

TOP TEN PUBLIC WORKS LEADERS OF THE YEAR AWARD

Purpose The Top Ten Public Works Leaders of the Year program seeks to inspire excellence and dedication in public service by recognizing the outstanding career service achievements of individual public works professionals and officials, from both the public and private sectors. The primary focus of the award is on career service to the public works profession rather than on any one single event or project.

Eligibility It is the intent of this award to recognize the career service accomplishments of public works professionals and officials. Towards that end, candidates with a minimum of 10 years qualifying experience may be nominated from any of the following categories. APWA membership is required. Members of the APWA Board of Directors are not eligible during the time they serve on the Board. Individuals are only eligible to receive the Top Ten Public Works Leaders of the Year Award on one occasion.

1. Public Sector

Public sector candidates may come from any of the three following categories having a minimum of 10 years qualifying experience:

- a. Any non-elected, employee of a federal, state, provincial, county or municipal government, that is responsible for one or more major subdivisions of a governmental agency. Most of the candidate's time and efforts must be devoted to the administration and management of the design, construction, maintenance and/or operation of a street or highway system, refuse collection or disposal system, public building, drainage or flood control facility, airport, harbor, utilities or any other type of public works installation.
- b. Service in an appointed (non-elected) position on a board or commission charged with the oversight or policy level review of public works or infrastructure issues. Such service may have been at the federal, state, provincial, county or municipal government level dealing with surface transportation systems, refuse, solid waste, and recycling systems, public buildings, drainage or flood control, airports, harbors, or any other type of public works or infrastructure systems. Such positions may typically be represented by the following examples: City Manager, Public Works Commissioner, Roads Commissioner, Highway Commissioner, Transportation Commissioner, Airport Commissioner, Port Authority Commissioner, or other comparable position.
- c. Elected officials who have prior qualifying experience from either category "a" or "b" may also be considered as candidates.

2. Private Sector

Private sector public works and/or civil engineering professionals having a minimum of 10 years of involvement in public sector public works activities may be eligible, if their qualifying activities have come from the following areas:

- a. Experience as a contract Director of Public Works/City Engineer or comparable position, which was provided by means of a contract service from a private sector firm to a governmental entity; or
- b. A combination of prior qualifying experience in the public sector (see number 1) and/or service as a consultant engaged in the provision of public works-related services to the public sector.

Selection The Top Ten are selected by five past Top Ten award recipients appointed by the APWA President.

Nomination Process Any governmental entity, group, or individual may nominate candidates. Nominations are particularly encouraged from APWA chapters and branches. Self-nominations are not accepted. APWA membership is required. Submittals should include nomination form and supporting data form. It is encouraged that these materials be completed by the nominating party and not be left for the candidate to submit. Please refer to directions as outlined on supporting data form.

Deadline March 1, 2022 (electronic submittals only)

Presentation The award winners are presented with a plaque during National Public Works Week and recognized during PWX, and other such venues as the association deems appropriate. Winners are also featured in APWA publications.

Former Recipients 2021 Brigitte Berger-Raish, P.E., Director of Engineering and Public Works, Village of Wilmette, IL
Tom Brady, P.E., LEED AP, Utilities Director, City of North Las Vegas, NV
Robert "Brutus" Cantoreggi, Director of Public Works, Town of Franklin, MA
Jeannine Clancy, Assistant General Manager, Metropolitan Council Environmental Services, St. Paul, MN
Patrick Collins, P.E., CPWM, F.ASCE, Director of Engineering/City Engineer, City of Valdosta, GA
William "Bill" Ebel, Jr., City Manager, City of Overland Park, KS
Delora Kerber, P.E., Director of Public Works, City of Wilsonville, OR
Terrence Nealy, Public Works Director, City of Rock Hill, SC
Wilfrid Nixon, Ph.D., P.E., PWLF, President, Professional Snowfighters Association, Iowa City, IA
Ginger Spencer, Public Works Director, City of Phoenix, AZ