

## 2009 Vernon B. Spalding Leadership Award

**Everett S. Thompson, PE**  
Williams & Works



During his more than 40-year career as a civil engineer, Mr. Thompson demonstrated his personal commitment to improving the quality of life through his leadership in the engineering profession and his involvement in the community.

After graduating from Michigan State University in 1951, Mr. Thompson began his engineering career as Assistant City Engineer/Manager for the City of Mt. Pleasant. In the fall 1953, he accepted the position of City Manager in St. Johns, fulfilling his dream of becoming a city manager.

After passing the exam for his Engineering Registration certificate in 1954, Thompson joined Williams & Works, where he helped build the firm from 25 employees in the 1950s to more than 350 in the late 1970s. Thompson became president of Williams & Works in 1972. In the early 1980s, Mr. Thompson became a managing consultant before starting his own engineering firm in 1984.

Mr. Thompson's career highlights also include participating in an exchange program with Russia, serving as state president of MSPE from 1968-1969 and as vice president and chairman of the NSPE Private Practice Group from 1973-1974. He also served as state president of the American Consulting Engineers Council (1971-1973) as well as its national president in 1980-1981.

Mr. Thompson was a member of the Cascade Township Planning Commission, the St. Johns Rotary, and the Downtown Grand Rapids Rotary. He has been an active member of the Ada Congregational Church since 1957.