



SYLVIA L. SCHONAUER, PE, retired principal engineer, Kellogg Company, Battle Creek, Michigan, is being honored for leadership and creativity in the development and implementation of food processing technologies and tireless mentoring of young aspiring professionals.

Schonauer's award-winning technical research has led to many design projects created in conjunction with vendors. She has worked on equipment and processes that have enabled launching unique products, modifications to production equipment that allow process improvements and advancement in extrusion controls. At Kellogg, she was responsible for identifying and developing technologies of the future and identifying improvements to existing technologies that impact sustainability and cost saving efforts.

Throughout her career, Schonauer has continually worked to mentor students and young professionals. At Kellogg, Schonauer developed and taught many internal Kellogg Academy Courses on processes and associated engineering principles, as training for local and global research and development, engineering, and plant production employees. She has regularly mentored interns, co-op students and colleagues and continually leads or participates in STEM-related events, especially through ASABE and the Society of Women Engineers. She has also devoted significant time to Help One Student to Succeed, a nationally-recognized mentoring system, as well as the national Adopt a School program. Schonauer helped establish the South Central Michigan section of the Society of Women Engineers and also assisted in revitalizing the ASABE Michigan Section.

A 30 year member of ASABE, Schonauer has served on the Foundation Board of Trustees and as chair of the Foundation Development committee for several years. She is also a member of the Foundation Liaison committee. Schonauer's leadership has been extremely influential in the ASABE Michigan Section and she served as chair, and secretary/treasurer for the Michigan Section executive board. Schonauer is a member of the Sukup Global Food Security Award committee and also serves on the Food Processing committee within the Processing Systems technical community.

Schonauer is author or coauthor on six US patents, several of which were also filed worldwide and granted in various jurisdictions. She has received many awards throughout her career including many innovation competition, teaching, and teamwork awards from Kellogg. She received the Ontario Systems Circle of Excellence award in 2001 and the KFC Technical Achievement award in 1990. She was named a Distinguished Alumnus by the Department of Food, Agricultural, and Biological Engineering at The Ohio State University in 2015.