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Mr. O'Connor joined MCEER in June 2002 after a 20 year career with New York State Department of Transportation where he spent his last 13 years as Bridge Management Engineer. He is an ASCE Fellow.

Jerry obtained his B.S. and Master of Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. After five years on construction as Bridge Engineer for Chas. H. Sells, Inc., he joined the NYS Dept. of Transportation, Region 6, and worked in several functional areas such as Design, Construction, Traffic & Safety, and Information Technology. As Bridge Management Engineer, he oversaw the regular inspection of 1800 bridges, developed retrofit strategies for bridges flagged for deficiencies, and prioritized the rehabilitation or replacement of bridges. He also launched and managed the Region's Bridge Safety Assurance Program intended to assess and mitigate the risk of structural failure from hazards such as scour, overload, earthquakes, collision and fatigue.

Mr. O'Connor serves on FHWA's Virtual Team for Earthquakes and FRP composites and has authored 30+ publications on bridge safety assurance, load testing, post-disaster bridge inspection, and the use of advanced composite materials for the repair and rehabilitation of bridges. He currently manages research projects on accelerated bridge construction, multiple hazard bridge design and development of post-earthquake bridge inspection procedures. He was part of NIST's reconnaissance mission to inspect lifelines after Hurricane Katrina and has inspected post earthquake damage in Peru.

Past awards include the NYSDOT Commissioner's "*Smarter & Faster*" Award, 1998; NYS Association of Transportation Engineer's "*Engineer of the Year*", 1999; NYS Department of Civil Service *Award of Meritorious Service*, 2000; and the Civil Engineering Research Foundation (CERF) *Charles Pankow Award for Innovation*, 2000 (was team leader for the collaborative project).