

## Mike Hughes, P.E.

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I grew up in El Dorado, Kansas, just east of Wichita, and graduated from El Dorado High School. After changing majors four times, getting married, having twins, and attending three universities, I eventually earned a Civil Engineering degree from the University of Kansas. My wife, Jenny, and I have five kids, ages 28, 28, 26, 17, and 15. The three older kids sometimes tease me that by the time my youngest graduates high school I'll have been parenting in the home for 31 years. My response is, "That's great as long as it's not the same kid", although secretly I would be happy to have any of them return home.

The first seven years of my professional life were spent at Professional Engineering Consultants (PEC) in Wichita, where I worked on and eventually managed water and wastewater treatment plant projects. My first project was a major wastewater treatment plant upgrade that I still drive past every day on my way to work. After PEC, I served as the Assistant City Engineer in Derby, Kansas, the Superintendent of Production and Pumping for the City of Wichita, and as an equipment sales representative for JCI Industries before returning to consulting at CDM Smith. At CDM Smith I served as Senior Project Manager, Regional Quality Manager, and eventually as Project Portfolio Leader responsible for all aspects of project delivery in the mid-west. After CDM Smith, I returned to PEC and currently serve as the Civil Department Manager. My favorite project since returning to PEC has been the new AAA Baseball Stadium design-build project for the City of Wichita and the Wichita Wind Surge – Go Surge!

I worked with a local police dog trainer to buy and train a German Shepherd puppy to be a family protection dog. Now seven years old, Aero is the best dog my family has ever had. At one point I was certified by Service Dogs of America to perform as a decoy (the guy in the padded bite suit).

*"Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved."* – Helen Keller

*"Continuous effort – not strength or intelligence – is the key to unlocking our potential."* – Winston Churchill

*"I'm your huckleberry..."* – Doc Holliday, Tombstone

"My job would be a lot easier if ...." – not for COVID-19!