Michelle L. Soupir, professor and associate dean, Iowa State University, is being honored for making significant contributions in the field of water engineering to bring safe and clean water for the global population.

Soupir is a professor in the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering and associate dean in the graduate college at Iowa State University (ISU). Soupir has served in various administrative roles at ISU. She served as ISU's College of Engineering Equity Advisor from 2019 – 2022, and during that time she led DEI trainings, established the Women Faculty Network, chaired the college diversity committee, and engaged faculty and students to improve college and departmental culture. As associate dean of operations in the graduate college, she is leading continuous improvement efforts to modernize and enhance operations supporting graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, graduate faculty and support staff.

Soupir's research program focuses on the impacts of agricultural practices on water quality with an emphasis on nonpoint source pollution control, watershed management, and water quality monitoring. Her research projects encompass multiple scales to answer basic and applied questions regarding the occurrence, fate and transport of pathogens, pathogen indicators, nutrients and contaminants of emerging environmental concern such as antibiotics and antimicrobial resistance to surface and tile systems. Her current work on denitrifying bioreactors is improving understanding of carbon substrates to support microbial communities for complete denitrification while minimizing unintended byproducts. Her work connects agricultural practices to public health through watershed scale monitoring and modeling and she has been especially instrumental in tracking the impact of agricultural antibiotic use on downstream waters and broader impacts on public health. Her research has local, national, and international implications. She teaches courses at ISU related to nonpoint source pollution and control, water quality modeling and project management and design.

Soupir is a 27-year member of ASABE. Throughout her membership, she has contributed to several Natural Resources and Environmental Systems committees and currently serves on the Nominating Committee, representing District 3. She was the recipient of the ASABE Student Engineer of the Year award in 1999 and the New Holland Young Researcher award in 2014.

Soupir's notable accomplishments include 118 peer-reviewed publications and $16.4 M total research funding with $6.6 M in externally funded grants as PI. She has served as advisor for 40 graduate students: 12 PhD and 24 MS students have graduated to date. Her graduate students have received a total of 57 individual awards from local to national organizations.