

Awards of Chamber Excellence

2013 LARGE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR ALLEN & SHARIFF

Allen & Shariff started in 1993 in Columbia as an engineering consulting business and has grown to offer a wide range of services in building design, construction, project management and project finance worldwide. The company prides itself on having a small business feel and big business capabilities.

Along with Allen & Shariff Engineering, LLC and Allen & Shariff Construction Services, LLC the company includes Allen & Shariff Abu Dhabi Branch, which provides project and construction management services from its office in the United Arab Emirates. In 2013, the company launched Allen & Shariff Healthcare, LLC, which provides healthcare consulting services to support healthcare providers, payers and law firms.

Co-founders Zack Shariff and William (Bill) Allen met when Zack took a refresher course at UMBC and Bill was the instructor. When Zack needed the skills of an electrical engineer, he called upon Bill, and in 1993 they merged their separate one-man companies into one company.

Today, the company has 183 employees and an international reputation for providing high-quality, professional services. In the near future the company plans to expand its international operations to Turkey and Colombia (South America).

“I always felt that we would be an international company,” said Zack, who currently serves as CEO of Allen & Shariff Corporation. “I truly believe that all of us, we can achieve what we visualize in our minds, the key word is taking action.”

With significant local activity by the federal government among other factors, Zack said there is a robust business locally for commercial and residential mixed use projects. In addition, he said, “Howard County is an amazing county to do business in, because the quality of life is great. ... It is centrally located between two major cities and it considers itself forward-thinking.”



Leaders of Allen&Shariff accept their award from (far left) Miles Coffman of M&T Bank and Chamber Board Chair Greg Lowe of Lowe fs, and (far right) Pete Mangione of Turf Valley at the 2013 Signature Event on October 4.

Photo by Bittner Photography

Bill Allen, who now has the title of advisor, has continued his commitment to education. He currently teaches engineering at Howard Community College and oversees continuing education programs for company employees called Allen & Shariff University.

“Our strength is the culture we have within the company and the culture of excellence that we want to continue to build upon,” Zack said. The company regularly measures its performance using the Baldrige method and received the Maryland Quality Award in 2007 from the Maryland Performance Excellence Foundation, Inc. The company has enjoyed its membership in the Chamber since 2002. “The Chamber keeps its members up to date on what is going on,” said Mary Cannon, president. “It is great for networking and meeting other businesses.”

Allen and Shariff encourages all of its employees to give back to the community, and to take time to be involved in organizations and projects that help others. Mary has served as chair of the board of Leadership Howard County and supported the Howard County Conservancy, the Howard Community College Educational Foundation, FIRN and others.

“I want ASC to be one of the best places to work and one of the best places to do businesses with,” Zack said. “We really have an amazing team. It’s our people that have made this company great. ... It is a very upbeat place because people believe in the mission we have. I am privileged to lead such a great team.”

Learn more at www.allenshariff.com.