

2022 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Dr. Jane L. McLamarrah Vice President, MWH (Stantec)



Jane is truly a pioneer in the field of Civil Engineering and has been a technical expert on the cutting-edge of technology and innovation. Jane grew up in the 1960s in a small village in northern Illinois. I recently met Jane and she explained that at that time women who were interested in math or science became teachers. She enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, double majoring in mathematics and history secondary education. She later obtained a second undergraduate degree in civil and environmental engineering and in 1985 was the first female to obtain a Ph.D. in civil engineering at Clemson. Jane indicated that having a Ph.D. from Clemson was definitely a boost to her career since it opened many doors in the consulting world and allowed her to move into more managerial roles in each of the consulting firms where she worked after achieving her degree.

Before working at MWH Americas as vice president, a global engineering consulting firm specializing primarily in water and wastewater, Jane worked for three different consulting engineering firms in Wisconsin and South Carolina. She acquired a broad range of project experience, including planning, design, and construction management for water, stormwater, wastewater, and solid waste projects.

Jane has developed wastewater master plans for cities such as Fort Worth, Houston, Long Beach and Pomona. She has volunteered her time with the Water Environment Federation (WEF) on the national Collection Systems Committee, where she was co-founder of the Private Property Virtual Library. Jane was also task force chair for the Private Property Infiltration and Inflow Control special publication published in WEF in 2016. Since 1987, she has volunteered with the Fundamentals Examination Committee.

There were not any STEM support groups for underrepresented students or women during Jane's educational years and she learned to succeed in a male-dominated field with minimal support. Jane always felt that she needed to be twice as good and obtain twice as many credentials with a multi-discipline background. Jane credits developing excellent communication skills and interpersonal relationships, in addition to her eagerness to develop new skills and apply innovative techniques and methodologies, to her success.

In 2005, Jane was named the UW-Platteville Distinguished Alumna, and in 2008, the WEF Collection System Committee recognized Jane with the Golden Manhole Service Award for her volunteer work with the committee. In 2021, CECAS inducted Dr. McLamarrah to the Thomas Green Clemson Academy of Engineers and Scientists, the highest recognition in CECAS.

Jane and her husband Mike established the Jane A. McLamarrah Fund for Women in Science and Engineering (WISE). There is no greater legacy than one woman, who was a first of her time, helping to empower others. Clemson University is indebted to Jane and Mike for enabling young women to pick up the torch that Jane has carried for so many years, to achieve new professional heights in the field of engineering—through mentoring of women and minorities, Clemson's WISE is an enabler of their legacy.