

PRINCIPAL SPOTLIGHT
Featuring
Terry Atkins, P.E., LEED AP
Design Group Leader
Lamp Rynearson and Associates

What is your Job Description?

Whatever I'm asked to do and usually get called when there's a problem.

What do you like best about Lamp Rynearson?

The people and projects. Our clients and employees are the best. Our firm has had the opportunity to work on some pretty outstanding projects in the Omaha community.

When did you decide to pursue engineering – your “I must be an engineer “ah-ha” moment.

While working on a science fair project, my high school physics teacher, Dr. Skrocky, saw my talent and encouraged me to consider engineering as a career. Dr. Skrocky was passionate about teaching and it rubbed off. He really directed me and was a positive influence.

What has been the most important lesson you've learned from a mentor or a client?

To be honest regardless of what the client wants to hear. If you're honest, you never have to regroup and backtrack. I can't emphasize enough how important it is to be honest with all clients.

What is your most memorable engineering project?

Difficult for me to say since I have had the opportunity to work on incredible projects such as Rosenblatt Stadium, Century Link, Aksarben Village and Midtown Crossing. Pretty fortunate, for sure.

How long have you been a member of ACEC Nebraska?

13 years. I have been active in various committees and chaired the Omaha Engineering Partnership Committee. This past year I began my first term as a member of the Board of Directors.

What is the most important way ACEC Nebraska helps you in your professional career?

ACEC has been influential in my career in Nebraska and nationally. I was able to participate in SEI (Senior Executive Institute), take part in local and national education seminars, and have been fortunate to interact with engineers and other principals from member firms. ACEC has allowed me to take advantage of

a knowledge base resulting in career growth. I've enjoyed cooperating with other engineers to resolve issues facing our industry.

What was the most recent movie you saw and liked?

I have two answers:

For anyone with young kids, *Gnomeo and Juliet*, is worth watching. It was the story of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet recreated using garden gnomes as the characters. The whole family enjoyed it.

***Get Low*, a story about a hermit who plans his own funeral. It's an independent film that was entertaining and creative.**

Preference: Red wine or white wine?

Red, you know it's much better for you!

Family stats

I am married to a mechanical engineer and master gardener, Kris. We have to boys: Jacob, 12; Sam, 10.