



# South Dakota Engineering Society



## Roger Hall Engineer of the Year

Roger Hall of Simon (formerly Hills Materials) was named the 2017 South Dakota Professional Engineer of the Year award from the South Dakota Engineering Society.

The award recognizes a Registered Professional Engineer who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession, the public welfare, and/or humankind. Areas considered for the award include; education, professional and technical society activities, awards and honors, civic and humanitarian activities, engineering achievements, professional experience, regional/national/international activities of unique quality, and special national/international advisory assignments.

Roger is a South Dakota native graduating from Hill City High School. He then graduated from the South Dakota School of Mines with a degree in Civil Engineering. He received the George C. Marshall Award and was the Distinguished Military Graduate from the Army ROTC program.

He was commissioned in the United States Army and spent 10 years on active duty with the Corps of Engineers. During his time with the Army he was a project engineer on numerous projects. Two of the main projects were a gunnery range for the M-1 Abrams tank in Grafenwohr Germany and the Fuertes Camino (Strong Roads) project in Honduras. Of particular note was the Honduras project where the goal was to conduct a farm-to-market road for the local agriculture industry. Several other projects were completed in conjunction with the road project included wells for fresh water and school houses. As a commander at Fort Lewis his company was nominated for the Itschner Award which recognizes the best Engineer Company in the Army. Part of his time was spent at the University of Texas-Austin as an Assistant Professor in the Military Science program.

After leaving the Army, Roger returned to the School of Mines and earned his Master's Degree in Civil Engineering which focused on water resources. He was named the Outstanding Civil Engineering Graduate Student for 1994. He then worked as a design engineer for TSP III and Ferber Engineering in Rapid City. While at Ferber he worked on the Twilight Drive Reconstruction Project which received the South Dakota Quality Initiative Award for Design Excellence.

Roger then moved to the construction industry where he worked for Heavy Constructors/Gustafson Builders for 10 years as an estimator/project manager for the grading and utilities division. In 2008 he went to work for Hills Materials and is currently a senior project manager. He still loves to estimate and helps the estimating staff with the underground and grading portions of projects.

Beginning in 2018 he was appointed as an Adjunct Professor at the School of Mines and is teaching in the Construction Engineering Management Master's Degree program.

In his address to the Annual SDES Convention Roger emphasized the incredible uniqueness of our profession. He asked, "In what other profession can you point to what you designed or built and has a direct impact on the health, safety, and welfare of the public?" He went on to speak about integrity and its importance to the engineering profession. He spoke on the four C's of leadership recalled from his Army time: competency, commitment, courage, and candor and then stated, "Be a role model and mentor someone".

His other notable accomplishments include being a committee member on the development of the City of Rapid City Storm Water Quality Manual and the development of the Masters of Construction Management Program at the School of Mines. He also works with several committees within the South Dakota Associated General Contractors including Municipal and Utility Construction Committee and the Storm Water Pollution Prevention workgroup. He served on the committee for the National Society of Professional Engineers National Convention in 1997 and was the chairman for SDES State Convention in 2000.

Roger has been active in several organizations within the community including Boys Scouts of America, coaching youth sports, chaperoning church youth group trips, the SDSMT Alumni Association, and as a volunteer at the Rushmore Hockey Association. He enjoys working out at the gym and in his free time he enjoys spending time with his family, skiing, camping, boating, hiking, and traveling.