

Awards Winners

Richard Olsen, PE

Distinguished Engineering Service Award



Richard Olsen, P.E. received his BS in Engineering from the US Naval Academy in 1966 whereupon he embarked on a 20 year career in the Navy serving mostly in engineering assignments, but also including a combat tour in Vietnam. In 1975 he earned his Masters Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the US Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. The Master's Thesis involved writing code modeling radiation migration through containment vessels. The item of interest here is that this computer code was a pre-cursor of the finite element analysis many of us work with today. Whether assigned to a ship at sea or to a support staff ashore, most of Mr. Olsen's Navy career was devoted to solving technical issues for ships at sea or in port the world over. His final tour, however, was teaching engineering at the Naval Academy, where he began 20 years earlier.

In 1980 he obtained his Professional Engineer License in Virginia, and, upon moving to New Jersey, became licensed there in 1981. Shortly thereafter he joined the New Jersey Society of Professional Engineers and began serving in various positions in his Chapter, Mathcounts, and Career Day.

After leaving the Navy in 1986 he began teaching engineering courses at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken. A year and a half later, however, his love for large, things mechanical led him to join New Jersey Transit Railroad as a facilities engineer supervising repairs to the engines, cars and other equipment, including modifications to the newly constructed maintenance facility itself. His demonstrated technical expertise and leadership soon led to promotion to Director of Railroad Infrastructure Engineering, leading the design group and managing engineering contracts for the repair or replacement of New Jersey Transit's over 850 railroad and highway bridges, along with culverts and embankments.

Richard retired from the Railroad in 2006, but remained active in the profession mostly providing structural assessments for commercial and residential properties in the wake

of environmental disasters. He also promoted the use of solar power, first placing solar panels on his own roof in 2008 and then facilitating the installation of solar panels on his church and then for a condominium (where he was on the Board of Directors). These pro-bono endeavors resulted in significant monetary savings and inspired other churches and facilities to install solar power as well.

Presently he is active with his local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post serving in leadership and overseeing the replacement of the building's aging roof.

For the Society he has led the successive merger of the Chapters throughout the years beginning with the Morris County Chapter in 1990 to the present North Jersey Chapter. Recently he was the State Delegate to the National Society attending the Annual Meetings in Minneapolis, Seattle, and Washington DC.

Richard would like to recognize the important supportive role of his wife Mare for 52 often difficult years and his two children, Richard and Ingrid and their families.

Mark Shourds, PE

Outstanding Professional Engineer Award



Mark Shourds grew up in Cape May County, New Jersey where is father worked in the contracting business, which influenced his decision to pursue a career in civil engineering.

He graduated from Drexel University and worked throughout the state of New Jersey for numerous firms including Pennoni Associates, Taylor Wiseman & Taylor, and Schoor DePalma, before launching his own firm in 1993 with another engineer; George Everland, PE, PLS. For 40 years he has worked in the land planning and civil engineering field where he has grown, organized, and managed his own business, partnered with other engineering consulting firms, held and currently holds leadership positions on associations and non-profit boards.

Shourds has been responsible for the design and management of all phases of land development engineering from client contact through construction including site assessments, site and subdivision planning, septic design, utility design and coordination, stormwater management and construction inspection. He has written community impact statements, reviews and critiques on land use ordinances and performed the master planning design on planned unit developments. This experience and his presentations before numerous Planning Boards and Zoning Boards of Adjustment, Municipal Councils and Courts of Law as an expert in the field of civil

engineering and land planning established him as a unique candidate for the position of Atlantic County Engineer in 2014. The prior County Engineer became ill and died in February of 2014 leaving the Division short of leadership. In December of 2014 Shourds stepped into the role to lead the staff, as one of 21 County Engineers in the State of New Jersey.

Shourds took the role as a way of giving back to the public and approaches each engineering decision with an eye on public safety and the means to protect both the traveling public and the construction worker while improvements are constructed. His vast experience implemented in this role has transformed the Division, made noticeable improvements in roadways, intersections and bridges, and has seen a reduction in major accidents and deaths on the County's roadways.

In every organization Mr. Shourds has been involved in, he has been looked upon as a leader. In addition to his professional career he holds a position as a Trustee on the Rancocas Conservancy Board, manages a staff of more than 200 at an annual music festival (Creation Festival) each year and has served on the NSPE-NJ Board of Directors in various capacities since 2003. Mr. Shourds also volunteers at the New Jersey Planning Organization where he teaches courses to Planning/Zoning Board members throughout the state.

Shourds is proud of the opportunities he has had to mentor young engineers. He is most proud of his children; Emily & Eric and his grandchildren; Colette, Leif, Eloise, and Maximillian. He is especially thankful to all of those who have invested their time in his life & career and for Erika's love and support.

Steve Esposito, PE

Outstanding Young PE/EIT Award



In just 13 years, Steve Esposito, PE, has achieved the titles of Supervising Structural Engineer and Senior Technical Principal at WSP. In 2005, Steve received his undergraduate degree from Rutgers' School of Engineering; he attained his Master of Science degree in Structural Engineering in 2009. Steve joined WSP in 2008; two years later he obtained his NJ Professional Engineer license. Quickly joining the ranks of his mentors, Steve has earned due recognition as an excellent structural engineer whose focus is on state-of-the-art solutions, innovations, sustainability,

and economical designs. His dedication to the engineering profession and industry, community, development of younger engineers, as well as full satisfaction of WSP's clients is evident in his receipt of the Young Civil Engineer of the Year award by the New Jersey Section of ASCE in 2016, and as PESMC's Young Engineer of the Year in 2017.

Over the course of his career, Steve has gained the respect of his clients and peers for his engineering problem solving, innovations, and management coordination. From structural inspections, simple to complex analysis, design development of bridges and other structures, to construction engineering services, Steve is committed to the safety and reliability of all aspects of the state's transportation infrastructure for all users of New Jersey's roadways. Steve's career accomplishments include authoring/co-authoring articles in industry publications such as: *Bridge Structures Journal*, *Roads and Bridges*, *Aspire*, and *the Civil Engineering Magazine*, and he has presented multiple technical papers for the International Bridge Conference, Accelerated Bridge Construction Conference, NY City Bridge Conference, Ocean County PE Society, the National Bridge Preservation Partnership, and American Society of Highway Engineers.

Most recently, Steve has been instrumental to the design and construction of the Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges project on which he was responsible for the design of the award-winning new EB Bay Bridge. He also led the design and construction services for the deck replacement for the Route 37 Eastbound Mathis Bridge, including deep involvement in the emergency repairs following Superstorm Sandy, which required around-the-clock efforts of a multi-disciplinary team.

When he's not working, Steve enjoys traveling and exploring nature with his wife, Meghan, and spending time with family and friends.

Mott MacDonald Group

Professional Development Award, Private Practice

At Mott MacDonald, it's not business as usual.

We live in a dynamic and rapidly changing world, and our passionate teams of experts thrive on tackling many of its most pressing challenges: social, economic and environmental. We like to look at problems from a fresh angle and aim to add value at every stage, for our clients, our employees, and the lives we touch every day. Our 16,000 experts are working on engineering, management, and development projects in 150 countries. We're constantly finding opportunities in complexity.

Mott MacDonald is one of the world's largest employee-owned companies. We can choose the work we take on, allowing us to focus on the issues that really matter. We're independent in thought and action, which means we advise what is genuinely right for our clients, our staff, and communities — not what is easy.

Helping our clients and communities means helping our staff first. At Mott MacDonald we truly believe that our greatest asset are our people, and we help develop our staff in several ways. From the moment they step through the door, emerging professionals are enrolled into opportunities to network in-person with staff from across the country at the annual **Graduate Retreat**. Later along their journey, staff navigate their personal and professional career paths with the help of development programs such as **Elements**, a program designed to help develop project managers and team leaders in key areas of team engagement, client relationships, and commercial awareness, as well as **Horizons**, a program aimed at professional development on a personal level. For the driven and motivated amongst our staff, **Emerging Leaders**, a program for rising stars, provides an opportunity to accelerate their development towards the most important leadership roles in the company.

Mott MacDonald also encourages staff to push the envelope on state-of-the-art and our professions and offers internal awards to recognize employees for excellence in technical papers, project innovation, and client development. We uphold our staffs' personal investment in professional and technical societies and provide return financial support to allow them to participate in these events. Vatsal Shah, NJSPE's current President, is just one example of our commitment to our professional societies, and to our staff.

Our very active Corporate Social Responsibility program encourages employees to participate in social, community, and humanitarian efforts that they are passionate about. In recent months our staff have donated blood, cleaned beaches, built homes, provided food, collected clothes, planted trees, supported environmental conservation, provided guidance for STEM education at local schools and community groups, run for cancer research, and more.