Fred Bloetscher to Lead FSAWWA in 2021

On December 11, Dr. Fred Bloetscher became the 95th chair of the Florida Section American Water Works Association at the section’s annual Fall Conference, held virtually this year. He succeeds Kim Kowalski.

Dr. Bloetscher is currently the associate dean for undergraduate studies and community outreach and a professor at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, where his focus is on infrastructure and utility issues, including water resources, water supply sustainability, stormwater (including sea level rise), and wastewater disposal issues.

He received his bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from the University of Cincinnati and earned his master of public administration degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His Ph.D. is in civil engineering from the University of Miami. His areas of interest include water and wastewater resource management, membrane processes, utility management and finance, groundwater, and waste disposal options.

Dr. Bloetscher has been nominated for the Teacher of the Year Award a number of times by his students and has received three university-wide leadership awards, plus two national leadership awards. Dr. Bloetscher was previously an adjunct faculty member at the university of Miami in Coral Gables.

In 2012, Dr. Bloetscher and Dr. Daniel E. Meerroff received the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) Award for Connecting Professional Practice and Education for their work on the Dania Beach Nanofiltration Facility, which is the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)-Gold water treatment facility in the world. Dr. Bloetscher was the LEED administrator for the project.

Prior to coming to academia, Dr. Bloetscher served as the utility director and deputy director for several large water and sewer systems, and as a city manager in North Carolina. He is the former chair for the Water Resources Division, Groundwater Resource Committee, and Education Committee for the American Water Works Association. He is a LEED-AP (accredited professional) and holds professional engineering licenses in nine states.

Dr. Bloetscher is also the president of Public Utility Management and Planning Services Inc. (PUMPS), a consulting firm dedicated to the evaluation of utility systems, needs assessments, condition assessments, strategic planning, capital improvement planning, grant and loan acquisition, interlocal agreement recommendations, bond document preparation, consultant coordination, permitting, and implementation of capital improvement construction.