When it comes to large-scale, high-tech engineering and design projects, innovation and progress benefit us all. The impact of work being done today on behalf of private and public entities—civil engineering, land development, surveying, energy system engineering, water treatment, transportation infrastructure and much more—is deep and far-reaching.

At this intersection of technology, industry and community, you’ll find Dewberry’s senior vice president, Pamela Townsend, PE. Townsend came to Dewberry in March 2014 after 24 years’ service at one of the largest publicly traded engineering firms in the world. She was looking to make a difference—not just in business, but in her career field and society at large. At Dewberry, she found that opportunity. And she’s seizing it with zest.

“What attracted me to Dewberry was its corporate culture, which reflects our chairman and chairman emeritus’ vision and values,” Townsend says. “We all take this profession, and working on the grand challenges facing our world, very seriously. The amount of outreach this firm’s leadership has done to promote economic development and educate future engineers is a source of great inspiration.”

More Than the Sum of Its Specialties

A privately held, family-owned company founded in 1956, Dewberry began as a land development and site surveying firm. Entrepreneurial in spirit, it diversified quickly, emerging from multiple recessions with a solid footing in multiple markets and geographies. Today, Dewberry has 2,000 employees, 40+ locations in 18 states and $380 million in annual revenues. It has also ranked for more than 10 years in the top 50 among the Top 500 Design Firms in the nation (Engineering News-Record).

Dewberry continues to expand, particularly throughout the South, by seizing opportunities to serve clients in new ways. It aims to further diversify its services and deliver turnkey solutions in key industries—energy, pharmaceutical, food, shipping and others—to meet increasingly complex demands.

“In the energy industry, for example, we’re developing robust solutions that address dramatic energy efficiency and savings and redundancy for buildings and campuses, and improve overall resiliency, thanks to our unusual breadth of expertise and resources,” Townsend says. “Dewberry’s evolution is driven entirely by market demand. We take the long view in business; we’re flexible and nimble, and we’re constantly developing new ways to make the highly technical work we do more accessible to the people we serve. Profits are important; however, our focus is partnering with clients to deliver solutions and contribute to the future prosperity of our communities.”

Leading on Important Fronts

In keeping with Dewberry’s community focus, Townsend is heavily invested in a number of important initiatives. In addition to serving on boards and legislative commissions that address education, engineering and workforce challenges, she helped advance a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) high school and a middle-school outreach program in which students design their own cities.

“As one of very few women engineering leaders out there, it’s important to me to give back and model and mentor girls and kids who are not traditionally in STEM fields,” Townsend says. “Dewberry’s mission is to actively lead and participate in the community, and I’m honored to do my part.”

Communities large and small thrive where industry, transportation, recreation and natural resources are supported by forward-thinking engineering solutions.