BUILDING A BETTER WAY

USING ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIVING, URBAN ENGINEERS IS REDEFINING THE INDUSTRY

Innovation and quality control are top concerns for Urban Engineers. From start to finish, this Innovation Park tenant executes ideas that are practical, efficient and effective. The company's range of projects and capabilities include buildings, bridges and highways, railroads, ports, and manufacturing facilities, among many others. More than 50 years of experience and dedication have turned Urban Engineers into a highly intuitive company, predicting the needs of communities and industries, and visualizing a safe and structurally sound future.

As vice president and office manager, Dr. Ed Gannon oversees the State College office. He creates and monitors urban projects, ensuring top quality and meeting clients' needs. He also forges strong relationships along the way, both with clients and colleagues. Gannon and his team do important work while maintaining the essential work-life balance among employees. Gannon believes this is what sets Urban Engineers apart: a forward-thinking work environment, beyond the bottom line.

"There's the work we produce and the way we produce it. We do a lot to enhance the lives of people, whether it involves engineers' relationships with the environment, or how we live, work and play," he explained. "Everything we do elevates the standard of living for people. We are a business, and we do have to make money to survive, but Urban Engineers' threshold for the work-life balance is growing as we push a lot of things like continuing education, volunteerism or reaching out and helping the community. We really push hard for our people to be involved in community."

In Gannon's words, the company strives to "produce a well-rounded life."

The company has offices on both coasts, with the main hub located in the mid-Atlantic area.

Dr. Ed Gannon oversees the State College branch of Urban Engineers, a cutting-edge company with new ideas for engineering.

Gannon was hired to grow the company's reach within and beyond the State College region, working with educational institutions and the manufacturing sector.

Gannon's role reflects Urban Engineers' efforts to provide services in a broad range of industries.

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"We have a wide line of business in engineering, such as roads and bridges, buildings, mechanical systems, electrical systems, typical engineering stuff, but we also do smaller niche markets," he said. "We do a lot of work in piers and waterways in the port areas in the city of Philadelphia, like rehab repairs and new facilities. We do a lot of work in bus transit, freight and passenger rails, trolleys and light rails, and Amtrak as well. We also do airports."

With nearly all-encompassing engineering capabilities, the company could practically create a complete, highly functioning city from the ground up.

Predicting how cities will work in the future has been Urban Engineers' key to success. According to Gannon, it isn't just about the mathematical equations, it's about knowing the environment and the people who inhabit it. While superb math skills are vital, he is looking for engineers with strong skills in collaboration and communication.

"We're trying to develop young engineers to be more collaborative," he said, adding that the days of students being advised to go into engineering if they preferred to minimize human interaction are over. "The guidance counselor suggesting engineering to kids who want to sit in their rooms and play with numbers is not helping us. We need people to collaborate on projects. We need to optimize the construction process as a whole. We need to put together a group of people that can freely talk about what is important to their specific expertise, and add it together as a whole."

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"We need to put together teams of engineers that can go into a problem to diagnose and solve it, producing an entire project from the time the order has been placed to handing over the keys at the end," he said. "This challenge needs to be solved not only for Urban Engineers, but for the industry itself."