

2014 Felix A. Anderson Image Award

Richard O. Anderson, PE

Principal Engineer, Somat Engineering, Inc.



Mr. Richard O. Anderson, a 1971 civil engineering graduate of Michigan Technological University (MTU), is a Principal Engineer and former President of Somat Engineering, Inc., (Somat) in Detroit, Michigan. As a Distinguished Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), he is a nationally known expert for his innovative and cost effective solutions to infrastructure projects and engineering education. During a distinguished career spanning over 42 years, he has worked on over 6,500 projects including airports, high-rise office structures, health care facilities, transportation facilities and many others.

From the onset of his career, Richard O. Anderson has provided leadership and mentoring to other engineers. For more than 30 years, Mr. Anderson has given back to the engineering profession by being actively involved in the education of future engineers through ASCE and ABET Inc. (formerly the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology). He served as ABET's President from 2004-2005, and is currently the Chairman of the ABET Foundation. He was named an ABET Fellow in 2009 being recognized "for leadership in the development and implementation of outcomes-based accreditation for continuous quality improvement of educational programs across all commissions of ABET, for commitment to diversity, and for promotion of international accreditation." Richard served on the ACEC-Michigan Scholarship Committee for over 30 years as a member and Chair.

Additionally, Mr. Anderson is a 33-year member of ASTM and has been actively involved in various professional activities and societies during his career, including serving as the President of ASFE-The Association of the Engineering Firms Practicing in the Geosciences, and President of the Southeastern Branch of the Michigan Section of ASCE. He was named "Civil Engineer of the Year" in 1994 for the Southeastern Branch and also for the Michigan Section of ASCE. Richard is very active as an engineering practitioner in education. He served on the MTU Civil and Environmental Engineering Department Professional Advisory Committee for over 12 years, and also served on advisory boards at Lawrence Technological University, Michigan State University, and the University of Michigan.