

Memorial Resolution – Wayne P. Pferdehirt
August 3, 1952 – August 26, 2019

Wayne P. Pferdehirt passed away unexpectedly on August 26, 2019, at the age of 67 in Kings Canyon National Park, California during his life-long dream of hiking the John Muir Trail.

Wayne received a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Carnegie-Mellon University in 1974 and an M.S. in Urban & Regional Planning from Northwestern University in 1975. He served as a Water Resources Engineer at the Army Corp of Engineers and as an Environmental Scientist at Argonne National Laboratory. He was a consulting engineer working on solid waste in the Chicago area.

In 1991, Wayne was recruited to the University of Wisconsin-Madison/UW-Extension to help establish the UW Solid & Hazardous Waste Education Center. There he worked to protect the environment by assisting Wisconsin companies reduce or eliminate the use of hazardous chemicals and communities improve waste recycling.

In 1998, Wayne became director of the online graduate engineering programs at UW-Madison, helping launch the Master of Engineering in Professional Practice, which would later transition to the Master of Engineering Management degree. Since its initial inception, this online graduate degree program garnered several major awards from peer educational groups and associations including: the Sloan Consortium, the University Continuing Education Association, and the U.S. Distance Learning Association. In January 2012, *U.S. News and World Report* conducted its first ever rankings of online degree programs, and this online master degree program garnered the top spot. Although the competition in online education has since become acutely competitive, EPD's Master of Engineering Management program has maintained a top ten ranking in the annual *U.S. News and World Report* – coming in at seventh for the 2019 rankings. In April 2019, Wayne's exceptional efforts during his tenure at the University of Wisconsin-Madison were recognized when he was elevated to a Distinguished Faculty Associate.

Wayne was also active in the community serving in numerous volunteer roles. In 2007, Wayne helped to launch the Badger Pals fund to support children receiving treatment at UW-Madison's American Family Children's Hospital by connecting them with fun activities and athletic event opportunities.

Wayne's colleagues in Engineering Professional Development and the College of Engineering will miss him.

Respectfully submitted by Ed Borbely, Associate Dean, Engineering Professional Development, College of Engineering; and Douglas Reindl, Professor, Engineering Professional Development, College of Engineering.