



July 22, 2025

NCAC & INCE Boards of Directors  
3502 Woodview Trace, Suite 300  
Indianapolis, IN 46268

**Encomium: David L. Adams, P.E. for The Laymon N. Miller Award for Excellence in Acoustical Consulting**

Congratulations to our friend, mentor, and colleague, David Adams, who is without question entirely deserving of the 2025 Laymon Miller Award, as he has exhibited outstanding acoustical consulting services to our industry for over 50 years.

Dave's career began in 1964 working for Boeing in Wichita, Kansas as an engineer in the Flight Test Operations Unit after graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Kansas. It was there that he met and married his one and only wife, Maggie. Dave earned his Master's degree in Electrical Engineering going to night school at Wichita State University while working full-time at Boeing. In 1967 he joined the engineering faculty at Wichita State as an instructor in the Electrical Engineering department. While continuing to teach at Wichita State, Dave rejoined Boeing as an Associate Engineer and was quickly promoted to Research Engineer where for the next two years he worked the night shift at Boeing while continuing to teach full-time at Wichita State University. If that was not enough to keep Dave busy, it was during these years that Dave and Maggie became parents of Matt and Nicque. Dave was obviously a busy guy – working two full-time jobs and starting a family! Dave resigned from Boeing in late 1969 to pursue post-graduate studies in biomedical engineering while continuing to teach full time at Wichita State. These post-graduate courses introduced him to the biological aspects of speech and hearing of the human nervous system, and it was around that time that Stephanie joined the family in Kansas.

In 1971 Dave left the university to move to Southern California where he took a job with Engineering-Science, Inc. He was soon promoted to Manager of the West Coast office of the Acoustics and Noise Control department, and shortly thereafter his daughter Katy was born to complete the family unit. At that time, that office was the west coast branch office of Goodfriend-Ostergaard Associates out of Morristown, New Jersey. In 1972 Dave moved to New Jersey to head up the Cedar Knolls lab. The Cedar Knolls lab was sold in 1974, and Dave moved to Engineering-Science's office in McLean, Virginia where he was promoted to Associate in charge of all of the firm's national and international acoustical consulting activities.

In 1976 Dave accepted a position with Jaffe Acoustics, Inc. in their branch office in Denver, Colorado. Initially, he was Manager of the Denver office, but soon became Vice President in charge of the firm's Western Regional activities. It was here that he was introduced to electro-acoustic systems design, as well as theatre systems design. His exposure, experience, and knowledge in architectural acoustics grew rapidly, and he was responsible for the acoustic design of many auditoria and performing arts facilities in the mountain and western United States. While at Jaffe Acoustics, he was involved in the design, construction administration, testing and tuning of two major concert halls- Sala Nezahualcoyotl in Mexico City, and Boettcher Concert Hall in Denver, Colorado.

In 1979, Dave acquired the Denver office of Jaffe Acoustics and founded his own acoustical consulting firm, D. L. Adams Associates, Inc. Eleven years later, in 1990, Dave acquired the 20-year-old acoustical consulting firm, Darby and Associates, on the Island of Oahu in Hawaii. This expansion of the firm was done for the primary purpose of shortening the travel time and lowering the cost of serving the firm's clients spread throughout the Pacific. Most recently, Dave mentored the company leadership through the acquisition of Avant Acoustics, another long-standing and well-respected NCAC member firm. D. L. Adams Associates now provides acoustical consulting services throughout the continental United States, internationally, and has completed projects on all seven continents.

Under Dave's leadership, D. L. Adams Associates has been a member firm of the National Council of Acoustical Consultants (NCAC) since 1979. Dave has held several positions in NCAC, including President from 1990 to 1992, Chairman of the Membership Committee, and Vice President of Membership. Dave was instrumental in the mentorship of employees within his firm and the overall acoustics consulting field, including guiding both Ed Logsdon and Stephanie Adams-Ball through the organization to eventually also serve as presidents of NCAC.

Dave has been an active member of the Acoustical Society of America (ASA) since 1971. Over the years, he has chaired numerous special paper sessions and has helped organize four ASA meetings: the 126th meeting in Denver in 1994, the 132nd and 152nd joint meetings with the Acoustical Society of Japan in Honolulu in 1996 and 2006, and more recently, the 155th meeting in Paris, France.

In addition to Dave's extensive involvement in NCAC, Dave has been a long-time member of ASTM International and, over the years, he has been a member of various subcommittees of the E33 Committee on Building and Environmental Acoustics, contributing to the development of new acoustical standards and to revising and updating existing ones.

Dave has also taught acoustics classes at the University of Colorado at Denver for architectural students. In the Spring of 1986, he taught the course, Sound and Music, in the Physics Department of UC Denver.

Dave is a registered professional engineer in the states of Colorado, California, and Hawaii. He is also a member of the Institute of Noise Control Engineers (INCE), American Consulting

Engineering Companies (ACEC), the Audio Engineering Society (AES), the Consulting Engineering Companies of Hawaii (CECH), the Society of College and University Planners (SCUP), and the United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT).

Dave has authored or co-authored as many as 15 publications and presentations throughout his career with several intriguing titles like: *The Guy from Out of Town*, *The Varied Role of the Acoustical Consultant* in Sound and Video Contractor in 1983, and *Sound Barrier: Hidden Costs of Acoustical Privacy Haunt Multifamily Projects* in Colorado Construction Magazine in 2005.

Early in his career Dave had little time for extra-curricular activities (working 2 full-time jobs and starting a family). Although he introduced soccer to his children early on, he didn't start playing himself until age 40, continuing in adult recreational leagues until age 56. With consulting projects distributed all over the globe, it is no surprise that Dave and Maggie love to travel. Apparently, having an office in Hawaii was not enough. One of his favorite travel destinations is Africa, and he and Maggie have been found more than once on safari in that part of the world. Many NCAC members are aware of Dave's fascination with his Maserati sport cars over the years. I now understand that he has dropped one wheel and now is focusing on his 3-wheel CAN-AM Spyder.

I would like to mention a couple of quotes that caught my attention when reviewing Dave's nomination support letters for this prestigious award:

Russ Berger wrote: *"It is Dave's integrity and generous nature I probably admire the most. Our firms have collaborated on projects in the past and sent each other work, if believing that the other might be best suited to better serve a particular client or to provide a more successful project."*

Sean Connolly wrote: *"Not only does Dave have a great technical mind, but his influence is perhaps even greater as a mentor and teacher, which embodies the spirit of the Laymon Miller Award. At every stop in his professional journey, he has been a leader and had a positive influence on those he worked with."*

Because of Dave's long and distinguished history of excellence in acoustical consulting, his teaching and mentorship of numerous young as well as established consultants, and always keeping in mind the best interests of his clients, we are delighted that he is the recipient of this year's Laymon N. Miller Award for Excellence in Acoustical Consulting.

Sincerely,



Jerry G. Lilly, P.E., FASA  
President  
JGL Acoustics, Inc.