

## **2023 CHAMPION OF ENGINEERING EDUCATION AWARD** *Grant Koropatnick, FEC*



Grant Koropatnick, FEC, served as CEO and Registrar of Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba for 17 years. During his tenure, he championed engineering education by expanding the ways in which Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba engages with the Price Faculty of Engineering, with the impact of shaping students' sense of identity as future engineers and their sense of belonging in the engineering profession.

Under his leadership, the Women in Engineering and Geoscience Mentorship Program for female-identifying students, engineering interns, and professional members was established as a partnership with the Price Faculty of Engineering. As this program continues to grow, it creates an early and lasting sense of belonging for students in the Faculty and the engineering profession, and creates networks for new graduates.

Grant has been a frequent guest lecturer in the Technology & Society course as well as the Design in Engineering course which all first-year students take in the Price Faculty of Engineering. He was also a regular guest lecturer in capstone design courses, bookending his interaction with students at the beginning and at the end of their engineering studies.

Grant led Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba to be a continual advocate for the Internationally-Educated Engineers Qualification (IEEQ) Program for newcomers to Canada seeking qualifications

recognition, advocating for IEEQ to the provincial government and in the practice community. Likewise, he led Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba as a continual advocate for the Engineering Access Program (ENGAP) for Indigenous engineering students.

Under his leadership, Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba developed the reputation of the Making Links Engineering Classic Golf Tournament as one of the must-do tournaments each summer, and the funds raised are in direct support of the Price Faculty of Engineering. Proceeds are used to support student initiatives that would otherwise not be possible, or possible as quickly. Similarly, Grant ensured that Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba was an active member of Friends of Engineering, an industry group that exists to support student design teams and technical societies at the Price Faculty of Engineering.

When the Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba's planned centennial-year celebration gala in 2020 was cancelled due to the pandemic, Grant encouraged Council to instead use those resources to establish the Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba Centennial Recognition Endowment Fund at the University of Manitoba. As CEO, he designated an annual donation be made to the Engineering and Geoscience Foundation to aid in the creation of an endowment fund, which supports engineering and geoscience students with annual scholarships.

Within Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba's mandate to regulate the engineering and geoscience professions for the public interest, Grant consistently saw and developed opportunities to foster a strong and close relationship of support with the Price Faculty of Engineering at the University of Manitoba, as the school welcomed the next generation of professional engineering talent in Manitoba.

In recognition of his leadership and support for engineering education, Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba, together with the Price Faculty of Engineering at the University of Manitoba, are pleased to present the 2023 Champion of Engineering Education Award to Grant Koropatnick, FEC.