

Dr. Ken Rainwater

Department of Civil, Environmental, and Construction Engineering, Texas Tech University.



Dr. Ken Rainwater retired in August 2022 after 37 years and was recognized as Professor Emeritus in the Department of Civil, Environmental, and Construction Engineering at Texas Tech University. He also served as the Director of the Texas Tech University Water Resources Center from 2002-12. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in Texas, a Board Certified Environmental Engineer (AAEES), and a Certified Floodplain Manager. He is currently a consultant in water resources and environmental engineering as well as a part-time instructor in the CECE department. He received his BSCE from Rice University (1979), and MSCE (1982) and Ph.D. (1985) in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. Rainwater has over 40 years of experience in water resources and environmental engineering. He taught courses in fluid mechanics, environmental engineering, engineering hydrology, water systems design, groundwater hydrology, groundwater contaminant transport, and water resources management. His research expertise is in problems of groundwater quantity and quality, remediation of soil and groundwater contamination, and water resources management. His research was funded by the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy, Department of Defense, Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Reclamation, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, and Texas Water Development Board. He was honored with several teaching awards at Texas Tech, including the Abell Faculty Teaching Award and the President's Excellence in Teaching Award. He was named the Whitacre College of Engineering Researcher of the Year in 2010. He served as the co-faculty advisor of the J.H. Murdough Student Chapter of ASCE from 1985 to 2004. He also served various roles in the Texas Section of ASCE, including Vice President for Education and President. He served as a Region 6 Governor and is past chair of the Committee on Student Members. His daughter Janice has both BSCE (TTU) and MSCE (TTU) degrees, and she works in Denver for WSP in their water resources group, while her husband Scott with BSCE (Colorado State University) and MSCE (TTU) degrees works for the Colorado Department of Transportation. His son Kirk has BSME (TTU) and MSEE (TTU) degrees and works at Sandia National Laboratory in Albuquerque. Ken's wife Kathryn feels outnumbered by the engineers in the family and tries to keep them connected to the rest of society.

Complete list of ASCE Service Positions

Student Member 1978-1985, Member, 1985-2023, Life Member 2023-

Co-Faculty advisor for Texas Tech J.H. Murdough Student Chapter of ASCE, 1985-2004
 National Committee for Student Services, 1995-99
 Texas Section Student Activities Committee, 1990-2004
 Texas Section Water Resources Technical Session Committee, 1987-88
 Texas Section Continuing Professional Development Committee, chair, 1999-2000
 Vice-President-Educational, Texas Section, 2000-01
 Texas Section Education Committee, 1999-2001, chair 2001
 Texas Section President-elect, 2005-06, President 2006-07, Past President 2007-08
 National Committee on the Academic Prerequisites for Professional Practice, 2008-12
 Region 6 Governor, 2012-15
 National Committee for Student Members, 2012-16
 Review Committee, Texas Section CECN, 2021

Other Professional Service

American Geophysical Union, Member
 Association of Ground Water Scientists and Engineers, Member, 1985-
 Associate Editor, Editorial Board for Ground Water, 1996-2001
 Co-Chair, Reese Restoration Advisory Board, 1997-2005
 Delegate, Universities Council on Water Resources, 1998-2012
 Board Certified Environmental Engineer (Water/Wastewater), American Academy of
 Environmental Engineers, 2000-
 Diplomate Water Resources Engineer, American Academy of Water Resources Engineers, 2008-
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 Member, Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group, 2002-
 Certified Floodplain Manager, 2011-
 Member, Chair, Lubbock Water Advisory Commission, 2012-18
 Member, Upper Brazos Flood Planning Group, 2020-
 Associate Editor, Texas Water Journal, 2013-

Awards at Texas Tech University

Ex-Students Association New Faculty Award	1987
Halliburton Education Foundation Research Award	1987
Tau Beta Pi Outstanding Professor Award	1988
Abell Faculty Teaching Award, College of Engineering	1989, 2001
President's Excellence in Teaching Award	1990
Zone III Faculty Advisor of the Year, American Society of Civil Engineers	1996, 1998
Texas Tech University Teaching Academy	1996-
Who's Who Among America's Teachers	1998
Department of Civil Engineering Teacher of the Year	2000
Service to Students Award, Texas Section, American Society of Civil Engineers	2001
Faculty Advisor Reward, American Society of Civil Engineers	2001, 2002
Department of Civil Engineering Researcher of the Year	2005
TechSpy Educator Award	2009
Whitacre College of Engineering Researcher of the Year	2010
Award of Honor, Texas Section, American Society of Civil Engineers	2016
Texas Rain-Catcher Award, Texas Water Development Board (HUMS project)	2020

Texas Society of Professional Engineers South Plains Chapter Visioneer Award	2023
Lifetime Service Award, Texas Section, American Society of Civil Engineers	2023