CEO. In 2023, Byce & Associates, Inc. officially joined forces with Abonmarche, advancing Abonmarche's capabilities in a rapidly expanding market and ensuring the continuation of exceeding client expectations. Jim's career has been defined by his visionary leadership and dedication to advancing the engineering profession through quality projects, promoting efficient systems, and elevating future leaders to grow and excel in their craft.

Under Jim's stewardship, Byce & Associates, Inc. became a catalyst for growth and opportunity for emerging engineers. Jim served as President for ACEC/M and Michigan National Director for ACEC. He also held leadership positions in Michigan Chapters of ASHRAE, CAMEE, and MSPE. He has contributed to the professional development of dozens of engineers, mentoring and guiding many into leadership roles within their communities and organizations. Jim's leadership is evident in his support of five engineers who graduated from the ACEC Michigan Emerging Leaders Program, reflecting his commitment to empowering the next generation. Additionally, many have lent their talents and voices to professional organizations Jim served. Jim's belief in the potential of the individuals he mentors is evident in his approach, investing in their growth and celebrating their successes as milestones for the company and industry. Jim has been awarded the Distinguished Service Award from ASHRAE National in 2013 and, since 2024, sits as a Life Member of that organization.

Jim's influence extends beyond technical excellence; he has worked tirelessly to elevate the public perception of the engineering profession. Through leadership, supported programs, local Board appointments, and encouragement, Jim has highlighted the vital role engineers play in enhancing the quality of life for all users. His actions have fostered pride in engineering, within Abonmarche Byce and across the broader community. As a mentor and advocate, Jim embodies the spirit of the Felix A. Anderson Image Award, demonstrating a lifelong commitment to improving public awareness and appreciation of the engineering profession and encouraging others to embrace leadership and advocacy roles. When not actively working to promote engineering, Jim spends his free time traveling with his wife Brenda, celebrating their six children, and chasing around their five grandchildren.