

Instructors

Adrienne Menniti

Adrienne Menniti, PhD, PE is a Principal Process Engineer in the Research and Innovation division of Clean Water Services, a public utility serving Washington County Oregon. After receiving her PhD from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, Adrienne spent 5 years as a consultant before moving to Clean Water Services in 2014. She currently leads the Process Engineering group at CWS. She also manages the biological phosphorus removal research program for the utility and has extensive applied experience operating CWS treatment facilities to achieve stringent effluent phosphorus and ammonia limits.

Adib Amini

Adib Amini, Ph.D., PE, ENV SP, BCEE serves as Program Director in the College of Engineering's Office of Interdisciplinary Professional Programs, with a focus on Water, Wastewater, Stormwater, and Sustainability. Dr. Amini also works with cities and industries as an engineering consultant, with experience in both drinking water and wastewater treatment. Dr. Amini has expertise in sustainability, engineering design, technology innovation, and renewable energy. Dr. Amini's work has included the design of novel technologies, including on-site energy systems at facilities. He spearheaded the designs for the first wastewater treatment facilities in Iowa that are 100% powered by on-site renewable energy systems. Dr. Amini invented a novel system for ventilation of rated spaces, such as wastewater headworks buildings, for which he holds a provisional patent. Dr. Amini also has performed award-winning research in technology innovation and sustainability. Dr. Amini has spoken widely at conferences on topics related to water/wastewater treatment, sustainability, PFAS, on-site energy systems, and resilient infrastructure.

Leon Downing

Dr. Leon Downing is the Global Practice and Technology Leader for Nutrient Removal and Recovery for Black & Veatch from Madison, Wisconsin. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin – Platteville, Leon received his post-graduate degrees at the University of Notre Dame. Downing provides technology leadership in support of Black & Veatch process engineering and applied research projects globally.

Alan Grooms

Alan Grooms, PE, is the Operations Manager at Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District. He has more than 26 years of experience in wastewater treatment plant operations and design. He is a licensed Wisconsin professional engineer and a licensed wastewater operator and has participated in and overseen planning, design, construction, and operation of numerous wastewater treatment plants and other municipal projects.