

2012 ALUMNI FELLOW

William E. Farrell '59 Edu

William E. Farrell is chief executive officer of Executive Management Consultants, Inc., which works to save and restore small businesses in financial decline.

Farrell retired from an executive position at IBM in 1991 after a three-decade long career. While there, he helped develop a planning methodology that was incorporated worldwide both by IBM and by the White House administration. He also led an effort that resulted in the company making its largest community donation ever to open an adult community job training center.

Since Farrell's tenure at IBM, he has made other community and business contributions. One highlight came during his tenure at SKYDEX Corporation (1999–2003). He facilitated a project with Penn State trainers, doctors, and Ed Dare—the father of Penn State pole vaulter Kevin Dare, who died in 2002 while competing—to develop a safer pole vault softbox. The design and padding are now standard pole vaulting equipment, and the cushioning technology has been applied to a wide range of athletic equipment and surfaces beyond pole vault boxes to improve safety in many sports.

Farrell has been an active volunteer, sitting on the boards of the Civic Association of River Falls, Rocky Mountain SER Jobs for Progress, and Wide Horizon nursing home facilities. Farrell is a founding member, chairman of the board, and chief financial officer of For Thine Is the Glory, Inc., a non-profit organization that produces inspirational films. The first film is chronicling the life of Christian Science founder Mary Baker Eddy.

At Penn State, he established the Lelia A. Farrell Scholarship in Education to honor his mother, Lelia '57, '59g. Life members of the Penn State Alumni Association, Farrell and his wife, Sally, live in Centennial, Colo. They have three grown children and six grandchildren.

