

ALUMNI PROFILE

Jerry R. Collins, Jr., P.E.
Director of Public Works, City of Memphis



Herff College of Engineering Experience

“When you become a Civil Engineering student at the University of Memphis, you also become a member of a large family of fellow engineering professionals made up of Herff College of Engineering alumni and faculty. This community has provided me with camaraderie, support and helpful networking opportunities throughout my career.”

Professional History

Collins began his career in 1979 as the Manager of Waste Treatment Facilities for the City of Memphis. In 1989, he was promoted to the Administrator of Environmental Engineering where he was responsible for wastewater collection, wastewater treatment and flood control. In 2000, he was appointed to the position of Director of Public Works for the City of Memphis where he oversees street maintenance, storm water and solid waste collection in addition to his previous duties.

Significant Accomplishments

- Received the George Bradley Gascoigne Medal from the Water Pollution Control Federation, 1984
- Received the Energy Innovation Special Recognition Award presented by the Secretary of Energy for the innovative “Aeropt System” created at the Memphis M.C. Stiles Water Treatment Facility which resulted in several million dollars worth of energy savings at the plant, 1987
- President of the Kentucky-Tennessee Water Pollution Control Association, 1989
- Herff College of Engineering’s Outstanding Alumnus, 1992
- Served on the international Water Environment Federation’s Board of Directors, 1997
- Inducted into the Kentucky-Tennessee Water Environment Association Hall of Fame, 2002
- Elected Vice President of the Tennessee Chapter of the American Public Works Association, 2006
- Instrumental in helping the City of Memphis maintain one of the lowest sewer fees of any major U.S. city. The City went 22 years without a sewer fee rate increase.

Education

- Bachelor’s of science degree in civil engineering, 1975, University of Memphis
- Master’s of science degree in civil engineering, 1976, University of Memphis



Dreamers. Thinkers. Doers.