



2025

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

FRANK A. KOZELISKI, P.E. '67, '69



“If you’re going to do a job, learn it, but come up with new ideas and don’t be afraid to do something different.”

—Frank A. Kozeliski,
P.E. '67, '69

Frank Kozeliski’s interest in construction was cemented early on when he was in high school working for his father’s company, Gallup Sand & Gravel: “I was the boss’s kid, so I had to work extra hard.”

That work ethic came in handy when he earned both a bachelor’s (’67) and master’s degree (’69) from NMSU in civil engineering and later secured a Professional Engineer (P.E.) license. “I started out at college behind the eight ball because I had to take some remedial classes as a freshman. But I stuck with it — and grad school changed my life.” Frank worked on concrete research in Professor Roger Zimmerman’s lab and has now been one of the nation’s leading concrete experts for more than 50 years.

“I’ve spent my whole life making better concrete by using four aggregates, and that’s been the fun of it,” says Frank. “I’ve even used recycled glass to make reflective concrete.” His expertise and leadership have shaped national construction protocols, including the extension of Federal Highway Administration time-limit delivery specifications from 90 minutes to three hours, making concrete more economical.

Frank chaired and served on numerous national committees with the American Concrete Institute (ACI) and the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association. In 1992, he was named a Fellow of ACI. In 2005 he received the organization’s Henry C. Turner Medal in recognition of his outstanding lifetime contributions to the concrete industry, and in 2018 he was made an Honorary Member of ACI. At New Mexico State University, Frank was honored as the Department of Civil Engineering’s Centennial Alum in 1996 and was inducted into the NMSU Civil Engineering Academy in 2004.

Renowned for his generosity in “making the pie bigger,” Frank shares his technical expertise widely, through industry publications, workshops, and many long phone calls mentoring students, professionals, academics, and tradespeople alike. He has given more than 150 presentations in 30 states and nine countries, including China, Honduras, Mongolia, Peru, Russia, and South Africa. Wherever he goes, he wears a Native American-made bolo tie and starts his presentation by showing where his hometown, Gallup, NM, is on a map.

Frank and his wife, Barbara, are leaders in their church, and support mission work in Honduras to provide education and health services in rural areas. Frank has also been extensively involved with the NMSU College of Engineering, volunteering with the student chapters of the American Society of Civil Engineers and ACI. From 1977 – 2023, he was an organizer and lecturer for the College of Engineering’s annual Quality Concrete School.

Frank’s advice to students? “If you’re going to do a job, learn it, but come up with new ideas and don’t be afraid to do something different. NMSU teaches you how to start learning — but after that you need to keep learning.” He adds, “And — learn to write! You need to publish so you can share your work with others.” ▲