

## Tau Beta Pi Announces 2021 McDonald Mentor

Knoxville, TN — Tau Beta Pi, The Engineering Honor Society, has named its 16<sup>th</sup> McDonald Mentor. The award celebrates excellence in mentoring and advising among Tau Beta Pi educators and engineers who consistently support the personal and professional development of their students and colleagues.

**James C. Williams, Ph.D., P.E.**, *New Mexico Beta '76*, is the 2021 Tau Beta Pi McDonald Mentor. Established by Marion and Capers W. McDonald, *NC G '74*, and the Association, the McDonald Mentor Award recognizes engineering educators or professionals in industry, government, or service organizations. Dr. Williams will receive \$1,000, an engraved medallion, and matching pin. Another \$1,000 grant will be presented to the *Texas Eta* Chapter for nominating him.

Dr. Williams is a professor and associate chair of the civil engineering department at the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA).

He received B.S. and M.S. degrees in civil engineering from the University of New Mexico and a Ph.D. in civil engineering from University of Texas at Austin. He has been at UTA for more than 35 years. An Advisor to the TX Eta Chapter since 1992, Dr. Williams also serves as a faculty advisor for the ASCE student chapter and as Chi Epsilon president since 2018. He has served on multiple committees for the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Institute for Transportation Engineers.

In the nomination package, Dr. Williams was cited as an academic advisor known for “catering to students’ needs and working tirelessly to ensure that they are successful.” This work earned him the Outstanding Academic Advisor Award for UTA in 2007. As a TX Eta Chapter Advisor, he was commended for continuously supporting the chapter in their operations and attending social events. Dr. Williams assisted in the installations of both the Texas Mu



(2002) and the Texas Xi (2020) Chapters of TBP.

He provides the same quality guidance to other student chapters that he leads, including helping the ASCE student chapter host the 2020 Texas-Mexico Student Symposium. This event drew more than 400 students and professionals. Such support has earned Dr. Williams multiple awards as an ASCE advisor.

In a letter of recommendation from Chi Epsilon, Dr. Williams was described as “having a heart for all students, earning respect and recognition within the field of transportation engineering, and as a role model inspiring a generation of civil engineers to work professionally and ethically.”

His many accomplishments include being selected as the Transportation Engineer of the Year by TexITE in 2005 and as a Fellow of both ASCE and ITE. Prior to his employment at UTA, he worked as a traffic engineer for five years with the Texas Department of Transportation. Most of the courses he teaches at UTA are transportation and traffic engineering; however, he teaches intro to engineering as well.

Upon his reelection as president of Chi Epsilon, he was cited by a colleague and mentee:

“Dr. Williams has dedicated much of his life to supporting students and has been a mentor to me and a pillar in my career for two decades. The seismic changes he has implemented in his first term as president of Chi Epsilon have set the stage for a renaissance of our organization. There is no better person to guide us into this next phase of the society.”

For his commitment to mentoring and dedication to advising student organizations, **we honor Dr. James C. Williams as the 2021 TBP–McDonald Mentor.**