Adventures of an Occassionally Redirected Engineer

David Ellerbroek, AECOM

Biography:

David Ellerbroek is a Senior Vice President and serves as the Area Manager for AECOM in Denver. He is responsible for the financial operation and strategic coordination of AECOM offices throughout the Front Range of Colorado with approximately 650 staff. AECOM has business lines focusing on water, transportation, buildings and places, environment and natural resources within the Denver Metro operation. Previously, he served as Western Region Business Line Leader for Environment and joined AECOM from MWH Global where he was the Global Market Sector Leader for Upstream Oil and Gas. Dave brings over 25 years of experience in the engineering business, across several market sectors including infrastructure, water, oil & gas and mining. He enjoys working with clients on multidisciplinary projects and has a bachelor of science in Geophysics from the University of Colorado, masters of science in Environmental Engineering from Colorado School of Mines and a PhD in Environmental Engineering from Colorado State University. He spent two years in Australia working as a research scientist for CSIRO’s Mine Remediation and Reclamation Program evaluating water and chemical movement in the mining environment.

Abstract:

I currently serve as a Senior Vice President and Area General Manager for AECOM in Denver; one of the largest engineering and construction companies in the world. The journey that I travelled to reach this point in my career has been characterized by a passion for earth science and engineering, relating to water and the environment, but has also been shaped by market forces and personal decisions. During my talk, I will discuss my 30 year career journey in the context of how students can prepare themselves for work in a variety of sectors including water resources, natural resources and engineering consulting. I will address several choices that students will be facing as they prepare for their careers including small vs. large companies, private vs public sector work and domestic verses international assignments. I will end my talk with an overview of some of the current opportunities that I see in water resources and engineering.