

Prof. Terry R. West

Terry West passed away on March 4, 2025, in West Lafayette, IN. Terry's research career at Purdue University spanned 61 years, where he started in the School of Civil and Construction Engineering and became a founding faculty member of the Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences in 1967 before retiring in 2021. Terry was the proud recipient of 5 degrees, double majoring in Geology and Geological Engineering at Washington University in St. Louis, followed by a Master's in Geology from Wash U. and an MS in Civil Engineering and PhD in Engineering Geology from Purdue University.



With a focus on engineering geology, Terry served as major professor to 88 graduate students on a variety of topics including slope stability, dams, underground openings, ground water geology, environmental site assessment, soils engineering, vibrational analysis, subsurface exploration, conventional and hazardous waste landfill studies, and coal mine reclamation. In addition, he taught a range of geology courses including Environmental, Historical Geology, Engineering Geology, and Fossil Fuels, Science & Society. Terry's broad expertise made him an ideal candidate to write a textbook. "Geology Applied to Engineering" was first published in 1995 with a 2nd edition in 2018. Today, it ranks as one of the more widely used engineering geology textbooks in the field.

Terry's scientific accomplishments were widely recognized by his peers and the public. He was a Fellow of the Geological Society of America and the American Society of Civil Engineers. In 2002, he was honored as a Sagamore of the Wabash by Governor Frank O'Bannon in recognition for his contributions to education at Purdue University and the State of Indiana. He was a long-standing member and tireless advocate for the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists serving as President in 2007.