

**Eileen M. Vélez-Vega, MSCE, PE**

**Region D Governor, FY10**



Eileen began her SWE journey as a collegiate member at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez. At the collegiate level Eileen held several officer positions such as the secretary, president, and chair of the 2003 SWE Region D Conference in Puerto Rico. During college, Eileen participated in Disney's College Program as well as NASA Marshall Space Flight Center's Coop Program. In 2003, she obtained her civil engineering bachelor's degree and was hired by the US Army Corps of Engineers as a research civil engineer in Vicksburg, Mississippi. Eileen specialized in research and development in pavement management, non-destructive testing, soil stabilization, and rubblization of concrete pavements for the Department of Defense. While being a SWE MAL member in Region C, Eileen was regional Professional Development chair (2004), and served as the SWE counselor for the Louisiana Tech University collegiate section. Eileen also served in the SWE Conference Programming Board as a student liaison from 2003-05. In 2005, Eileen became the founder and president of the SWE Mississippi River City Section in Vicksburg, Mississippi. This was the first SWE professional section in the state of Mississippi. After the great success she had in Region C, in 2006 Eileen moved back to Region D and became a member of the Southeast Florida Section. This section had been inactive since 2003 and Eileen was involved in the revitalization of the section with other great SWE leaders. Eileen became the Southeast Florida section president in 2006 thru 2008. While President Eileen was successful at recruiting women into the section and creating Girl Scout outreach events as well as strong relationships with the local engineering organizations. Today, the SWE Southeast Florida section has won Girl Scouts, Newsletter, and website regional and society level awards. Eileen has also served as the International Member Team newsletter editor as well as the Southeast Florida newsletter editor, and has been the Community Colleges Working group chair since 2007.

In 2008 Eileen was recognized as SWE New Faces of Engineering and was one of only four young engineers nominated by the Diversity Council to receive this special recognition. In FY10, Eileen serves as the Region D Governor focusing on improving communication and membership participation in the region.

Currently, Eileen is an aviation project manager for Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc in West Palm Beach. Eileen manages the design and construction of airport infrastructure focusing on constructability and development of the airport projects to ensure the continued safe and effective operation of the airports during construction. She is also an active member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) where every year she helps organize the Engineer Week banquet, the MathCounts Competitions and the Joint Holiday Party. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Puerto Rico Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (CIAPR) as part of the Florida Chapter. In 2009, the CIAPR recognized Eileen as one of Puerto Rico's Emerging Leaders. Eileen is also a member of the ASCE Transportation and Development Institute and the Transportation Research Board technical pavement committees. Eileen is a licensed professional engineer in the state of Florida and Puerto Rico and in 2009 obtained her Master's degree in civil engineering from the Mississippi State University.

Eileen is married to Airangel Berrios-Pérez and they enjoy traveling to visit their families in Puerto Rico. Her hobbies are practicing Yoga and Pilates; she also enjoys golf and playing beach volleyball, biking, and just reading a good book. Eileen's motto is "You never know who you might inspire next!" and you can hear her say that "women don't balance, we juggle!"