



Dr. William Allen Marr Jr.
Class of 2010

Dr. William Allen Marr, Jr. was Las Plumas High School's top graduate for 1966, and after earning a Doctorate of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in geotechnical engineering, from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), he became the president and chief executive officer of Geocomp Corporation. Allen is a geotechnical engineer specializing in design of large earthwork facilities, ground improvement and performance monitoring. During his forty-year career, he has provided consulting services on a wide range of projects including earthen dams, tunnels, excavations, embankments, natural slopes, landfills, and foundations. He has made significant contributions in advanced numerical analysis, laboratory testing to measure engineering properties, monitoring performance during construction to minimize collateral damage, and application of risk management principles to underground engineering.

At Las Plumas High School, Allen earned a 4.0 grade point average (GPA) and was at the top of his graduating class, being selected as the Valedictorian for 1966. He was a California Scholastic Federation (CSF) and Bank of America Award winner. His fellow students elected him as the Associated Student Body (ASB) President. He worked long hours after school and on weekends on a farm taking care of cattle, clearing the land of scrub growth, picking olives, caring for orange trees, cleaning stalls and doing other chores. During the summer, he drove tractors on a farm near Marysville to earn money for a car and college.

Allen received very little college scholarship money, so he had to continue to work summers to support himself through civil engineering classes at the University of California at Davis (UCD). In 1970, he graduated from UCD's School of Engineering with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering (B.S.C.E.). He completed his graduate studies in engineering at MIT, graduating in 1972 with a Master of Science in Civil Engineering (M.S.C.E.) and in 1974 with Ph.D. in Geotechnical Engineering.

Allen has earned many prestigious honors and awards during his career. He was elected to the National Academy of Engineers in 2008. He received the 2007 Distinguished Alumnus of the College of Engineering, UCD. He was invited to be the keynote speaker for the Geo-Institute, Geo-Congress 2006, in Atlanta, Georgia. He earned the ASTM D-19 Woodland G. Shockley Award for exceptional and long-term meritorious service. He was the State-of-the-Practice Lecturer for the Geo-Institute Specialty Conference on Performance Confirmation of Constructed Geotechnical Facilities. He earned the ASTM award in 1996 for standard on Interface Shear Strength of Geosynthetic Clay Liners. He received the IACMAG Award in 1994 for significant paper on Geomechanics. He won the Wellington Prize from the ASCE for a paper on the "Differential Settlement Criteria to Tanks."