

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD FINALISTS

Shelley Porter,
Director of Engineering,
Kentucky American Water

Shelley Porter is director of engineering for Kentucky American Water, the largest investor-owned water utility in Kentucky and a wholly owned subsidiary of American Water. Based in Lexington, she manages and coordinates capital investment projects, and leads engineering activities for the company. A native of Huntington, W.Va., Shelley holds a master's in engineering degree with dual emphases in environmental engineering and engineering management from Marshall University and a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from West Virginia University Institute of Technology. She joined West Virginia American Water in 2013 and led the engineering planning and GIS functions, acted as a strategic adviser to the business development team, and led the implementation of many large capital water and wastewater treatment projects. Prior to her time at West Virginia American Water, Porter worked for Chapman Technical Group, a multi-discipline engineering consulting firm providing engineering consulting services for public and private water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities. Shelley is a graduate of the Water Environment Federation (WEF) Water Leadership Institute and has received the Arthur Sidney Bedell and Select Society of Sanitary Sludge Shovelers Golden Shovel awards. She is a recipient of the American Water Works Association's George Warren Fuller Award, serving on the AWWA Asset Management Committee. She is a member of the Clean Water Professionals of KY/TN, Kentucky Chapter of the Women's International Network of Utility Professionals, and Kentucky Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Shelley serves on the Board of Directors for the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority and the Bluegrass Chapter of the American Red Cross. She enjoys volunteering with the Junior League of Lexington and for many STEM outreach events including the Kentucky American Water District Science Fair, University of Kentucky E-Day, and the KY Girl Scouts GEMS (Girls in Engineering, Math, and Science) event.



Why Should This Nominee Be Recognized as Kentucky's Young Professional of the Year?

Shelley Porter should be recognized as Kentucky's Young Professional of the Year for her leadership and service to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and to the water/wastewater industry as a professional engineer. At Kentucky American Water, Shelley leads a team of 17 technical professionals, developing them as leaders by encouraging their service in our community, creating opportunities for them to engage the public and fosters their participation in programs such as Commerce Lexington's Emerge Program and Leadership Kentucky's Bright and Elevate programs. She serves as the youngest member of the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority, serves on the Board of Directors for Kentucky American Water, the Bluegrass Chapter of the American Red Cross and in leadership roles with the Junior League of Lexington. She is a visionary and sharp engineer, utilizing her expertise in times of great need, responding to complex scenarios with the implementation of innovative solutions utilizing new technology and projects that improve the quality of service to Kentucky customers, with an eye on long term best solutions with a sound strategy to support the infrastructure required as strong foundation to support Kentucky's economic development needs.