

Beyond the Classroom: Shaping Career-Ready Graduates in Construction Education

This seminar reflects on the career path of Dr. Emre Bayraktar, from his early years as a tenure-track faculty member to his current leadership role in construction education and how these experiences can inform and support future faculty and academic leaders. Drawing on this journey, the presentation explores how leadership, industry alignment, and experiential learning can shape more impactful and relevant academic programs.

Through examples from recent initiatives at the University of Southern Mississippi, the talk highlights approaches to connecting coursework with real-world practice, building meaningful industry partnerships, and creating learning environments that better prepare students for their careers. The seminar concludes with practical insights and forward-looking perspectives for those interested in strengthening student engagement, expanding industry connections, and contributing to the evolving future of construction education.



Dr. Emre Bayraktar School of Construction and Design The University of Southern Mississippi

Dr. Emre Bayraktar is a Professor and Director of the School of Construction and Design at the University of Southern Mississippi, which includes Construction Management, Architectural Engineering Technology, and Interior Design programs and serves over 500 students. Under his leadership, the School has experienced significant growth in enrollment, industry engagement, and experiential learning opportunities, earning the University's inaugural "Ready for Life Champion Award" in 2026. Since joining Southern Miss in 2022, Dr. Bayraktar has led initiatives focused on strengthening academic quality, enhancing facilities, and expanding industry partnerships to better align programs with workforce needs.

Dr. Bayraktar earned his B.Sc. in Civil Engineering from Bogazici University and his M.Sc. and Ph.D. from Purdue University. He began his academic career at Florida International University and later served as Professor and Department Chair at Istanbul

Technical University. His research focuses on infrastructure project management, public-private partnerships, renewable energy applications, and decision support systems in construction. Over the past fifteen years, he has secured more than \$2 million in external funding and managed projects supported by the Florida Department of Transportation, the Construction Industry Institute, and the European Commission. He currently serves on the editorial board of the ASCE Journal of Management in Engineering.

Date

05/01/2026

Location

Virtual via Zoom
(See email for link)

Time

11:30AM -12:20PM