Mr. Charles H. Eccleston, owner and Vice President of Environmental Planning Services Incorporated, is this year’s recipient of YVCC’s Distinguished Alumnus Award. Environmental Planning Services is a consulting company that specializes in providing superior, cost-effective, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planning; compliance strategies; environmental management; and services to government and the private sector. Some of the company’s clients include the US Department of Energy, the US Forest Service, Washington State Parks Service, and various private consulting firms.

Mr. Eccleston attended YVCC from 1972-1975. He continued his academic career and earned a Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering, a master’s degree in Environmental Geology / Hydrogeology, and bachelor’s degrees in Computer Science and Geology. He’s also completed advanced NEPA compliance training from Duke University’s School of Environment and holds top secret clearance access with the US Department of Defense and the US Department of Energy.

In 1983, Mr. Eccleston began his professional career as a senior engineer for Texas Instruments Corporation and five years later joined GTE Corporation as lead engineer. His duties at both companies involved contributing to the development of advanced strategic weapon systems for the Department of Defense. In 1989, he joined the US Department of Energy at Fluor Hanford, Incorporated, as principal environmental scientist. It was with this organization that Mr. Eccleston specialized in resolving environmental policy issues, evaluating diverse impacts, preparing project alternatives analyses and process improvements, and streamlining existing planning and management processes to more effectively support Department of Energy missions. During this time he received multiple awards and acknowledgements for his outstanding performance from the Department of Energy, the Secretary of Energy, the Council for Environmental Quality, and several other organizationse.

In 2001, Mr. Eccleston left Fluor Hanford after many years of dedicated service and created his own company, Environmental Planning Services, Incorporated.

Mr. Eccleston has served as a member of many professional societies, holds multiple honors and authored nearly 35 professional planning papers and four books. Three of the books he wrote are the leading textbooks on the NEPA planning process. Recognized in Marquis’ Who’s Who in America, Who’s Who in Science and Engineering, and Who’s Who in the World, Mr. Eccleston is one of the nation’s leading experts on national environmental policy. He has chaired two national environmental standards committees and served on two White House sponsored taskforces, including the President’s Council on Environmental Quality.

Mr. Eccleston’s credentials aren’t like those you see on most resumes, but like all of today’s graduates, he began his education at YVCC.