

Vittorio Anepete ('06) shares the importance of ASCE

Vittorio Anepete was born in Toms River, NJ and grew up in Waretown, NJ. His mother dedicated her career to nursing at Southern Ocean County Hospital. His father served as an engineer with the New Jersey Department of Transportation's Movable Bridge Group for over 35 years. He attributes his passion for engineering, leadership and public involvement to his father's influence.

Vittorio graduated from Rowan Civil and Environmental Engineering in 2006. His first job was with J. Fletcher Creamer & Son, in Folsom, NJ, where he gained valuable field experience in heavy highway construction. He spent a year working with them in Florida on a roadside safety project for Florida's Turnpike. He came back to New Jersey and joined Buchart Horn Engineers, Architects, Planners, in Marlton, NJ, as a highway designer. During his seven years there, he honed his expertise in highway design and obtained his Professional Engineer License (PE).¹

Presently, Vittorio serves as a Manager in the Transportation Engineering Department at McCormick Taylor in Mount Laurel, NJ. In this role, he works with a team of 25 highway engineers and drafters and manages a diverse portfolio of projects across New Jersey. His responsibilities extend to recruitment, project management, and business development.

Vittorio and his wife met during their time at Rowan University. Together they are raising three young children in Medford Township, NJ. He remains active in The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE),² where he is a Past President and Director on the Board of the South Jersey Branch. He is also active in the American Society of Highway Engineers (ASHE) and American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC). He served as Commissioner on the Glassboro Housing Authority early in his career, which develops, manages, and promotes affordable housing opportunities. He also served as Vice Chair on the Joint Land Use Board while in Audubon and Medford's Economic Development Advisory Committee. He currently serves as a member of Medford's Planning Board.

I applied to several colleges in New Jersey, but ultimately chose Rowan University because of its more suburban setting and small class sizes compared to other options. From an early age, I knew I wanted to pursue engineering, heavily influenced by my father's career as an electrician and electrical engineer. His explanations of his projects and various engineering and physics concepts always fascinated me. Initially, I enrolled in Rowan's Electrical and Computer Engineering program, but after my first year, I switched to Civil and Environmental Engineering. This decision was solidified by an internship I had as a drafter at the Ocean County Engineering Department before college, which provided me with direct exposure to civil engineering work. I was drawn to the tangible nature of civil engineering, where I could witness large scale projects go from paper to construction.



During my time at Rowan, I had the privilege of learning from outstanding professors like Professor Mehta, whose enthusiasm for transportation engineering sparked my interest in the field. His Transportation class was my first exposure to the intricacies of highway design. When I left contracting, I knew I had to seek out a role in highway design. I attended a local ASHE meeting to network with people who might be hiring. One of my career goals was always to get my PE license; my dad always drilled the importance of that accomplishment. That would have been difficult to obtain with the limited opportunities for design experience as a contractor. Another influential professor was Professor Orlins, who involved students in the process of selecting the firm that would redevelop Main Street and Eben Street into Rowan Boulevard.³ We got to listen to the pitches from different design teams, ask pertinent questions, and get hands-on experience of the redevelopment and visioning process.

Outside of the classroom, I was actively involved in extracurricular activities. I served as the president of the ASCE student chapter and played a pivotal role in reviving a fraternity chapter, which provided me with invaluable leadership training.

My time at Rowan set the stage for my career. The Engineering Clinic⁴ classes were great. I was able to work on a variety of multidisciplinary team projects. It's also been rewarding to witness the growth of Rowan Engineering's reputation since the graduation of its first students in 2000. Currently, I work alongside ten Rowan alumni at McCormick Taylor, and their contributions have been invaluable. It's a testament to the quality education and preparation provided by Rowan University's engineering program. The ASCE involvement was particularly integral, as it exposed me to networking and leadership opportunities. I often emphasize that projects are important, but everyone works on projects. It is what you do over and above that sets you apart and provides a fulfilling career.

Based on an Interview with Jess W. Everett on 2024-2-14

1. The Professional Engineer license (PE) is a “standard recognized by employers and their clients, by governments and by the public as an assurance of dedication, skill and quality...Only PEs can sign and seal engineering drawings...To become a Licensed Professional Engineer, you must do four things: graduate from an accredited engineering program, pass the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam, work with a professional engineer for four years, and pass the Principles and Practice of Engineering exam.”

2. The American Society of Civil Engineers is a professional body, founded in 1852, that represents members of the civil engineering profession worldwide. There are more than 500 chapters for professionals and students and over 150,000 members in 177 countries.

3. Rowan Boulevard is a “one-third mile corridor...lined with shops, restaurants and medical providers at street level with housing, offices and classrooms on the floors above.” “The privately funded partnership between Rowan, developers and the Borough of Glassboro has a singular goal: to create a quintessential college town.”

4. Engineering Clinic is a hallmark of Rowan University. Students take a Clinic class each semester, eight total. Many are interdisciplinary. All are hands-on. First-year Clinics focus on engineering's place in society and fundamental engineering skills. Sophomore Clinics merge communication coursework with an engineering design experience and are team taught by engineering, writing arts, and rhetoric faculty. Junior and Senior Clinics have students work in teams on research or design projects, usually externally funded.