COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

2021

OREGON STATER AWARDS

11.18.2021

Oregon State University

About The Awards

In 1998, THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING introduced the Oregon Stater Awards to honor outstanding alumni and friends of the college for their contributions to the engineering profession and to Oregon State University. Three categories recognize outstanding achievement at different stages of an Oregon Stater's career:

ENGINEERING HALL OF FAME

Membership in the Engineering Hall of Fame is awarded to Oregon State alumni who have made sustained, meritorious contributions and demonstrated leadership throughout their careers.

ACADEMY OF DISTINGUISHED ENGINEERS

Membership in the Academy of Distinguished Engineers is awarded to mid-career Oregon State College of Engineering graduates who have made sustained, distinguished contributions to the profession, their field, the university, or society at large. Awardees must still be practicing, with at least 20 years of professional experience beyond their bachelor's degree.

COUNCIL OF OUTSTANDING EARLY CAREER ENGINEERS

Membership in the Council of Outstanding Early Career Engineers is awarded to Oregon State College of Engineering graduates who have made significant early-career contributions that identify them as rising leaders in their profession or field. Awardees have less than 20 years of professional experience beyond their bachelor's degree.

AWARD

Academy of Distinguished Engineers

Rachele Turnbull

B.S., Construction Engineering Management, 1996

Minor, Business Administration, 1996

CEO

Clark Construction, Inc.

Rachele Turnbull graduated in 1996 from Oregon State University with a Bachelor's in Construction Engineering Management and a minor in Business Administration. She chose OSU for many reasons, focusing on the reputation for having a great engineering program, in addition to her family history at the university, and the proximity to her home and immediate family. The experiences she gained from OSU, not only academic, but in team athletics, helped cultivate her ability to take on anything she put her mind to.

After earning her degree, Rachele spent eight years at Baugh Construction Oregon in Beaverton, Oregon, which is a nationally recognized commercial contractor, now a part of Skanska USA. Her commercial project background includes work on high tech fabrication, animal care, healthcare, and educational facilities. She left Skanska in 2003 to follow a desire to work for a community- and family-focused company – or even start her own. She was drawn to be a part of something that was not just driven by profit, but was created as an opportunity for its employees to achieve an ownership stake in the company, and prioritized giving back to the community.

In 2006, Rachele started Clark Construction on Bainbridge Island, Washington, with a very small group of people, including her father, who had prior experience running a small residential business. To this day, Turnbull is among the few female CEOs at a construction company, and she is proud of that accomplishment. Pushing the boundaries of traditional roles in the construction industry is one of the cornerstones of Clark Construction.

"My hope is that the growth and success of our employee-owned business model will empower our team to make day-to-day decisions that drive our business forward in its goals of community activism and sustainability in construction, while maintaining work/life balance."

Recently, the leadership team made the daring move of creating a framework for wider employee ownership in the company. More than a third of the Clark Construction employees have an ownership stake in the company – this includes field labor and all employees, not just management. They have created a culture of stewardship through employee education, volunteer action in the community, and participation in programs that drive sustainability, affordability, and support of community programs. This helps to create a budget model that encourages customers to pursue certification like LEED and LBC, donating labor as well as resources and excess construction materials for workforce housing.