

ENGINEERS WEEK

2009



YOUNG ENGINEER OF THE YEAR: Joseph A. Platt, Jr., P.E.

2009 Young Engineer of the Year Winner Exemplifies Award Qualifications

Dedication. Service. Professionalism. These three words surface again and again when associates, colleagues and friends are asked about Joseph A. Platt, Jr., P.E. So much so that it's no wonder this twenty-nine year old Project Manager with Traffic Planning & Design, Inc. in Philadelphia has been awarded the 2009 Delaware Valley Engineers Week Council Young Engineer of the Year Award.

Established by William Shilling in 1990, the Young Engineer of the Year Award honors a practicing engineer under the age of 35 who demonstrates leadership abilities, contributes to the profession of engineering, and participates in charitable, civic and technical initiatives.

It's hard to imagine a more appropriate recipient for this year's coveted award. From his "rising star" status in the workplace, to his valuable mentoring skills, to his active involvement in the engineering professional societies, to his unwavering community support, Joe exemplifies the qualities of a model Young Engineer of the Year.

Currently serving as a Project Manager for the Traffic Operations and Permitting Department at Traffic Planning and Design, Inc. (TPD) Joe is an expert in transportation planning, traffic signal modernization and highway design projects. He is involved in all aspects of the project development process from the proposal stage, to the local and state approval process, to project completion and construction management and, in addition Joe also manages the professional growth and development of design teams comprised of junior engineers and CAD designers.

Professionally Joe is regarded as an extremely competent, reliable and responsive engineer and one which takes time to serve as a valuable mentor to less experienced staff members. According to TPD President Kevin Johnson, P.E., "Joe is one of TPD's recognized in-house 'experts' in several areas including projects involving size and placement of roadside signs as they relate to



transportation engineering principles and human factors, as well as highway access permit reviews. In addition he has developed into an outstanding representative of the engineering profession. We are proud to have Joe represent our firm as he possesses all of the characteristics prized by our organization and is widely recognized as a rising star among our senior leaders."

In addition to his significant contributions in the workplace, Platt was awarded the Young Engineer of the Year distinction because of his commitment and dedication to supporting and furthering the engineering profession. An active member of multiple professional organizations, Platt has taken on high level volunteer positions over and over again in an effort to enrich and improve the support structure of his chosen profession. Specifically he

serves as the Treasurer of the American Society of Civil Engineers -- a position he has held for the last three years. He has played a vital role in the association's Young Member Forum for the past five years and just wrapped up his presidency in June of 2008. In addition, Platt was instrumental in implementing the ASCE Eastern Regional Younger Member Council Leadership Conferences in 2008 and will do so again in 2009.

Just as impressive as his commitment to his profession is Platt's tireless dedication to his community. Growing up in Chester, Pa. and Brookhaven, Pa. his family instilled the value of community service in him at a very young age. At the age of 15 he became a member of the Brookhaven Fire Company and has been serving the community of Brookhaven and the surrounding area for the last fourteen years. As a firefighter he has been involved in all facets of fire and rescue operations including fire suppression, hose and pump operations, search and rescue, vehicle, water and confined space rescues and fire investigations. For over 10 years Platt has served as an active volunteer and fundraising advocate for Saint Katherine Drexel Church in Chester, Pa. and currently is a 3rd Degree Knight for the Knights of Columbus of Chester where he also remains active.

Perhaps Anthony Dougherty, P.E., a fellow engineer at TPD and the President of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers Valley Forge Chapter, wraps up the reason Joe was this year's award winner best, "Whether it's through his hard work at TPD solving the traffic problems; his dedication to the profession demonstrated by his active role for years in the ASCE; or his active participation as a member of the Brookhaven Fire Department, Saint Katherine of Drexel Church, and the Knights of Columbus, Joe constantly sets a positive example for all engineers, not just young engineers."

Also nominated for the 2009 Young Engineer of the Year Award were, Kevin Matson, P.E. of Kelly & Close Engineers, Inc., Mike Witkowski of McHugh Engineering Associates, and the following from the Naval Surface Warfare Center-Cardec Division, Timothy Sipe, P.E., Athanasios (Tom) Liolios, Michael Leddy and Brian Fitzpatrick.