

George Hanna

Professor of Engineering



As a teenager growing up on a cattle ranch in Nebraska, George Hanna had the opportunity to work one summer with a team of engineers who were surveying portions of the state. "They were looking for guys who were sturdy and could pull surveying tapes over long distances," recalls Hanna. "I was so impressed by these young men and their intense interest in the project that I decided to become an engineer."

Hanna's decision marked the beginning of a career that would take him to a variety of settings, including countries like Venezuela, Turkey, Lebanon, Nigeria, and Afghanistan. In 1959, he became involved with education as the director of Ohio State University's first water resources center. "During the ten years I was with Ohio State, I taught civil engineering courses and developed the center into an interdisciplinary type of organization," explains Hanna. "We worked with biologists, chemists, economists, and engineers in several research projects dealing with environmental issues."

After earning his Ph.D. in civil engineering at the University of Cincinnati, Hanna served as dean of the School of Engineering at the University of Nebraska for eight years. "Finally I came to a point where I had solved the problems that were solvable and felt that I had been a dean long enough," he says. "I decided that I wanted to spend my remaining academic years teaching. When an opportunity opened up at the CSU, Fresno School of Engineering, I made contact and took it."

Q: Are environmental issues a major concern for today's engineers?

A: Absolutely. In order to compete now as an engineer, one must be involved in environmental issues. You can't construct anything today without writing an environmental impact report first. Engineers designing and building dams, power plants, transmission lines, airports, highways, utility systems, and