

1998

## Peninsula Engineer of the Year

*Eileen M. Leininger, P.E.*

Eileen M. Leininger, P.E. was named the 1998 Peninsula Engineer of the Year at the Peninsula Engineers Council meeting on January 13, 1998. Ms. Leininger was nominated by the Society of Women Engineers, Hampton Roads Section.

Ms. Leininger currently holds the position of Assistant Director, Newport News Waterworks, City of Newport News. She is a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Virginia. Her broad range and depth of technical and managerial experience, in addition to her advanced education and professional registration, have prepared her to accept the challenges of her current position. As Assistant Director, she oversees a staff of 370 and an annual budget of over \$50 million. She manages the operation of Newport News Waterworks, the water utility that provides water for the lower Virginia Peninsula. Major projects include: securing of an Army Corps of Engineers permit to construct a new reservoir that will serve the water needs of the Peninsula through the year 2040, reorganization of the Distribution Operations Division of Waterworks to maximize efficiency and better address current needs, and hurricane response planning.



Although her career is very demanding, Ms. Leininger makes time to back her profession and community. She is an active member of the American Water Works Association (AWWA). She is part of the Virginia AWWA Diversity Committee. On this committee, she is working with the Cooperating Hampton Roads Organizations for Minorities in Engineering (CHROME) to increase the number of underrepresented minorities and females participating in technical fields, particularly the water industry. She is also the past President of the Peninsula Chapter of the Virginia Society of Professional Engineers. She was selected "1988 Young Engineer of the Year" by the Virginia Society of Professional Engineers.

Ms. Leininger is an active member of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and past President. As a member of SWE, she developed one of the section's most popular programs, Girl Scouts Engineering Patch Day. Girl Scout Engineering Patch Day is an all day program for 4-6 grade girls held at NASA Langley Research Center. Ms. Leininger has either chaired or participated at this activity for the last ten years. Over 600 girls have been introduced to the field of engineering through this event. Ms. Leininger is an excellent role model for all the girls and young women who have the opportunity to meet her.

In addition to her community and professional activities, Ms. Leininger is an active member of St. Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Church. She currently heads the Children's Liturgy Ministry.

Ms. Leininger and her husband, Alan, have two children.