

## About Fred Berger

Beginning his career with a three-week assignment in 1972 that turned into a three-year adventure in Nigeria, Fred fostered a deep belief that engineering and community development went hand-in-hand. He committed his life and career to embedding that sense of global responsibility within the engineering community and following his passing, Fred endowed the Berger Charitable Foundation in 2016 to continue that legacy.

Fred's belief in the essential role of engineering in global development would serve as a driving theme in his career as he dedicated his life to advancing globalization within the engineering and development fields. By the time of his death in 2015 from pancreatic cancer, Fred had worked on four continents and managed projects in nearly 70 countries. Fred's extensive engagement in industry associations, education, and government advisory committees has helped to shape an evolving global industry.

One of Fred's proudest achievements during his more than 40-year career, was his role as a founding trustee of the American University of Afghanistan (AUAF), the only coeducational, independent, private university in Afghanistan. Fred's deep commitment to expanding equitable access to quality STEM education across the globe compelled him to take an active role in the creation of AUAF from the early stages of concept, design, and fundraising through the founding in 2004 to the first graduation in 2011, and beyond. The Berger Charitable Foundation proudly carries on that partnership with AUAF in Fred's honor.

The Berger Charitable Foundation is committed to strengthening communities across the globe through education and community development. Since its founding, the Foundation has been engaged in efforts to expand access and equitable opportunities in STEM education for students in the United States and abroad. The Foundation has also provided extensive support to projects and initiatives with real, lasting impact through funding infrastructure and community development projects in communities across the country and the world, from New Jersey to Afghanistan and Rwanda to Panama.

Philanthropy has long been part of the Berger Family and the efforts of the Berger Charitable Foundation have helped ensure that the vision and values of Dr. Louis Berger, and his son, Fred Berger, endure. Both men saw themselves as world citizens with a duty to give back to society; today, it's the Berger Charitable Foundation that is responsible for supporting charitable causes that align with the values of both men and their families.

Since its founding, the Foundation has been assisting underserved groups gain relevant skills for 21st century employment and thrive in an increasingly technology-driven world. By supporting innovative programming at such institutions as the American University of Afghanistan, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering, and the MIT Refugee Action Hub, the Foundation is helping to level the education playing field for disadvantaged groups, reduce the opportunity gap, and increase access to careers of the future. Our support is empowering students and creating opportunities for them and their communities.

