

Nathelyne Archie Kennedy - Emerita

Nathelyne Archie Kennedy, a professional engineer, received her Bachelor of Science degree in Architectural Engineering in 1959 from Prairie View A&M University. Following college graduation, Ms. Kennedy worked as a Bridge Design Engineer with an engineering firm in Chicago, Illinois, and later with an engineering firm in Houston, Texas. In 1979 she became a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Texas.

In 1981, Nathelyne Archie Kennedy started her own business venture in Houston, Texas. She is Founder and President of Nathelyne A. Kennedy & Associates, a professional civil consulting engineering firm located in Houston, Texas. The Kennedy organization employs engineers, technicians, construction managers, inspectors, administrative, and managerial personnel specializing in civil engineering of highways, streets, bridges, public transit and parking facilities, water and wastewater systems, aviation facilities, marine terminals, sports complexes, and various other types of specialized projects.

Ms. Kennedy's professional engineering career spans over 50 years of progressive experience as a design engineer, project engineer, project manager, and as the principal-in-charge of civil engineering projects performed for a broad spectrum of government, municipal, and regulatory agencies, as well as for private industry clients.

A mentor, and a pioneering advocate for the participation of women in her profession, and the guiding force behind her own successful business, Ms. Kennedy has garnered recognition both for outstanding personal achievement and for the professional accomplishments of a quality organization. This consistently increasing professional success is complemented by Ms. Kennedy's continuing dedication to and active participation in professional and community activities, including membership in numerous industry associations and volunteered service given on the boards and committees of professional and community-related organizations.

The first female engineering graduate from Prairie View A&M University and the first African American female professional engineer registered by the State of Texas, Ms. Kennedy has been recognized numerous times by her alma mater and its alumni association. In 2006, the new Architecture and History & Culture facility on the Prairie View A&M University campus was named the "Nathelyne Archie Kennedy Building" in her honor.

The Houston Engineers Week committee, which aims to recognize and honor engineering achievements in the Houston area, named Nathelyne Archie Kennedy its 2016 Engineer of the Year — the first female to be honored in this class of engineering successes.