Women in Engineering

Dr. Amy Betz
Assistant Dean for Retention, Diversity, and Inclusion
Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering
The Carl R. Ice College of Engineering advisory council, or COEAC, is a group of industrial, business, legislative and professional leaders committed to the vitality of engineering education at Kansas State University. The council helps the Carl R. Ice College of Engineering strengthen its learning, research and outreach programs; improve its facilities; expand its base of support; and serve its alumni. Council members actively participate in the continual assessment of the college’s progress and development of college/industry partnerships.

**COEAC responsibilities**

The mission of the advisory council is to —

- Advise the college leadership team on programs, policies and operations;
- Facilitate resource development through advocacy for state and federal funding, internal campus budgeting, and corporate relationships and private gifts;
- Assist with placement of students;
- Recognize achievement of alumni and other college supporters;
- Assist with publicity and public relations; and
- Promote a connection among faculty, students, alumni and industry.

Current COEAC members:

Kevin Burke  
Chrysta Castañeda  
Nick Chong  
Jim Coen  
Gib Compton  
Darold Davis  
Roger Farrell  
Rick Fornelli  
Kim Gerard  
Don Glaser  
Chuck Grier  
Dee Hays  
Kevin Honomichl  
Warren Kennedy  
Ryan McGuire  
Karl Miller  
Craig Nelson  
Mark Nyquist  
Robert Reichenberger  
Sabrina Schriner  
Art Umble  
Beth Ward  
Jerry Westhoff  
Mike Wiegers
Kevin Burke earned his bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering with a minor in business management from Kansas State University. Since joining Burke Construction Group in 1989, he has held various leadership positions within the organization culminating with his appointment as president and CEO in 2001. Burke has built a strong reputation in the commercial real estate industry and plays a key role in some of the construction industry’s most distinguished organizations including National Association of Industrial and Office Parks, Young Presidents Organization and the Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance. He was the governor-appointed chairman from 2009-2012 and continues to serve on the Nevada State Contractors Board. Highly focused on giving back to Kansas State University, he has been a member of the dean’s advisory council, a trustee for the Kansas State University Foundation and most recently recognized as the K-State 2019 Alumnus Fellow for the Carl R. Ice College of Engineering.

For more than 35 years Burke Construction Group has provided clients with effective construction management based on its wealth of experience in building projects through large and diverse markets. With its corporate headquarters in Las Vegas, Nevada, the company is licensed in 26 states. Burke Construction’s clients include high-profile names such as Credit One Bank, Tesla, MGM Resorts, Wynn Resorts, Legacy Traditional Schools, Gardner Company, Matter Real Estate Group and the Howard Hughes Corporation.

Chrysta Castañeda is a lead trial lawyer for high-stakes litigation in the energy industry and beyond. As founding partner of The Castañeda Firm in Dallas, Texas, Castañeda focuses on oil and gas litigation in the upstream sector as well as commercial litigation and product liability disputes involving technical evidence. She frequently represents oil companies, investors and mineral owners on contract matters and operational questions. She also has served as national coordinating counsel for manufacturers in product liability and toxic tort claims.

Castañeda has been recognized for her work by the National Law Journal. Her verdict as lead counsel for T. Boone Pickens in the case of Mesa Petroleum Partners v. Baytech et al. was named the 12th largest verdict in the nation in 2016 and has been included in the Texas Verdicts Hall of Fame.

After receiving her degree in industrial engineering from Kansas State University, Castañeda earned her law degree from Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law. She graduated cum laude and as a member of the Order of the Coif, an honorary legal society recognizing the top 10% of law graduates. Castañeda has served in leadership positions for a variety of nonprofit agencies focused on improving women’s lives. She is a board member of the Texas Women’s Foundation and was previously board chair of Ignite Texas, a nonpartisan organization focused on building political ambition in young women. She has announced her candidacy for the 2020 election for Texas Railroad Commission, the oil and gas regulator for the state of Texas.
Jim Coen serves as vice president of MVP Holdings LLC, a diversified energy midstream company headquartered in Wichita, Kansas. MVP provides purchasing, aggregation, transportation and storage solutions for oil and gas producers and other energy market participants throughout the Midcontinent region.

A native of Ottawa, Kansas, Coen earned bachelor’s degrees in civil engineering and business management in 1982 from Kansas State University. He began his career with Exxon Company USA in Midland, Texas, as a reservoir engineer in the Permian Basin of West Texas. After eight years of successive engineering roles with Exxon, he joined Koch Industries in Wichita, as a pipeline engineer. Following stints in business development, market analysis and commercial marketing, he served as vice president of crude oil marketing for Koch Oil Company. After the sale of Koch Oil in 1998, Coen held various energy midstream roles with EOTT Energy and SemGroup Corporation before helping to form MVP Holdings in 2008, where he works today using his experience and expertise to assist with commercial marketing, trading and risk management.

Coen is married to Ann (Peterson) Coen, a 1982 graduate of Kansas State with a degree in education. They have three daughters who are also K-State graduates. The Coens reside in Wichita but enjoy trips to Manhattan to attend football and basketball games with family and friends.

Nick Chong is responsible for global customer support and services at Zoom Video Communications Inc. Prior to this, he was head of global services for the company, responsible for global professional services and Zoom Rooms evangelism, as well as head of product marketing. Chong has an extensive background in technology, market development, product strategy and pursuit of customer satisfaction. Prior to his work with Zoom, Chong founded the first emerging technology business unit at Cisco Systems in India. He led business incubation, technology acquisition and go-to-market strategy. Chong also held senior leadership roles as director of product management at Perflgo — acquired by Cisco, and director of global support at Intruvert — acquired by McAfee. Two network security solutions he oversaw development of, NAC and IPS, attained number one market leadership positions and evolved to become critical stakes of the $3 billion network security market.

In addition, Chong spent more than seven years with Cisco’s global support and services in San Jose, California, and Brussels, Belgium. Chong completed a Master’s of Business Administration degree from Santa Clara University and a bachelor’s degree in computer engineering from Kansas State University.

Jim Coen
Vice President
MVP Holdings LLC

Nick Chong
Head of Global Support and Services
Zoom Video Communications Inc.
Gib Compton is managing member of Compton Construction Services LLC, a commercial general contractor in Wichita, Kansas, focusing on projects that involve design-build, new construction, renovations and restorations. Its construction projects include industrial, hospitality, church, public and private schools, medical and assisted-care facilities, and retail and government projects. A native of Wichita, Compton is a 1980 graduate of Kansas State University in construction science and management. He began his career as a field engineer and project superintendent where he gained experience in operations, estimating and project management. Compton Construction was founded in 1997 with one employee – himself. Today, he manages 20 employees as well as day-to-day operations. In recent years completed contracts averaged more than $20 million with projects located throughout Kansas and Oklahoma.

Compton is currently a member of the KSU Foundation board of trustees and Presidents Athletic Advisory Council. Locally he serves on the Wichita alumni board and has been a past member of the KSU Alumni Association board of directors, construction science and management advisory board and co-president of the Wichita Catbackers Club. He and his wife, Brenda, a 1977 graduate of K-State and retired teacher, live in Wichita and share a passion for the university. They were awarded the Kansas State University Medal of Excellence in 2017 by the KSU Foundation board of trustees recognizing exceptional service, leadership and philanthropic contributions. Compton was inducted into the Carl R. Ice College of Engineering Hall of Fame in 2019.

Darold Davis is a retired professional engineer with an accomplished career in transportation engineering in Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Florida. A Kansas State University graduate in civil engineering, he began his career as a transportation engineer for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, also serving as assistant city engineer for Midwest City, Oklahoma. He was then hired as manager of engineering for Cunningham Consultants, Oklahoma City. From there he relocated to Tulsa to establish and manage, as president, a new office for Cunningham-Davis-Stoldt. Recruited by Sverdrup Corporation of Tallahassee, Florida, he became a program management consultant for Florida DOT managing a statewide bridge replacement program. Returning to Kansas, he managed the planning, design and construction of a 50-mile corridor in southern Kansas for Cook, Flatt and Strobel, soon after becoming its president. Projects included alignment studies for the K-96 Hutchison bypass and preliminary development of Wichita’s East Kellogg as a US-400 freeway.

He came out of retirement in 2003 to join Garver’s Tulsa office and became a major consultant to Oklahoma DOT. He was involved in the design of major freeway projects including I-40, I-44, I-244, US-75 and US-169, and has become a recognized expert in developing alternative types of freeway interchanges. Professional affiliations include American Society of Civil Engineers, National Society of Professional Engineers and serving as an officer for American Council of Engineering Companies and Institute of Transportation Engineers. He and his wife, Debbie, live at Grand Lake of the Cherokees in Oklahoma where Davis continues to consult for Garver.
Roger Farrell earned a bachelor’s degree, magna cum laude, in civil engineering in 1975 from Kansas State University. He is currently chairman of the board of Intensity Midstream LLC, a private equity-backed natural gas gathering and processing company with significant midstream assets in the South Central Oklahoma Oil Province, or SCOOP, a top-five U.S. shale play.

Prior to Intensity Farrell was CEO of Xplorer Midstream LLC, a start-up gathering and processing company in the SCOOP; and before that president and COO of Southern Union Gas Services, a multi-billion dollar midstream business in the Permian Basin. Previously Farrell was president and CEO of Enogex, the predecessor of Enable Midstream Partners, a natural gas pipeline company that owned both interstate and intrastate natural gas pipelines, as well as significant midstream assets.

Before assuming executive-level positions Farrell was responsible for engineering designs on a diverse set of projects including the Hobby Airport jet-fuel terminal, refined products pipeline, tailings disposal and water-recovery system at a large open-pit copper mine, and a proprietary slurry fuel system aboard large crude-oil carriers.

Farrell has served on boards of directors of several companies, industry organizations and non-profits including Continental Resources, Southern Gas Association, Gas Processors’ Association, Oklahoma Energy Explorers, Infant Crisis Services of Oklahoma and Kansas Senior Living Inc. He has participated as a guest lecturer on midstream energy topics for investor and national industry conferences, and graduate-level energy programs.

He and his wife, Trish, have five children and live in Edmond, Oklahoma.

Rick Fornelli, P.E., a Lawrence native, is a Kansas State graduate in civil engineering, B.S. 1972 and M.S. 1973. He retired as a CH2M senior program manager in 2014.

Fornelli’s career was primarily focused in water resource and environmental projects. He served CH2M in multiple engineering career roles including designer, project manager, construction manager, area manager for several offices and the initial USA western regional manager for CCI — CH2M’s design-build construction company. He was involved in numerous major municipal water/wastewater projects and led implementation of several of CH2M’s technically innovative projects. He served as planning and delivery director, and later as construction director, for Puerto Rico’s island-wide improvement of water and wastewater infrastructure.

Fornelli managed implementation of dust control for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power’s Owens Lake 110-square-mile lake bed, dry since the city of Los Angeles started diverting water from the Owens Valley in 1908. It was the largest single source of Pm10 pollution in the United States. He was also the program manager to develop a wastewater master plan for the city and county of Honolulu, Oahu Island, and assisted with reaching a settlement with U.S. EPA.

His final program before retirement was the 25 km Thames Tideway Tunnel combined sewer (CSO) project in London, U.K., where he managed the program implementation plan for the £4.2 billion ($6 bn) project to augment the 1865 Victorian sewers built by Sir Joseph Bazalgette.

He served as a U.S. Army combat engineer officer. He and his wife, Linda, live in Carlsbad, California.
Kimberly (Kim) Gerard

Kimberly (Kim) Gerard is CEO and founder of 360 Electrical LLC, a leader in innovative electrical products. Gerard graduated from Kansas State University with a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering. She entered the petroleum industry with Conoco Oil Company where she held various positions and lived in many places from the North Slope of Alaska to Atlanta, Georgia, with additional locations in between. Gerard then went to TransMontaigne to help build it and take it public. Her final position in the industry was as a partner and vice president at Petro Source.

After 20 years in the petroleum industry, she retired and started 360 Electrical headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah. 360 was born from the shear frustration of being unable to fully utilize a standard electrical outlet. It all began with a patent for rotating electrical devices. The company has expanded to multiple product lines including cords, strips, taps, mobile, smart and heavy duty.

In 2014, having become very dedicated to fitness and health, she opened a personal training gym to help people obtain their health goals. She continues to coach and encourage people toward fitness and nutrition.

Gerard now splits her time between Arizona, Utah and Wyoming, and has become involved in ministry efforts in the United States, Africa and Cambodia.

Don Glaser

Graduating from K-State in 1974 with a degree in mechanical engineering, Don Glaser then earned his master’s in mechanical engineering from Purdue where he was a graduate research assistant under a National Science Foundation grant. In 1975 he was hired by Procter & Gamble in Cincinnati.

In 1977 Glaser co-founded a new product development and manufacturing company, Glendo Corporation, in his hometown of Emporia, Kansas. Glendo specialized in producing hand and power tools for jewelry production, watchmaking, hand engraving, fine assembly work and related fields.

Beginning in 1988 he expanded Glendo’s marketing outside the United States with extensive personal travel and international trade exhibitions. A unique training center was also created for accelerated customer education attracting instructors and attendees from around the world. Today the business actively sells its U.S.-made products in more than 70 countries. In 1998 Glendo received the Kansas Governor’s Exporter of the Year Award in recognition of its successful international business.

Glaser holds 16 U.S. patents, 14 of which are used in commercial products. In 2013 he was asked to consider selling his business; the sale was concluded in 2014 and Glendo Corporation became Glendo LLC. Glaser lists his professional and career strengths as new product development, product management and small-to-medium quantity manufacturing processes.

In 2017 he and his wife, Linda, moved to Manhattan to retire. All three of their children are graduates of K-State. Glaser enjoys snow skiing, motorcycle touring, metalwork projects and family get-togethers. He does not consider himself retired.
Charles “Chuck” Grier has been either president or CEO of UCI – Industrial Construction Services — since 1991. After graduating from Kansas State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in construction science, he began his career as a field engineer, working his way to project manager with a separate company before taking a position as general manager at Utility Contractors of Oklahoma Inc. He also graduated as a commissioned officer in the USAR-COE and spent eight years as a reserve combat engineer officer. Grier is past president of state chapters of the Associated General Contractors of America in Kansas and Oklahoma. Within AGC of America he has served on several committees and is a lifetime national director. In 2013 he co-authored the paper “Construction Kata: Adapting Toyota Kata to a Lean Construction Project Production System.” Over the years Grier has been involved in the Wichita community having served as president of the executive board of the Quivira Council-Boy Scouts of America and on a number of other boards including the Wichita Chamber of Commerce, Heartspring and Goodwill Industries, along with several other chapters of local business-affiliated organizations. He currently serves as a director on a local/regional bank board and board member of a regional contractor based in Pennsylvania. Grier was inducted into the Kansas State University College of Engineering Hall of Fame in 2015.

Dee Hays is the founder and CEO of Excellence Engineering LLC. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Kansas State University in the late 1980s and graduated in 2017 from the OPM program at Harvard Business School. Hays is a board-certified professional engineer licensed in 38 states and maintains a model law status with the National Council of Professional Engineers. Hays founded Excellence Engineering in 2001 with the primary focus on delivering clients a better engineered package for their projects, providing boutique-quality support and building a team that excels in passion and talents. Excellence Engineering LLC has grown to a multi-discipline engineering firm providing turnkey projects from concept through operational completion. It received national certification as a Women’s Business Enterprise by the Women’s Business Enterprise National Council in 2013, and was WOSB and HubZone certified by the U.S. government in 2015. Hays is a member of the Women Presidents’ Organization, Women’s Business Council – Southwest, WBEA/South Texas and South, Society of Women Engineers, National and Oklahoma Societies of Professional Engineers, International Women’s Forum, National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying, Society of American Military Engineers and Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance advisory board. She is the previous chairman for the Sac and Fox Economic Development Holding Company board and most recently was appointed to the Governor’s Council on Workforce and Economic Development for the state of Oklahoma. She has received numerous distinctions throughout the years including Oklahoma’s Most Admired CEO and the Enterprising Women of the Year Award by EW Magazine.
Kevin Honomichl, P.E., P.S., is president of BHC RHODES, a civil engineering and surveying firm in Overland Park, Kansas, which he co-founded in 1992. He received his bachelor’s degree from Kansas State University and master’s from the University of Kansas, both in civil engineering. Honomichl began his career as a structural engineer at Black & Veatch performing structural steel design for power plant projects and led design projects for portions of AT&T’s initial transcontinental fiber-optic cable projects. He joined Ross Stephenson & Associates, Modesto, California, and continued his focus on fiber-optic telecommunication projects throughout the western United States. He and colleagues launched Brungardt Honomichl & Company P.A. in June 1992, later rebranded to BHC RHODES.

He served on the board of directors of the American Council of Engineering Companies-Kansas, including a term as national director and as the group’s national political action committee chair for Kansas. He serves on the board of directors of the Wyandotte County Economic Development Corporation and the De Soto EDC. He was elected to the De Soto City Council in 2017. Honomichl is a trustee of the KSU Foundation and served on the K-State civil engineering advisory council. He was appointed by K-State President Richard Meyers to serve on the Johnson County Education and Research Triangle board of directors. He received the Professional Progress Award from the K-State Department of Civil Engineering and the Distinguished Service Award from Kansas State University. He and his wife, Dianne Honomichl, P.E. (CE ‘86), have one son, Mikolas.

Warren Kennedy joined Burns & McDonnell in 1990 and was named senior vice president of Houston operations for the oil, gas and chemical division in 2014. Prior to this he had spent more than nine years as director of business development for the division where he contributed greatly to the diversification and success of the group in the oil and gas, chemical, biofuel, and food and consumer product industries. Kennedy joined the company as a process engineer after completing a B.S. degree in chemical engineering from K-State in 1990. After six years he transferred to the project management department and spent eight years as a project engineer and project manager. He was named director of business development in January 2005 and was promoted to vice president in 2008. In 2014 he relocated to Houston, Texas, and was named senior vice president.

Holding a seat on the board of directors of the Engineering and Construction Contracting Association, he is also a member of AIChe and NSPE. He has been active in the Construction Industry Institute and has served on the K-State chemical engineering department advisory board, including a term as chair. In 2010 he was honored by K-State’s College of Engineering with the Professional Progress Award. Kennedy received an M.S. degree in engineering management from the University of Kansas in 1995. He and his wife, Gisela, have two children, Cameron and Brianne, both K-State graduates. The Kennedys are avid sports fans, holding season football tickets at K-State.
Ryan McGuire
Vice President of Sales, National Accounts
J.B. Hunt Transport Services Inc.

Ryan McGuire is vice president of national account sales for Lowell, Arkansas-based J.B. Hunt Transport Inc., a provider of multimodal supply chain solutions for customers across North America. There he leads a team of sales professionals with responsibility for account development and revenue growth from large national accounts.

McGuire’s career has focused on transportation beginning in 1993 as an analyst with ABF Freight Systems Inc. In 1996 he joined Walmart Stores Inc. and was responsible for contract negotiations and relationship management with carriers across all modes of transport. In 2001 he joined J.B. Hunt Transport where he had responsibility for pricing, economic analysis and network planning before assuming the sales leadership role in 2017.

Originally from Hutchinson, Kansas, McGuire earned his degree in industrial engineering from K-State in December 1992. He is married to Michelle (Swim) McGuire, a 1993 graduate of K-State with a degree in social science and a former member of the Kansas State University Alumni Association board of directors. The McGuires reside in Bentonville, Arkansas, and are proud parents of two sons: Matt, a student in K-State’s College of Architecture, Planning and Design; and Derek, a student at K-State Polytechnic studying aviation.

McGuire has served on K-State’s Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering advisory council and is currently president of the IMSE Professional Academy. He is on the board of directors of Hope Cancer Resources of Springdale, Arkansas, a non-profit organization providing compassionate professional cancer support and education in the northwest Arkansas community.

Karl Miller
CEO
Jingoli Power LLC

Karl Miller is a solutions-focused senior executive with more than 30 years of success in construction, engineering and utilities, leveraging extensive experience in leading business turnarounds and initiating management planning and training. His broad areas of expertise include sales strategy, financial planning, process improvement implementation and compliance reporting.

Miller is the CEO of Jingoli Power LLC, a professional services firm for the power construction industry and a subsidiary of Joseph Jingoli and Son Inc., a 95-year-old privately held New Jersey-based firm. Jingoli Power has invested in the SOO Green HVDC Link project, a 349-mile transmission line that will transport wind and solar energy via a first-ever co-location model to the country’s largest electric power markets.

Prior to launching Jingoli Power, Miller held leadership positions with Granite Construction, Kenny Construction Company, and Black & Veatch, where he managed engineering and development of power plants in the U.S., Taiwan and China. Over the course of his career, Miller has started three successful companies and managed workforces of up to 1,800 employees.

A registered engineer in eight states, he is a former board member of Vistage. Miller earned his B.S. in mechanical engineering with an emphasis on power from Kansas State University where he is now a member of the industry advisory council of the mechanical and nuclear engineering department. He is also a board member for the FARM Team whose mission is to facilitate the progress of individuals in addiction recovery.
Craig Nelson holds a bachelor’s degree in construction science from Kansas State University. President and CEO of Conco Construction, the company he has served for all 40-plus years of his tenure in construction, he has an unwavering drive to build on the minds and backs of great people. A hands-on leader, he keeps lines of communication open to ensure the entire team — from executive leadership to the young construction laborer — is well supported. Conco hiring practices are rigorous. New talent — including many team members hailing from K-State — is coached and mentored to push hard, stretch as far as possible and perform to the highest standard.

As the leader of a company of nearly 200 men and women, Nelson is significantly invested in equipping the Conco team with the internal processes, skill-building opportunities, support structures and rewards to be successful for the client. He believes the client service experience is best delivered through a desire for and focus on excellence. Evidence of that thread throughout the company’s culture is that more than 85% of Conco’s portfolio is repeat business. Conco Construction is a top-performing regional contractor in Kansas, Oklahoma and Colorado. Deeply invested in achieving best practices in the areas of construction technique and strategies, Nelson has built an ironclad niche as a self-performing company with in-house divisions for dirt work, concrete, masonry, ironwork and carpentry. Its newest division, the facility performance group established in 2015, helps clients transition into their new spaces and keeps them running at optimal performance.

Mark Nyquist, P.E., Colleyville, Texas, has recently retired as the CEO of DynaTen Corporation, Fort Worth, Texas. He continues his engagement with the company and its employees as a consultant and mentor. DynaTen is a mechanical contracting, service and engineering company located in the center of Dallas–Fort Worth. DynaTen’s market focus is on large health care, data centers, hospitality, high-rise living units, office and industrial projects.

Nyquist currently serves on the Carl R. Ice College of Engineering advisory council at K-State. He has served on numerous construction and construction-related trade association boards throughout his career. He graduated from K-State with a Bachelor of Science degree in construction science in 1980. Nyquist began with DynaTen in 1994 as the chief operating officer. He became the chairman and CEO of DynaTen in 2004. In 2014 he led the company through a merger with Comfort Systems U.S.A., a publicly traded mechanical contracting and service business operating in 120 cities throughout the U.S.
Robert W. Reichenberger is the president and founder of Solar Prime LLC, a Colorado-based renewable energy development and services company he started in 2012. While heading up Solar Prime he has led the development of more than 1400MW of large-scale solar projects in the southwest U.S., including four operational projects totaling 530MW. Prior to this, as head of SunEdison’s utility business in North America, Reichenberger led a $400 million P&L responsible for securing and executing solar power projects. Before embarking on his renewable energy career, he had spent 16 years in the telecom industry in various sales and operations leadership roles. Reichenberger holds a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering with honors from Kansas State University and an MBA from the University of Colorado. He lives in Denver, Colorado, with his wife, Becca. He enjoys food and wine, travel, volunteering, snow skiing, hiking and various other outdoor activities.

Sabrina Schriner graduated from Kansas State University with a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering. She began her career at Texas Instruments’ defense systems division as a guidance and control engineer designing closed-loop missile control algorithms while validating a highly complex six-degree-of-freedom simulation. She was then chosen to lead the field test and evaluation program to successful customer acceptance. Next Schriner was recruited to General Electric where she held leadership roles of increasing responsibility. As system engineering leader for the transportation division she was responsible for development of safety-critical rail control systems. Schriner then joined the GE Capital leadership team responsible for management of a $9 billion reinsurance asset that required coordination with global legal entities. Next she was promoted to quality leader of GE’s environmental services division formed from multiple acquisitions in various stages of integration. She was responsible for quality and reliability of a worldwide portfolio of emissions-control technology with remote monitoring and diagnostics services. She also completed her M.S. in engineering management. Schriner was recruited to Microsoft Corporation as senior director, delivering revenue and productivity gains by implementing strategic programs across global sales and services. Her portfolio included expansion of the partner ecosystem and increasing deal velocity for enterprise agreements. She then launched an executive consulting service that specializes in delivering measurable revenue growth through business analytics and advanced process performance. Her current interest is in artificial intelligence applications. Schriner enjoys scuba diving and skiing getaways with her family. She is based in the Seattle area.
Art Umble has a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from Kansas State University and a doctoral degree in the same discipline from the University of Notre Dame. He currently leads the global wastewater practice for Stantec, focusing on municipal and industrial wastewater treatment technologies with an emphasis on converting waste streams to value streams. Umble provides technical analysis and support to design teams for new and rehabilitated wastewater treatment plants focused on nutrient removal and recovery facilities, process optimization for treatment capacity and energy management, wet-weather treatment, solids processing and disposal facilities, disinfection systems, and reuse and emerging contaminant-removal technology. In addition to consulting, his experience includes university teaching and managing a publicly owned water and wastewater utility.

Umble is a national leader in initiatives involving promotion of environmentally sustainable systems from watershed planning to pollution prevention. He serves on numerous state and national forums and stakeholder work groups related to emerging treatment technologies, sustainability in treatment and environmental regulation. He is on numerous steering committees for the Water Environment Federation, or WEF, including the Leaders Innovation Forum for Technology, and serves as director for the Community of Practice for Resource Recovery for the WEF. He is engaged in research by serving on the research advisory council for the Water Research Foundation and provides peer review for various collaborative research projects.

Beth Ward is senior vice president of supply chain and a corporate officer at Hallmark Cards Inc. in this role Ward is responsible for global supply chain planning, manufacturing, logistics, global procurement, product integrity and supply chain technical resources. She is passionate about the role supply chain plays in helping Hallmark win, as well as the importance of creating great teams to drive continuous improvement and collaboration across boundaries. Ward joined Hallmark in 1996 and has since gained a wide range of living and working experiences across the global organization – from Hong Kong where she served as managing director of Asia Pacific procurement, to Bentonville, Arkansas, where she was retail operations vice president for team Walmart and facilitated creation of Hallmark’s new Walmart office. She also served as director of logistics services and general manager of order distribution at Hallmark’s Liberty Distribution Center. Prior to joining Hallmark Ward worked as an industrial engineer for JC Penney. She holds a bachelor’s degree in industrial and manufacturing systems engineering from Kansas State University and a master’s degree in engineering management from the University of Kansas. Ward has been an active community servant in Kansas City on behalf of the United Way and the Central Exchange. She is also currently a board member for Goodwill and an advisory council member for the Carl R. Ice College of Engineering at Kansas State University.
Jerry Westhoff

Jerry Westhoff, P.E., is president and founder of J.J. Westhoff Construction Co., which builds sanitary landfills for municipalities and private companies such as Waste Management and Waste Connections, coal combustion residue monofills for coal-fired power plants, as well as wastewater treatment plants and utilities throughout Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa.

Westhoff earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Kansas State University in 1974. He began his career with Continental Oil Company in Lake Charles, Louisiana, and then Denver, Colorado, as a field engineer. He next joined a construction company in Lincoln, Nebraska, as a project engineer overseeing its wastewater treatment plant division. In 1980 he founded J.J. Westhoff Construction Co.

He has served on the K-State civil engineering advisory council, is a member of the board of trustees of the KSL Foundation and is a life member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Westhoff and his wife, Robin, a 1975 graduate of K-State in home economics/family and child development, have two children and three grandchildren. Their daughter, Katie, is a graduate of Colorado State University and their son, Michael, is a graduate of K-State.

Michael R. Wiegers

Michael R. Wiegers graduated from K-State with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering in 1982. After graduation he joined King Radio in Olathe, Kansas, to design VHF aviation communication and navigation radios. During his 11-year career with King Radio he worked in new technology areas such as flight-critical software and electronic display systems.

In 1993 Wiegers joined Garmin as the lead engineer in marine product design. During his tenure he has served in a variety of technical and business leadership capacities in all Garmin consumer product segments.

Wiegears was named to his current position of vice president, consumer engineering in 2010 and directs the day-to-day operations of Garmin's worldwide consumer engineering group.

He was named the College of Engineering 2018 Alumni Fellow at Kansas State University. In 2019 Wiegears and his wife, Lynn, invested in the naming of the Mike Wiegears Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering in the Carl R. Ice College of Engineering, empowering the department to recruit and retain top faculty, support deserving students and provide flexible funding for department leaders to take advantage of emerging opportunities.