

2018 Judith Weiszmann Women in Engineering Champion Award

Alana Gauthier, P.Eng.



Alana Gauthier, P.Eng., is a Senior Project Manager with WSP Canada (WSP) at their Winnipeg office. She graduated from Queen's University in Chemical Engineering in 1989. She worked as a Process Engineer at Inco (now Vale) in Thompson, Manitoba, for over a decade.

Alana was instrumental in the formation of the Thompson Chapter of Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba in 1993. She served as Chair in 1995 and was an active member of the chapter until 2002, while in Thompson. She actively promoted engineering as a career for youth by giving presentations in middle schools.

In 2007, Alana joined WSP and had the amazing opportunity to create her own position. She developed an industrial client base and became Project Manager for the \$460 million Lalor Mine Project near Snow Lake, Manitoba. Alana was identified by the Hudbay Project Manager at a Women in Mining presentation as being a key person to the success of the project.

Alana has worked as a multi-disciplinary project manager and project engineer on numerous industrial sites. Alana has mentored female engineering colleagues at WSP and feels that mentoring unleashes the full potential of individuals in an organization. She recently moved to the First Nations/Northern Infrastructure Group and is thriving with the new challenge of senior reviewing design, tendering, and contract administration.

Alana was a board member of the Canadian Engineering Memorial Foundation (CEMF) from 2008 to 2010. She served on several bilingual judging committees to determine the award of engineering scholarships to young female engineering students. The chosen candidate gave presentations in high schools showing how to become an engineer.

In 2012, Alana was chosen by the provincial Minister to speak at the Manitoba Legislative Building on 'Women's Role as Mentors'. In 2014, the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies Manitoba (ACEC-MB), presented Alana with the Engineering Action Award, which recognizes outstanding service and dedication to the association, engineering profession, and the community. Alana served on the ACEC-MB board from 2012 to 2018 and became the first female president of ACEC-MB in May 2015.

Alana recognized that women often leave engineering due to a lack of mentorship, support, and networking opportunities and so she promoted and convinced the ACEC-MB Board to support the establishment of the Technical Women in Consulting Engineering (TWICE) Committee and its programs in 2013. TWICE is the first organization of its kind in Canada looking at the retention of women in consulting engineering. Its mission is to provide strategic advice on matters related to increasing diversity in the consulting engineering industry, specifically increasing the retention of women in member organizations. In 2015, ACEC-MB's TWICE Committee won the ACEC National Engineering Award for their initiatives to support women in consulting engineering.