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M/E Engineering builds a solid reputation

A commitment to the city has been a source of pride for M/E Engineering, P.C., the Rochester firm founded by Allen Casey '70, '73 (A.A.S, B.S. electrical engineering) and three partners in 1991.

That commitment was recognized earlier this year when M/E Engineering was named to *Inc. Magazine's* Inner City 100 list of the country's most successful private companies located in urban centers. The firm also ranked among Rochester's Top 100 list of fastest growing private companies six times since 1995, and M/E made Zweig White & Associate's "Hot Firm" list of the 100 fastest-growing architectural,



engineering and planning firms in the U.S. in 2000 and 2001. Revenues climbed every year to more than \$12 million by 2002.

About 20 of M/E Engineering employees are RIT grads, including, from left: Calvin Puffer '76 (mechanical engineering), Charles Sidoti '86 (mechanical engineering), John Dredger '92 (mechanical engineering), James Chatelle '85 (electrical engineering technology), Vice President Ronald Mead '81 (mechanical engineering), and President Allen Casey '70, '73 (electrical engineering).

Quite a track record. And RIT figures prominently in M/E's achievements. Of the four founders, three are RIT alumni: President Casey, Vice President William P. Liberto '82 (mechanical engineering) and Vice President Ronald C. Mead '81 (mechanical engineering). (The fourth partner, Joseph Straub Jr., is a University of Rochester grad.) Of approximately 100 employees, 20 are RIT alums, and M/E also has four RIT students in co-op jobs.

Casey, Liberto, Mead and Straub were working in Rochester for a Syracuse firm when they decided to start their own consulting business. By 1996, the party of four had grown to more than 40. They expanded into Buffalo where, three years later, they were approached by owners of a competing firm who asked if M/E was interested in purchasing their business. The culmination of that deal doubled the company's size. This year, M/E opened an office in Schenectady to achieve a higher profile in the New York's capital district.

"We've hustled to expand," says Casey. "We push very hard to provide the kind of personal service and professional quality that our clients expect."

As a result, he says 90 percent of the company's business comes from repeat customers. M/E works with major architectural and construction

firms on large public and private projects ranging from libraries and laboratories to casinos and churches. Among these projects are several on the RIT campus.

“It’s night and day what’s happened on campus,” says Casey, who started college in 1968, the year RIT moved to the current location. “The growth and improvements are fantastic.”

He’s pleased that one aspect of RIT hasn’t changed: the emphasis on applied education, particularly the co-op program.

“All of our RIT graduates have been excellent,” Casey continues. “We feel that the growth of M/E Engineering has been due in large part to the quality of the education our staff members received at RIT.”

The company gives back: In 1999, the M/E Engineering, P.C. Scholarship was established for students in the Kate Gleason College of Engineering and the College of Applied Science and Technology.

To learn more about M/E Engineering, visit the World Wide Web at www.meengineering.com.

RIT Works! focuses on the contributions of RIT graduates in the workplace.

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