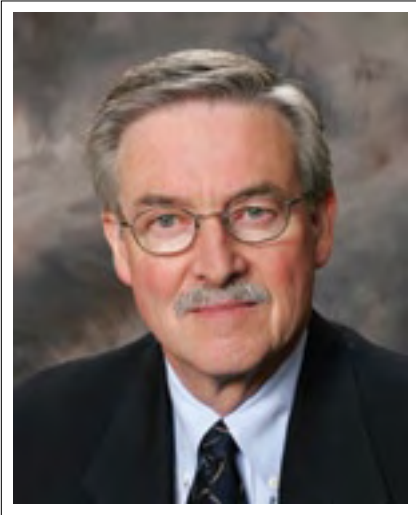


ACEC selects **Gary Bourne, P.E.**, as Washington's 'Engineer of the Year'



The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Washington has chosen Gary Bourne, P.E., President of BHC Consultants, as its 2007 Engineer of the Year. A lifetime Washington resident with a successful 43-year career in civil engineering, Bourne has nurtured two start-up engineering companies plus established himself as a gifted team leader and mentor, and one of the state's most accomplished and respected civil engineers.

In the 1980s, he led Bellevue-based Pool Engineering through two acquisitions to become the Washington office of internationally known Earth Tech in the late 1990s. In 2006, he and several colleagues launched BHC Consultants, a civil engineering and regional planning company primarily serving the public sector. The local, employee-owned firm now has 30 engineers, planners and support personnel. Bourne's commitment to the success of his clients, employees and colleagues is expressed in his philosophy behind founding BHC: "Employee ownership gives clients the added advantage of working with the owners of the company who have a big stake in the success of projects." Bourne is clearly an accomplished civil engineer and businessman, but he also earns kudos for his management style and mentoring skills. Peg Staeheli, President of SvR Design Company, says she has known and respected Bourne for more than two decades, and that he has been a professional mentor to her since the mid-1990s.

"Gary represents what individuals such as myself need to embrace for the continuity of knowledge and the pursuit of excellence that are necessary for our industry's health," she writes. "The public image of engineers is one of integrity, service, and ingenuity. Gary fits that image but raises the bar by integrating these traits into his everyday actions." "I cannot think of a better role model for the engineering community than Gary Bourne," writes Steve Sandelius, General Manager of the Southwest Suburban Sewer District in Burien. Bourne helped the district design and build a secondary sewer treatment system which ultimately contributed to the health and safety of both humans and wildlife in the area. Bourne also played a pivotal role in a complex and potentially contentious sewer project on Bainbridge Island, according to Randy Witt, Director of Public Works. Witt said Bourne was able to work with the community, staff and city council to shape the improvements, devise funding schemes, deliver design services and provide assistance for the project. "He has a gift of understanding the intricacies of complex issues and explaining them in a manner that people of all levels of interest can understand," says Witt. Richard Schaefer, Senior Program Director for RoseWater Engineering, explains that those who work with Bourne usually learn from him "not only the technical aspects of building and operating a consulting practice, but also the philosophies that drive him to focus on clients' success."

Business associate and friend Kathy Robertson, a Principal with Pickets Engineering LLC, says she values Bourne for his attributes "as a technical and people resource, mentor, and role model...He not only leads by example, but proactively manages concerns before they become issues."

In addition to running his company and serving as a leader in the local engineering business community, Bourne also has been a guest lecturer at the University of Washington's Engineering School.

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Washington is the leading advocate for the business interests of consulting engineering, land surveying and affiliated scientific and planning firms statewide. 🇺🇸