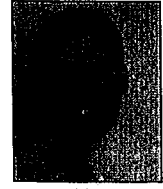




RES Announces Recipients of Annual Awards at the 109th Annual Gala



Gary Passero, PE, Named 2010 Engineer of the Year and Michael Walker, EIT Named 2010 Young Engineer of the Year



April 9, 2011 – The Rochester Engineering Society (RES) named Gary Passero, PE, the 2010 Engineer of the Year and Michael Walker, EIT, the 2010 Kate Gleason Young Engineer of the Year during its annual Gala held Saturday at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center.

Gary is founder, chairman and CEO of Passero Associates a full-service professional consulting firm providing planning, engineering, architectural design, environmental, surveying, program management and construction administration services. With two offices in New York and two in Florida, the firm has a projected annual revenue of \$12.6 Million and is celebrating its 39th year. His selfless devotion to the firm he started is demonstrated as he leads the company through a transformation that will take it from a small family-owned entity to a high-performing, values driven organization.

He has made a profound impact not only on the face of Rochester but also on it's citizens. His integrity and business ethics are unmatched and his engineering experience is vast. The influence of this civil engineer is apparent throughout the landscape of Rochester. His firm's accomplishments include the following award winning projects:

- Reconstruction of Route 104 and the Bridge over Mount Read Blvd
- The Webster Sandbar Sewer and Water main extension
- The Mill Seat Landfill GPS Survey
- The Monroe County Fleet Center: Inter-agency Public Works Facility
- The Mendon Town Hall Renovation and
- Turk Hill Road Reconstruction

Gary remains committed to Rochester and just last month, Passero Associates announced the purchase of the James Lofton Building and will be renovating it for their new head office.

He is an inspiration and mentor to many people and serves his community on a variety of non-profit boards. He volunteers his services and time with the Flower City Habitat for Humanity's Construction Committee, acts as a Board Member for St Joseph's Villa, the Open Door Mission, and Camp Day Dreams. He is also on the Advisory Board of the Finney School, Roberts Wesleyan College and the Celebration of Life Community.

Presenting the award to Gary Passero was Lisa Moretto, President of the Rochester Engineering Society and President RGI Learning, Inc.

Michael Walker is the Mechanical Engineering Manager at the Gleason Works and supervises six engineers and controls a \$1M budget.

His leadership extends beyond his immediate supervisory role. At a young age, he was tasked with managing an international team and had to overcome language and cultural barriers. He was selected to for a 20-week assignment in China, where he led a team responsible for adding local machining capabilities. Under Mike's leadership, the team was involved in project management, engineering design, assembly, and technical training. In 2008 he was invited to participate in the Gleason Work's leadership development program which exposed him to all levels and aspects of the business.

During the early years of his career, he has achieved several notable accomplishments: He has served as the lead Mechanical Engineer responsible

for developing a new series of gear hobbing machines in the Rochester plant and is leading the effort to establish a lean manufacturing and assembly concept for the Gleason machines.

As a mechanical engineer, his consistent engineering accomplishments exceed expectations of someone so new to the profession. For example, he led the engineering effort to design and structure mechanical assemblies for easier and faster assemblies. His creativeness in the initial stages of product development resulted in a more efficient environment and a reduction in assembly time. The outcome was to allow the customer to manufacture parts when and only when, they were needed.

In 2010, Mike received his Masters in Mechanical Engineering from RIT.

Presenting the award to Michael Walker was Dr. Kevin Parker, Dean Emeritus and William F. May Professor of Engineering in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Rochester and the 2009 Engineer of the Year. The Kate Gleason Young Engineer of the Year Award is endowed by the Gleason Foundation to annually recognize and honor the outstanding achievements of a Rochester-area engineer, 34 years of age or younger, in the early stages of their career.

The three finalists for the Engineer of the Year award represented a distinguished group of Rochester-area engineers. In addition to Gary Passero the other finalists were:

- Dr. Brian Thompson, University of Rochester Provost Emeritus
- Dr. Serge Lossa, President and Owner of SophiTEC, Inc.

The three finalists for the Young Engineer of the Year award include a talented group of engineers who have made significant contributions to the field. In addition to Michael Walker the other finalists were:

- Daniel Wood, a Mechanical Engineer at the Gleason Works
- Adam Cummings, a Civil Engineer with MRB Group

Additionally, \$40,000 in engineering scholarships were presented to 32 high school and college level students to encourage and support engineering as a career choice for young people.

Also in attendance were Assemblyman Joseph Morelle, Jason Kennedy, Chief of Engineering and Facilities for Monroe County, representing the Monroe County Executive's office and James McIntosh, City Engineer and a past finalist for the Engineer of the Year award, representing the Mayor's office. The keynote speech was delivered by Steve Sasson, the retired Kodak engineer responsible for developing the digital camera. In his remarks to the nearly 300 Gala attendees Sasson described key ways that engineering professionals can initiate drastic change in organizations that may resist. He recently was awarded the National Medal of Technology and Innovation by President Barack Obama. This is the highest award presented to scientists, engineers, and inventors.

The RES serves the field of engineering in the Rochester-Monroe County area and is comprised of corporate, affiliate societies, and individual members. RES promotes and celebrates excellence, innovation, cooperation, professional growth and fellowship in the engineering, scientific and allied professions.