



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

of Colorado

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NEWS RELEASE

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ACEC Colorado Bestows Highest Honor for Professional Engineering Contributions

DENVER (Feb. 23, 2023) — In celebration of Colorado Engineers Week (Feb. 19-25), the American Council of Engineering Companies of Colorado (ACEC Colorado) is announcing that it awarded David Merritt, PE (AECOM Technical Services – Glenwood Springs, Colo.) with the association's highest honor as the winner of the Orley O. Phillips Award for 2022.

This annual award is granted by the ACEC Colorado Past Presidents' Council to an individual employed by a member firm and who has made significant contributions to the profession, the Council and its programs. On Nov. 11, nearly 200 guests attended an awards ceremony in Golden, Colo., when the award winners were initially announced.

Merritt has more than 40 years of experience in water resources planning and management for various communities, including more than 30 years' experience working on salinity control issues on the Colorado River, both with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and as Colorado's technical representative to the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum Workgroup. Throughout his career, Merritt has served on many boards, committees and commissions in the water arena, including the Colorado River Water Conservation Board and ACEC Colorado Water Resources Committee. In 2016, he received the ACEC Colorado George Washington Award for outstanding service to the community, the progress of Colorado and the advancement of the public image of consulting engineering as a profession. Currently, he is serving his second term representing the West Area on the ACEC Colorado Board of Directors, his first term on the Colorado Engineers Political Action Committee, and second term as board liaison to our Government Affairs Committee.

In addition to his involvement in the consulting engineering industry, Merritt has also dedicated his time to several nonprofits and community organizations. He has served the Boy Scouts as a Scout and Cub master for his son and grandsons. He also has been board president of the local symphony, as well as president of the Lions Club and vice district governor for the Western Colorado District. During his acceptance speech, Merritt said, "Giving back to the community is what we're supposed to do."

Merritt has spent the past 11 years working at AECOM Technical Services as a principal water resources engineer, after having spent more than 20 years as the chief engineer at Colorado River Water Conservation District. He holds both a master's degree and a bachelor's degree in geological and earth sciences/geosciences from Dartmouth College (Hanover, N.H.) and is a Colorado-licensed Professional Engineer.

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About ACEC Colorado

ACEC Colorado is a 501(c)6 trade association that helps professional design firms thrive® by connecting professionals who improve the natural and built environments. Approximately 260 consulting engineering firms representing 12,500 employees are members of the association, and all are led by Colorado-licensed Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors. ACEC Colorado is the primary resource for accessing engineering information, expertise, and business ethics practices. Connect with ACEC Colorado on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#). Learn more at acec-co.org.

About Engineers Week

Founded in 1951, Engineers Week is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce by increasing understanding of and interest in engineering and technology careers. Learn more about activities to celebrate this week in Colorado at acec-co.org/colorado-engineers-week.

Editor's Notes: Included with this release is a photo of **David Merritt, PE** with the Orley O. Phillips award that was presented to him at the ACEC Colorado Engineering Excellence Awards Luncheon.