



The Association of Professional  
Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta

## BACKGROUND

For immediate release  
**May 5, 2025**

# 2025 APEGA Summit Award Recipients

**Hilary Foulkes, P.Geol., Calgary**

**Centennial Leadership Summit Award for leadership excellence advancing the engineering or geoscience profession in Alberta**

Professional geologist Hilary Foulkes's 46-year-long career spans from working as a hard-rock geologist, to working in oil and gas with BP Canada, to becoming an executive in leadership at PennWest Exploration, and eventually founding the Canadian division of Tudor, Pickering, Hold & Co. She exemplifies leading with integrity and showcases the influence a professional geologist can have on her community and industry.

**David Walter Maffitt, P.Eng., Rocky View County**

**Community Service Summit Award for using engineering or geoscience to make significant improvements to an Alberta community**

Professional engineer David Walter Maffitt's journey of community service began in Calgary, where his dedication to safety and connection led him to serve as block captain for the Neighbourhood Block Watch. This commitment expanded into an enthusiasm for youth empowerment through sports. Maffitt embraced the role of coach for a multitude of children's sports teams, guiding local children to build teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship.

**Raman Gill, P.Eng., Calgary**

**Early Accomplishment Summit Award for showing exceptional accomplishment early in their engineering or geoscience career**

Reflecting a dynamic blend of technical expertise, entrepreneurial spirit, and a passion for empowering others, professional engineer Raman Gill is a force in the engineering industry. She has years of experience in the upstream oil and gas industry, from playing a key role in developing the Patos-Marinza oilfield, the largest onshore oilfield in continental Europe, to becoming a management consultant to supporting the Women's Inclusion Network at PwC Canada. Now she is the head of corporate development and co-founder of Apar Energy Inc.

**Mike Gallant, P.Eng., Calgary**

**Environment and Sustainability Summit Award for implementing sustainable or environmentally friendly engineering or geoscience processes**

Professional engineer Mike Gallant dedicated his career to championing nature-based solutions that redefine environmental restoration and bioengineering practices. Driven by a passion for ecological restoration, this is reflected in his work rehabilitating degraded river and stream systems to enhance fish and wildlife habitats and improve riverbank health. Under his leadership, Calgary's riverbanks continue to thrive, setting a precedent for restoring ecosystems and creating resilient landscapes.

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**Dr. Laura Curiel, P.Eng., Calgary**

**Excellence in Education Summit Award for making exemplary contributions to teaching and learning at a recognized post-secondary institution in Alberta**

Professional engineer Dr. Laura Curiel has revolutionized education in biomedical engineering, shaping the next generation of innovators. As associate head of the biomedical engineering department at the University of Calgary, Dr. Curiel has played a pivotal role in developing and launching the biomedical engineering major, fostering academic excellence through her innovative teaching methods and visionary leadership.

**Dr. Abdulmajeed Mohamad, P.Eng., Calgary**

**Frank Spragins Technical Summit Award for implementing innovative engineering or geoscience technology that has improved the lives of Albertans**

Professional engineer Dr. Abdulmajeed (Majeed) Mohamad is a global leader in thermal engineering renowned for his innovative contributions to heat transfer, fluid dynamics, energy innovation, and combustion in porous media. As interim director of the University of Calgary's Centre for Environmental Engineering Research and Education, Dr. Mohamad's groundbreaking research has advanced technologies in solar energy, nanofluids, low NOx burners, and sustainable energy storage.

**Dr. Josephine Hill, P.Eng., Calgary**

**Outstanding Mentor Summit Award for excelling as a mentor and supporting and contributing to the ongoing development of their mentees or protégés**

Dr. Josephine Hill, P.Eng., has dedicated more than 22 years to advancing engineering mentorship while producing sustainable research, leaving an indelible mark on the University of Calgary's Schulich School of Engineering. She is a globally recognized expert in catalysis. Catalysts are materials that increase the rate of a reaction, making industrial processes more sustainable, energy efficient, and environmentally friendly.

**Ahmad Raza Khan Rana, P.Eng., Sherwood Park**

**Project Achievement Summit Award for a project that contributes new technologies, processes, or innovations for the improvement of society**

An Alberta-based project led by Ahmad Raza Khan Rana, P.Eng., has set a new standard in pipeline safety, efficiency, and sustainability. Faced with critical challenges, such as corrosion under insulation, stress-corrosion cracking, and thermal losses in moisture-saturated thermal insulation, the project developed groundbreaking solutions that are reshaping the oil and gas industry.

**Dr. Yunwei (Ryan) Li, P.Eng., Edmonton**

**Research Excellence Summit Award for conducting research in engineering or geoscience that has improved the lives of Albertans**

Dr. Yunwei (Ryan) Li, P.Eng., is transforming Alberta's energy landscape by advancing the technologies needed for a net-zero electricity grid. As the senior University of Alberta engineering research chair, Dr. Li leads a world-renowned smart-grid research group. His groundbreaking work integrates renewable energy, electric-vehicle charging infrastructure, and energy storage to modernize Canada's electrical grids, ensuring resilience against climate change and meeting the demands of the green economy.

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### **Dr. Elena Di Martino, P.Eng., Calgary**

### **Women in Engineering and Geoscience Champion Summit Award for supporting women in engineering and geoscience with diversity initiatives and inspirational support**

Dr. Elena Di Martino, P.Eng., is a beacon of advocacy and innovation in biomedical engineering, dedicated to advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion while making groundbreaking contributions to cardiovascular research. As chair of the biomedical engineering department's EDI+ Committee and director of Solutions for Health Research at the Schulich School of Engineering, she empowers underrepresented groups, particularly women, to thrive in engineering and beyond.

Full biographies can be found on [apega.ca](https://apega.ca). A zip file of high-resolution images of all Summit Award recipients is available [here](#).

### **ABOUT APEGA**

APEGA is the regulator of engineering and geoscience in Alberta, safeguarding the public by enforcing professional and ethical standards. Our licensed professionals and permit-holding companies sustain a century-long legacy of innovation and economic growth in our province, inspiring the next generation of engineers and geoscientists.

### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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