

2026 Vernon B. Spalding Leadership Award

Mark K. Kramer, PE
President & Chief Executive Officer
SME



Mark Kramer, PE, has led SME for the past 25 years steering the team through consistent growth, complex challenges, and significant industry change. As President and CEO, he leads a team of over 400 engineers, scientists, and technical professionals, setting the firm's strategic priorities, developing future leaders and ensuring strong performance across the business. His leadership emphasizes clarity, long-term planning, and practical solutions which have helped SME consistently rank among the ENR Top 500 design firms.

A geotechnical and environmental engineer by training, Mark has been deeply involved in the technical side of the profession throughout his career. He has managed and consulted on more than 500 projects across Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and numerous other states. His work spans redevelopment, infrastructure, industrial expansions, and complex, multi-phased construction programs. Mark is known for his ability to translate geotechnical and environmental risks into straightforward guidance, helping owners, developers, and design teams make informed decisions on challenging sites. His approach centers on understanding the realities of development and ensuring that engineering insight aligns with project goals.

Since joining SME in 1995, Mark has taken on progressively broader responsibilities, eventually stepping into the CEO role in 2002. Under his leadership, SME has expanded its services and geography, strengthened its multidisciplinary capabilities, and continued to invest in talent, technology, and operational systems that support long-term client relationships. He also serves as Chairman of SME Real Estate Holdings, Inc., which owns and manages commercial properties in Michigan and Ohio, reinforcing his commitment to thoughtful, sustainable development.

Mark's influence extends beyond SME. He is a Director of Terra Insurance, a highly rated risk retention group providing professional liability insurance to engineering and environmental consulting firms nationwide. In this role, he contributes to industry-wide discussions on risk management, liability trends, and professional practice standards. He is also a Fellow of the Geoprofessional Business Association (GBA), where he previously served on the Board of Directors and chaired the Business Practices Committee.

Within Michigan's engineering community, Mark has been an active and steady contributor. He is a past President and Board Member of ACEC/Michigan and continues to support initiatives that advance consulting engineering and elevate professionalism within the industry. Mark also served as a Director on the board of AGC-Michigan where he represented the consulting community. He previously served on the Board of the Young Presidents' Organization (YPO) Motor City Chapter and was a membership co-chair. He currently serves on the national board of the YPO Construction Industry Network.