



CH2M HILL forges partnership with Engineers Without Borders-USA

Helping developing communities build sustainable infrastructure, while training college engineering students to be socially responsible and culturally aware, Engineers Without Borders-USA is a nonprofit organization whose time has come.

Growing at an exponential rate, the young organization is thriving, and CH2M HILL is thrilled to be a part of it.

"The experience and training that young engineers receive by participating in an EWB-USA project is extraordinary," said CH2M HILL Vice Chairman Bud Ahearn. "These are the young professionals whom we want working for us in the future—individuals who are aware of global concerns and cultural differences and who understand the sustainable technologies needed to build infrastructure in the developing world."

Firm hosts national conference

In September, CH2M HILL hosted the Engineers Without Borders-USA 2004 national conference at its corporate headquarters in Denver. Nearly 250 engineering students, academics and professionals from around the globe convened for four days to share stories of their EWB-USA projects and to discuss the topic of capacity building.

Denver-area employees opened their homes and served as host families for engineering students traveling from out-of-town to attend the conference.

"My CH2M HILL host family was great. I really felt at home. Overall, the conference expanded my understanding of sustainable engineering, and the exciting, take-action atmosphere was contagious," said Mary Hall Dale, a mechanical engineering student from Mississippi State University.

Carlos Nazario, a construction management student at Northwestern University, said, "Meeting such a diverse group of people and sharing engineering approaches to lifestyles and customs in other countries was very gratifying."

Ahearn joins board of directors

During the national conference, EWB-USA Executive Director and Founder Bernard Amadei welcomed Ahearn to the EWB-USA board of directors.

"Not unlike other nonprofits, one of the biggest challenges EWB-USA faces is fundraising," Ahearn said. "The demand for project help in countries such as Honduras, Uganda and Nepal far exceeds current funds available to support them. We have several students and professionals eager to help; we just need the funds to send them abroad. Fundraising will be one of the board's primary concerns in 2005."

Get Involved with EWB-USA

Interested in getting involved with EWB-USA? That's just what engineers in CH2M HILL's Milwaukee office are doing. Transportation engineers Mike Paddock and Max Schmiege have teamed up to start the Wisconsin Professional Partners Chapter of EWB-USA. Alumni of Michigan Technological University, Paddock and Schmiege have a history of working as technical advisors for the university's

senior design class on projects in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

Applying their experience mentoring students on civil engineering projects in developing communities, Paddock and Schmiege are creating the professional chapter of EWB-USA in Wisconsin to assist students at MTU, Marquette University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The demand is great for mentors: Marquette alone has three EWB-USA projects identified in Guatemala and El Salvador, and the UW-Madison student

group has projects in Rwanda and Thailand.

"It's a great way to give back something to the profession and the world community – and it is a whole lot of fun working with the students and local people," Paddock said.

"Working with an energetic group of future engineers like this is a tremendous experience," Schmiege said. "In addition to the mentoring aspects of the trip, watching the students experience a very poor,



EWB-USA volunteers helped residents of Lemraiveg, Mauritania, West Africa, implement much needed improvements to their water system.



Marquette University students construct a bridge in Guatemala.

About Engineers Without Borders-USA

Engineers Without Borders-USA is a nonprofit organization established in 2000 by University of Colorado Engineering Professor Bernard Amadei to partner with developing communities worldwide in order to improve their quality of life. This partnership involves the implementation of environmentally equitable and economically sustainable engineering projects, while involving and training internationally responsible engineering professionals and students.

EWB-USA projects involve the design and construction of water, wastewater, sanitation, energy and shelter systems. Go to www.ewb-usa.org for more information.