

## **Deborah D. Keller, P.E.**

**Deborah Ducote Keller** is a Louisiana licensed professional civil engineer with 40 years of experience. After 27 years, she retired from the Port of New Orleans as Chief Engineer and Director of Port Development in December 2014. She then formed her own engineering firm.

Deborah is a Louisiana licensed civil engineer. She holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Tulane University and a M.S. in Engineering Management from the University of New Orleans.

### **Chief Executive Officer**

Deborah D. Keller & Partners, LLC

2015 – Present

Deborah brings her years of expertise and experience in both engineering, operations, and management to clients seeking committed, professional, responsive services especially in ports, flood protection, and navigation. She is a frequent speaker at local and national conferences on a variety of topics including engineering, leadership, crisis management, ethics, communication, and risk management. Her experience in engineering, construction, operations, and management of port terminals, industrial properties, and bridges gives her two unique perspectives-owner's representative and consultant. She understands the expectations of owners and how best to meet those need as their consultant.

### **Previous Positions Held**

#### **Chief Engineer and Director of Port Development**

Port of New Orleans

1988 – 2014 New Orleans, Louisiana

The Board of Commissioners Port of New Orleans administers one of the largest ports on the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico. Keller held the position of Chief Engineer since 2006 and Director of Port Development Division since 1997, having previously been manager of the Engineering Department from 1988 to 1997.

As Chief Engineer, Keller directed development of port infrastructure and initiatives with private entities, Federal, State and City governments, and port customers with regards to port property and facilities to stimulate port and regional development.

As Director of Port Development Division, Keller was responsible for all functions of the Division: Engineering Department, Construction Department, Technical Services Department, Environmental Services Department, and Facility Services Department. She also provided technical support to the Crane, Dredge, and Fendering Departments.

She managed a staff of over 75 employees in the areas of port planning, engineering, construction, environmental services, contract and grant administration services, facility maintenance, and bridge operations and maintenance.

During her tenure, she was directly involved in the development and implementation of nearly \$1 billion in port capital improvements, including many award winning projects of national significance. She was responsible for the division's annual operating budget of nearly \$8 million.

She was instrumental in the rebuilding of the Port of New Orleans in the aftermath of several hurricanes, including Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Prior to her promotion to Chief Engineer, she was manager of Port of New Orleans' Engineering Department where she was responsible for engineering design and project management for the port's \$200 million capital improvement program that revitalized the port's Mississippi Riverfront terminals from 1987 to 1997.

### **Engineering Director**

Burk & Associates, Inc.

1979 – 1988 New Orleans, Louisiana

She began her professional career as a project engineer and rose to engineering director for this consulting engineering firm. There she was responsible for planning and design of public works projects in southeast Louisiana, primarily related to flood protection and drainage.

### **Engineering Licenses**

Louisiana State Board of Registration for Engineers and Land Surveyors

License #5486 for the firm Deborah D. Keller and Partners, LLC

License #PE20731

Principal Engineer for Deborah D. Keller and Partners, LLC is Deborah D. Keller, P.E.

### **Professional Memberships**

Louisiana Section and New Orleans Branch,

American Society of Professional Engineers

Louisiana Engineering Society

St. Bernard Business and Professional Women's Club

St. Bernard Economic Development Foundation

Nunez Community College Foundation

St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce

University of New Orleans, College

of Engineering, Dean's Advisory

Board

### **Volunteer Leadership Experience**

Her role in life is much more than engineering. She is committed to service to the engineering profession, the public's safety and welfare, workforce and economic development, and community planning. Her depth of experience and breadth of public service extends well beyond technical topics. She has earned a reputation for communicating complex issues to both project owners and the general public, which came from decades of facilitating public meetings on controversial projects and building consensus among stakeholders. Below is a partial list of her volunteer activities and leadership positions:

## **Chair**

St. Bernard Economic Development Foundation  
2017-2018

## **Past President and Assigned Branch Director Louisiana Section**

American Society of Civil Engineers

New Orleans Branch President 2004-2005

Chaired the 2017 Louisiana Infrastructure Report Card for Ports and Inland Waterways and served as assigned branch director for the Louisiana Section

## **Past President**

St. Bernard Business and Professional Women's Club

President for three terms of office-1995-1996, 2005-2006, 2006-2007

## **Vice-Chair**

St. Bernard Parish Planning Commission

1995 – 2001 Planning and Zoning Advisory Commissioner to parish government

## **Awards**

### **Lifetime Achievement Awards 2017**

Louisiana Section American Society of Civil Engineers

New Orleans Branch American Society of Civil Engineers *for personal, community, and professional engineering contributions and accomplishments*

### **Golden Circle Award 2013**

St. Bernard Business and Professional Women's Club *for dedicate service to the organization by a member*

### **Citizen Engineer Award for Public Service 2007**

American Society of Civil Engineers USA *for outstanding contributions to community based involvement and enhancement of civil engineering's image*

### **Distinguished Engineering Alumnus Award 2006**

University of New Orleans College of Engineering *in recognition of contributions to the engineering profession*

### **President's Award 2002**

American Society of Civil Engineers New Orleans Branch *for valuable assistance to the ASCE New Orleans Branch President*

### **Woman of the Year 2001**

*New Orleans City Business for professional achievement and community service*

**St. Bernard Parish Woman of the Year 2001**

*St. Bernard Business and Professional Women's Club for achievement and community service*

**Leadership Award 1998**

*Louisiana Federation of Business and Professional Women for outstanding leadership*

**Outstanding Government Civil Engineer 1997**

*American Society of Civil Engineers New Orleans Branch for engineering career achievements*

**Model Working Woman Award 1996**

*St. Bernard Business and Professional Women's Club for female role model and mentoring*

**Top State Speaker Award 1995**

*Louisiana Federation of Business and Professional Women for statewide speech competition*

**Brian S. Keller, E.I.**

**Brian Steven Keller** is a Louisiana licensed professional civil engineer intern with 30 years of engineering experience following a decade of business experience. After 30 years of engineering work for the federal government, he retired and then partnered with Deborah's engineering firm in 2015.

He holds a B.S degree in Marketing and Finance, as well as a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering, both from the University of New Orleans.

**Chief Operating Officer**

Deborah D. Keller & Partners, LLC

August 2015 – Present

Brian brings his business and engineering skills to the firm, especially his peer review of all documents produced by Deborah D. Keller and Partners for ensuring quality control. He is the firm's expert in various permitting work, especially for projects in close proximity to levees, floodwalls, floodgates and other risk reduction structures in Southeast Louisiana.

**Previous Positions Held**

**Operations Manager**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-New Orleans District

1988-2005

His federal career began at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District where he served his last 15 years as Operations Manager for the Inspection of Completed Works Program for the District. There his office reviewed and processed every Letter of No Objection application for the district.

He served as a technical expert and advisor to the Chief of Operations Division and the District Engineer, as well as to property owners, A/E consultants and contractors doing projects within the District for matters pertaining to nearby floodwalls, levees and control structures. He performed operability reviews and evaluations for permit requests sent to the local levee districts for new construction applications and activities near floodwalls and levees and made risk assessment for any adverse impacts to the system. His office was directly responsible for issuing Letters of No Objection to the local levee districts regarding the applicant's request. He participated in reviews of Section 404 and Section 10 permit requests and provided technical comments regarding any potential adverse impacts that could be caused by the applicant's activities

### **Operations Manager**

U.S. Department of Energy-Strategic Petroleum Reserve  
2005-2015

From 2005 until his retirement in 2015 he managed all engineering, operations, and maintenance activities for the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) for oil storage and distribution facilities. He assured compliance in areas of engineering, quality assurance, reliability, documentation control, and contract compliance by USDOE contractors and consultants working for the SPR.

Managed all engineering, operations, and maintenance activities for SPR oil storage and distribution facilities in Texas and Louisiana and employees in the department. He was responsible for DOE compliance in areas of engineering, quality assurance, reliability, documentation control, and adherence to O&M contract requirements by DOE private contractors.

### **Engineering Licenses**

Louisiana State Board of Registration for Engineers and Land Surveyors  
License #EI-10977

### **Professional Memberships as of 2018**

Louisiana Section and New Orleans Branch, American Society of Professional Engineers

### **Awards**

#### **USACE- New Orleans District 1986 thru 2003**

Special Act Award

#### **USACE- New Orleans District 1993 thru 2003**

District Excellence Award

#### **USACE- New Orleans District 2000, 2001**

Team Achievement Award

**USACE- New Orleans District 1985-2005**

On-the-Spot Award

**U. S. Department of Energy, Office of Fossil Energy 2008**

Excellence Award