## Beena Ajmera, Ph.D., P.E., M.ASCE

Assistant Professor, Department of Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering (CCEE)

490 Town Engineering Bldg.

**Iowa State University** 

813 Bissell Road

Ames, IA 50011-1066

Website: https://faculty.sites.iastate.edu/bajmera/

515-294-2417

bajmera@iastate.edu

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

#### **EDUCATION**

- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Ph.D., Civil Engineering with focus in Geotechnical Engineering, Aug. 2015
- California State University, Fullerton (CSUF), M.S., Civil Engineering with emphasis in Geotechnical Engineering, May 2012
- CSUF, B.S., Civil Engineering with Magna Cum Laude Honors, May 2011
- CSUF, B.A., Applied Mathematics with Magna Cum Laude Honors, May 2011

#### SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Assistant Professor, CCEE, Iowa State University, Aug. 2021 Present
- Adjunct Faculty, CCEE, North Dakota State University, Aug. 2021 Present
- Assistant Professor, CCEE, North Dakota State University, Aug. 2018 Aug. 2021
- Assistant Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE), CSUF, Aug. 2015 Aug. 2018

## **SELECTED RESEARCH PROJECTS**

# Total requested: \$14.7 million; Total pending: \$4.7 million; Total funded: \$3.7 million

- Investigators: Ajmera, B., and Crary, S. L., Title: Research Experiences for Teachers: Civil Engineering Instruction for Secondary Education. Sponsor: National Science Foundation, Total Funding: \$540,649, Role: PI
- Investigators: **Ajmera, B.**, Title: Addressing Geotechnical Issues Triggered by Climate Change, Sponsor: ISU College of Engineering, Total Funding: \$18, 500, Role: PI
- Investigators: Ajmera, B., Rutherford, C., Poplin, A., and Emery, A., Title: Game Design Based Learning to Improve Engagement, Achievement and Motivation Among Engineering Undergraduates, Sponsor: Iowa Space Grant Consortium, Total Funding: \$20,952, Role: PI

#### **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

## Total: 219 products, 21 invited lectures and over 150 presentations

- Tiwari, B. and **Ajmera, B.** "Advancements in Shear Strength Interpretation, Testing, and Use for Landslides Analysis," *Progress in Landslide Research and Technology* (Accepted-In Press).
- Emami Ahari, H. and **Ajmera, B.** (2023). "Development of Temperature-Controlled Direct Shear Box," ASTM J. of Testing & Eval., 51 (6).

- Ajmera, B., Daigh, A. L. M., and Upadhaya, K. R. (2023). "Statistical Study of the Geology, Topography, and Pore Fluid Salinity Controls on the Large Slope Failures Observed in North Dakota," *GSP 338*, 491-499.
- Ajmera, B., Upadhaya, K. R., and Daigh, A. L. M. (2021). "Slope Failures in North Dakota: Influence of Geology, Topography and Salt Concentration in Pore Fluid," *GSP 325*, 197-205.
- Tiwari, B., **Ajmera, B.**, Gonzalez, A. and Sonbol, H. (2020). "Impact of Wildfire on Triggering Mudslides A Case Study of 2018 Montecito Debris Flows," *GSP* 316, 40-49.
- Ajmera, B. and Tiwari, B. (2020). "Recent Advances in the Methods of Slope Stability and Deformation Analyses," *Understanding and Reducing Landslide Disaster Risk. WLF2020*, 4, 81-108. (Oldrich Hungr Award Paper)
- Tiwari, B. and Ajmera, B. (2020). "Keynote Lecture Recent Developments in the Evaluation and Application of Residual and Fully Softened Shear Strengths for the Stability Analyses of Landslides," Understanding and Reducing Landslide Disaster Risk. WLF2020,4, 11-45.
- Ajmera, B., Brandon, T., and Tiwari, B. (2019). "Characterization of the Reduction in Undrained Shear Strength in Fine-Grained Soils due to Cyclic Loading," *J. Geotech. Geoenviron. Eng.*, 145 (5), 04019017 1-10. (Awarded Collingwood Prize and Thomas A. Middlebrooks Award)
- Tiwari, B., Ajmera, B., Khalid, M., Donyanavard, S., and Chavez, R. (2018). "Influence of Slope Density on the Stability and Deformation of Clayey Slopes," *GSP 297*, 293-301.
- Tiwari, B., Pradel, D., **Ajmera, B.**, Yamashiro, B., and Diwakar, K. (2018) "Landslide Movement at Lokanthali during the 2015 Earthquake in Gorkha, Nepal," *J. Geotech. Geoenviron.l Eng.*, 144(3), 05018001 1-12.
- Ajmera, B., Brandon, T., and Tiwari, B. (2017) "Influence of Index Properties on Shape of Cyclic Strength Curve for Clay-Silt Mixtures," *Soil Dyn. and Eq. Eng.*, 102, 46-55.
- Tiwari, B., **Ajmera, B.**, and Dhital, S. (2017) "Characteristics of Moderate-to Large-Scale Landslides Triggered by the M<sub>w</sub> 7.8 Gorkha Earthquake and Its Aftershocks," *Landslides*, 14 (4), 1297-1318.

#### **SELECTED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

## Total: 109 activities and active reviewer for 12 journals

- Editor, Landslides, International Consortium on Landslides, since Oct. 2015
- Editor, *Geoenvironmental Disasters*, International Consortium on Geo-disaster Reduction, since Jan. 2022
- Standing Editor, Progress in Landslide Research and Technology, ICL, since Apr. 2021
- Vice President for the Americas, International Consortium on Geo-disaster Reduction, since Oct.
  2022
- Councilor, Engineering Division, CUR, since June 2016
- Director, National GeoChallenge Student Competitions, Student Participation Committee, ASCE G-I, since July 2021
- G-I Liaison, Younger Member Presidential Group, International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, since June 2020

# GRADUATE ADVISORS AND POSTDOCTORAL SPONSORS/ THESIS ADVISOR AND POSTGRADUATE-SCHOLAR SPONSOR

 Supervised or co-supervised 38 graduate students (7 ongoing; 34% from underrepresented minorities (URMs), 22 undergraduate students (3 ongoing; 55% URMs), and 68 summer researchers (74% URMs)

## **SELECTED AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

Total: 49 awards; 22 for research, 5 for teaching, 5 for service, and 16 for other activities

- Edmund Friedman Young Engineer Award for Professional Achievement, American Society of Civil Engineers, Oct. 2022
- Early-Career Undergraduate Research Mentoring Award, Council on Undergraduate Research Engineering Division, June 2022
- Oldrich Hungr Award, International Consortium on Landslides, Nov. 2021
- Embankments, Dams and Slopes (EDS) Technical Committee Outstanding Young Member Award, ASCE Geo-Institute, Aug. 2020
- Thomas A. Middlebrooks Award, ASCE G-I, July 2020
- Collingwood Prize, ASCE, May 2020
- Outstanding Educator Award, Orange County Engineering Council, Feb. 2018