



Michael Walker, PEng, PE, PMP

Candidate for the 2018
Allen D. Williams Scholarship

Essay

I am honoured to be nominated for the 2018 Allen D. Williams Scholarship. Through my history and experience with ACEC Canada, I have seen many of my friends and colleagues win this prestigious award and have seen the benefits that they have been able to provide back to our industry. Following my participation in the 2016 FIDIC Young Professionals Management Training Program (YPMTP), I have seen what an important role Canadian consulting engineers play in the international market, and what great influence we have. With this influence comes great responsibility – advancing the Canadian Consulting Industry while learning about the global market. This positions Canadian firms and their Young Professionals (YPs) to succeed and create meaningful careers and wealth for the industry, growing and attracting the next generation of talented engineers.

Should I have the privilege of being selected for this scholarship, I propose to continue and extend my work with FIDIC, while sharing my Canadian experience with the other attendees and sharing my experiences with the network of YPs I have had the pleasure to meet through ACEC Canada, ACEC-SK, CEA, and other MOs.

The network that I have fostered includes multiple promising YPs across Canada, some of which are in my own office. I strive every day to mentor these individuals; to help them find their optimal career path. Sharing my experiences of the YPMT with my network has motivated them to look at the bigger picture, and to expand their expectations for themselves and their careers.

I was once a fresh graduate from the University of Alberta, where I was encouraged to participate in CEA and ACEC Canada by Brian Ross and Glen Kayne. This encouragement formed the strong foundation of my career, and built my network beyond what I thought was possible at the time. I hope to give this gift back to as many YPs as

possible throughout my career. I have already started by encouraging several YPs to get involved with ACEC-SK and CEA.

Furthermore, my acceptance of the opportunity to open an office in Regina not only expanded the McElhanney network, but has also resulted in the creation of six full-time positions. This creates wealth, enhances these individuals' quality of life, and their resultant impacts on others. I hope to continue this growth, mentor these professionals, and encourage them to strive for more than what they may think is possible.

I believe sharing my experiences with children is also a very meaningful way to give back to the overall industry. Having little exposure to engineering when I was young resulted in uncertainty about who I wanted to be when I "grew up". Having some family members who were not engineers, but who encouraged my passion for building and tinkering eventually guided me in the direction that I would come to realize was the perfect fit for me – consulting engineering. I strive to assist children with the exposure to STEM careers through the presentations, discussions with teachers about STEM careers, and the partnership that I am currently building with the McLurg Elementary School to provide ongoing presentations and technical assistance to their young students, in hopes of helping some of them find the love for the career that I have found.

My career objectives are not easily expressed, as I have surpassed the goals I had set for myself. My new goal is to use my skills and experience to quietly better my community, while always learning and progressing personally and professionally. Should this result in a senior management role in my firm, then I will evaluate the opportunity at the time and chose the best path for my family, my company, my industry, my country, and myself.

Volunteer and Industry Involvement

Community, Volunteering, and Fundraising

- McLurg Elementary School – Playground – Document and Budget Review
- McLurg Elementary School – STEM Partnering / Engineering Presentations
- Organized Hamlet of Deer Valley – Utilities Sub-Committee Member
- BC and Alberta Guide Dogs – Donation Collector, Fundraising
- A. Blair McPherson Elementary School – Engineering Presentations
- Enbridge Ride to Conquer Cancer – Participant
- APEGA Science Olympics – Volunteer Judge
- City of Edmonton River Valley Cleanup
- Edmonton Christmas Bureau – Hamper Delivery

ACEC–SK

- Young Professionals Group
- Young Professionals Conference – Committee Lead
- Transportation Executive Committee Member

CEA

- Board of Directors – YP Representative
- Young Professionals Group – Calgary – ACEC Liaison
- Young Professionals Group – Calgary – Tech Tour Coordination
- Young Professionals Group – Edmonton – Vice Chair (2013)
- Young Professionals Group – Edmonton – Director of External Relations
- Young Professionals Group – Edmonton – Tech Tour Coordination

ACEC–Canada

- Young Professionals Network – Chair (2015)
- Young Professionals Network – Past Chair (2016 & 2017)
- ACEC Leadership Conference 2016 – Ottawa – YP Event Coordination
- ACEC Leadership Summit 2015 – Niagara Falls – YP Event Coordination & Presenter
- ACEC Leadership Summit 2014 – Winnipeg – YP Event Coordination & Presenter
- ACEC Leadership Summit 2013 – Lake Louise – YP Event Coordination & Presenter
- ACEC Leadership Summit 2012 – Prince Edward Island – YP Presenter

FIDIC

- Young Professional Forum Steering Committee (YPFCS) – Canadian Representative
- YPFSC – YPMTP Support Sub-Committee – Champion
- YPFSC – 1st International YP Conference Sub-Committee – Assistant Champion
- YPFSC – Jakarta 2017 Sub-Committee – Member
- YPFSC – Reference Document Sub-Committee – Member
- YPFSC – South American YPF Development Sub-Committee – Member
- YPFSC – YP Awards Sub-Committee – Member
- YPFSC – Newsletter Sub-Committee – Member
- YPFSC – Social Media Sub-Committee – Member
- YPFSC – Website Sub-Committee – Member

Corporate

- McElhanney – Ongoing Mentorship of Junior Staff
- McElhanney – Sofia House – Fundraising
- McElhanney – Coordinated visits for dogs to experience training in office settings
- AMEC – Edmonton YP Group Creation