NC Report
January 30, 2019

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From the Executive Director of ACEC/NC:

Happy New Year ACEC/NC member firms, and best wishes for a prosperous and healthy New Year! As we close out the first half of our fiscal year I am encouraged and excited about the prospects as we enter 2019. This year will be the 50th anniversary of the incorporation of ACEC/ North Carolina. We have come a long way since those humble beginnings and events are planned to celebrate the milestone culminating in our annual Summer Conference in Wrightsville Beach at the Holiday Inn Sunspree on July 25-28, 2019. You won’t want to miss this as we welcome our new ACEC National President and CEO Linda Bauer Darr who will keynote our celebration. Watch for other news as we progress through the year.

2018 was also an exciting year in advocacy for ACEC/NC. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our two PACs: ACEC/PAC (federal) and ACEC NC PAC (state). We were able to support candidates who are pro-business and support the issues important to the business of engineering. And I am proud to announce that we again achieved our national ACEC/PAC goal for the 7th straight year! Your contributions helped ACEC achieve significant wins for the engineering industry in Washington including Tax Reform implementation, expanding QBS, and passing water infrastructure and FAA re-authorization bills. Here at home our industry coalition helped secure the “Build NC Bond” program that will provide up to $3 billion in additional transportation infrastructure funding over the next ten years.

Our firms are busy and the economy is strong. North Carolina continues to be one of the fastest growing states in the country. Since July 2018 we have welcomed 24 new firms to ACEC/NC bringing the total number of industry employees represented to over 9,300. Many of you attended the sold out December Joint ACECNC/ NCDOT Transportation Conference attended by 1200 industry professionals. This is just one of many events held each year to bring you topical information in all market areas to help you become more efficient and ultimately more profitable.

This will be an exciting year, and the Board and I can’t wait to get started. As we look ahead we have much to be proud of. Change is coming faster than ever, and rest assured ACEC/NC will be at the forefront representing your interests. Thank you again for your support. It is a privilege to serve as your Executive Director,

James A. Smith, P.E.
Executive Director, ACEC/NC
jsmith@acecnc.org

Contact ACEC/NC: 919-781-7934 or info@acecnc.org


Jim Smith, Stephanie Hachem, and Gary Hartong attended the reception for Rep. Virginia Foxx on May 30, 2018

ACEC/NC Executive Director Jim Smith with Senator Richard Burr and President George W. Bush October 5, 2016
Available Positions

Accelerate Engineering, PLLC
(919) 263-5678
Transportation Engineer

Areté Engineers
(828) 434-0587
Structural Engineer

Calyx Engineers + Consultants
(919) 836-4800
• Survey Group Manager - Charlotte
• Senior Survey Technician - Charlotte
• Survey Project Manager - Charlotte
• Architectural Historian - part-time

Coley Jenest & Stone, PA
(704) 376-1555
Civil Engineers - Land Development

Cole Jenest & Stone, PA
(919) 828-3150
• Site Design - Civil/Roadway Engineer
• Project Manager, Geomatics

McAdams Co
(919) 361-5000
• Transportation Planner - Raleigh
• Project Manager, Geomatics
• Project Engineer - Land Development (Civil Engineer)
• Project Level Engineer / Scientist
• Site Design - Civil/Roadway Engineer
• Construction Administrator

Mead & Hunt
(919) 714-8670
• Transportation Project Manager
• Civil Engineer

REI Engineers, Inc.
(919) 845-1450
• Project Manager
• Engineering Technician

TRC Engineers
(919) 828-3150
• Electrician - Chapel Hill

From the President of ACEC:

January 3, 2019

Dear ACEC Members:

All the best to you and your family for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

As we begin a New Year together, I am both buoyed and encouraged. I am buoyed by the support you have given me and the entire ACEC team during 2018. Your guidance and engagement throughout my transition into my role as the new CEO has been invaluable. I can’t begin to say thank you enough for that.

And I am encouraged. When I joined you five months ago, I knew ACEC had a strong track record of achievement and a solid foundation on which to build. And we have continued to prove that with successes in 2018. The true measure of our success, however, will be how we use that foundation to do two things 1) to achieve real and sustained growth, and 2) to lead in ways that we have never been challenged to lead before.

So much is changing around us. And at our conference this fall, our keynote speaker remarked that while the pace of change over the past five years may have seemed dizzying, it will be the slowest rate of change we’ll experience for the remainder of our professional lives.

ACEC needs to be prepared for that rapid change. Almost certainly it will require a new level of strategic agility on our part. To succeed, we will have to remain focused, fluid, and ever-ready to incorporate innovation into our daily practices.

Toward that end, in 2019 ACEC will engage in strategic planning with a broad cross-section of industry leaders representing a variety of industries and stakeholders across the ACEC membership continuum. To take on this task, ACEC Chairman Manish Kothari chose participants that could bring fresh thinking to the discussions and that could speak for our members beyond our regular interaction with our Board of Directors and Executive Committee.

Manish has challenged the Strategic Planning Committee to create an “audacious” strategic plan drawing from previous plans but incorporating the changed business environment of today.

We have retained an experienced facilitator to help us along in this process. And he will challenge us to be bold and to find ways to ensure that we will be positioned for growth and sustainability in the face of constant change.

You’ll be hearing more about this at the Annual Convention in May in Washington, D.C., with the final plan to be presented to the Board of Directors for a vote at the Fall Conference in Chicago in October.

This will be an exciting year, and I can’t wait to get started! As we look ahead, we have much to be proud of in the year just passed; 2018 has been a strong year. Here’s a look back at 2018 accomplishments, along with a preview of where we’re headed in the New Year:

ADVOCACY

2018 marked the end of the 115th Congress, which saw significant wins for the engineering industry:

• Tax Reform Implementation – Following successfully securing a new 20% tax deduction for A/E passthrough firms, together with the new 21% rate for our C Corp members as part of the 2017 tax reform law; in 2018 we worked to shape implementing regulations.
• Expanding QBS – At our urging, Congress broadened federal QBS requirements that were included in a five-year FAA bill, along with sustained funding for airport projects.
• Water Infrastructure – We pushed for and secured passage of the America’s Water Infrastructure Act, which authorizes $6.1 billion for new Corps of Engineers water projects, $4.4 billion for State Revolving Fund program drinking water projects; and expands the WIFIA program for more access to low cost financing for our clients.
• Contracting Out – We helped secure language promoting the use of U.S. firms by U.S. Agency for International Development in bills funding the U.S. State Department.

Looking ahead, a divided Congress in 2019 presents challenges and opportunities as lawmakers in both parties focus on issues that can potentially attract bipartisan support. For ACEC, that means an agenda which should include:

• Comprehensive infrastructure legislation including transportation and water, energy, vertical projects, and environmental clean-up investments;
• Identifying sustainable mechanisms to grow revenues for the Highway Trust Fund and other federal infrastructure programs;
• Emphasis on resilience and adaptation assistance for coastal communities and other areas impacted by climate change;
• Bipartisan energy legislation to promote a broad range of markets; and
• Regulatory reforms to expedite efficient project delivery.

In 2019, we will shore up our advocacy program with two key ingredients: strategic communications and industry research. Advocacy is the original reason ACEC was formed. It continues to be our number one priority. We have an excellent policy team and strong financial backing through ACEC/PAC and the Minuteman Fund. The remaining components of an effective advocacy strategy are communications and thought leadership.

This year we will re-focus our ACEC Foundation to address research needs that both help to tell our story on Capital Hill and help our members identify problem areas and opportunities and anticipate the need for change in an increasingly disruptive business environment. And we will focus on a strategic communications agenda for each, the media, and policymakers as thought leaders in our space – the engineering profession/industry and the built environment generally.

Contact ACEC/NC: 919-781-7934 or info@acecnc.org
Reports & Updates

2018 ACEC/NC & NDDOT Joint Transportation Conference

Due to Hurricane Florence, our annual ACEC/NC & NDDOT Joint Transportation Conference was rescheduled to December 20 and 21st! Thank you to all for your patience during the rescheduling process.

The day started hearing from the Senior Leadership of ACEC/NC and NCDOT and then moved into 8 concurrent educational break-out sessions. Speakers attended from all over the United States.

Our Keynote speaker was Steve Rizzo, author of Motivate THIS! How to start each day with Unstopable Attitude to Succeed Regardless of your circumstances.

A reception for all attendees was held on December 19th, and again immediately following the day’s sessions on the 20th, allowing opportunity for everyone to network with their peers.

This annual conference is a great way for our member firms to find out what is on the cutting edge in transportation and what advancements, changes, and projects are on the horizon for member firms in North Carolina. The Conference concluded with door prizes by exhibitors!

We would like to recognize our Committee Co-chairs Craig Hyman, Gannett Fleming and Teresa Canales, NCDOT and the entire planning committee who worked all year to bring you a stellar event.

Next Year’s conference will be held on October 29 + 30, 2019. Save the Dates!

Charlotte Holiday Member Reception

For many years ACEC/NC has held it’s Holiday member Reception and ACEC/PAC Auction in the Raleigh area in the days leading up to Christmas.

On December 4th, ACEC/NC conducted its first Holiday Reception in Charlotte at the Olde Mecklenberg Brewery. Nearly 70 member firm employees turned out to celebrate the Holidays and enjoy good food, good drink, and good fellowship, while participating in a Holiday raffle benefiting our national PAC. This will become an annual event coinciding with our grand celebration in Raleigh. Happy Holidays, everyone!

Holiday Reception & Auction - Raleigh

On the evening of December 13th, over 150 members and guests gathered at “The Glenwood” to celebrate the end of another year and for a well-deserved thank you from ACEC/NC for being part of our growing association.

The evening featured our traditional ACEC/PAC silent auction where folks could enjoy a spirited competition bidding on unique items in support of our national PAC. In addition, there were gaming tables featuring poker, blackjack, roulette, and craps for all to enjoy as part of our second annual “Casino Night” with all proceeds from both events going to support Federal candidates. As with our Holiday Reception in Charlotte the week before, everyone enjoyed good food, good drink, and good fellowship along with lots of fun! Through this event, we raised over $8,000 towards our National ACEC/PAC goal making it not only a fun celebration but a smashing success!
BUSINESS RESOURCES AND EDUCATION

In 2018 we launched initiatives to help you adapt to a rapidly evolving business environment:

- **Private Markets** – The first Private Industry Brief was rolled out profiling the dynamic Commercial & Residential Real Estate market, followed by a series of three issue Briefs on Energy & Utilities; Intermodal and Logistics; and Healthcare, Science + Technology. In 2019 Engineering Inc. will regularly spotlight private industry markets.

- **Business Education for Project Managers and Emerging Leaders** – We launched Laying the Foundation for Superior Project Managers, a nine-module, interactive online course for up-and-coming project managers. Graduated 24 participants from the successful Pathways to Executive Leadership class for emerging firm leaders.

- **Coalitions** – We formed a Geoprofessionals Coalition to build a base of understanding around their unique business needs in risk management, new technologies, and best practices in project management.

- **Contract Documents** – Our Engineering Joint Contract Documents Committee released the 2018 Construction (C-Series) Documents, representing significant revisions and expansion of the 2013 C-Series, including 25 new state-of-the-art contract documents.

MEMBERSHIP & MO SERVICES

We have restructured this critical department with additional focus, resources and staffing to assist the MOs with member recruitment and retention efforts and better utilizing ACEC services available to them.

- **Membership growth** in 2018 resulted in a net gain of 155 firms and over 19,000 employees.

Exciting changes for 2019 focus on building and better communicating our value proposition for our ACEC members:

- **Recasting our award-winning weekly newsletter Last Word** as a continually updated ACEC Blog with more timely reporting on industry and ACEC news.

- **Publishing our 1st Annual Report** focused on the value of member investment in ACEC.

- **A new process to insure new and existing ACEC members** have access to a customized membership experience unique to their needs and areas of interest.

MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS

- **Spring Annual Convention and Fall Conference** welcomed 1,447 and 918 attendees respectively with highly-rated speakers and interactive programming.

- **Engineering Excellence Awards competition** was robust and culminated with record-breaking attendance of 675 participants at the Gala Event.

- **A record-breaking 193 EEA projects** are already in the process of submittal for 2019.

Again, I want to thank all of you for your continued support, without which there would be no ACEC. Here’s to a terrific 2019!

Sincerely,

Linda
ldarr@acec.org
202-682-4300

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ACEC ONLINE CLASSES

January 2019


10—**Unleashing the Power of LinkedIn Company Pages**, by Rich Friedman, Friedman & Partners. Delve into the benefits of having a robust LinkedIn firm page and learn specific tips and best practices for making your page stand out from competitors.

17—**2019 Engineering Industry Outlook—Important Trends and Market Dynamics that Will Influence the Industry in the Year to Come**, by Greg Powell, managing director, investment banking, FMI Capital Advisors, Inc. Participate in a timely discussion addressing the state of our economy, the outlook for the A/E/C market and the key factors that may heavily influence your company as we head into 2019 and beyond.

22—**Six Signs Of A Weak Or Ineffective Project Management System**, by Howard Birnberg, executive director, Association for Project Management. Identify the six signs of an ineffective project management system and learn how to counter them by incorporating continuous improvement in your operations.

23—**Risky Contract Agreements: Terms and Conditions to Watch for Before You Sign**, by Timothy Corbett, founder & president, SmartRisk. Discover the terms and conditions for your contract that will provide a better understanding of the responsibilities and limitations of the contracting parties.

24—**Creating a Great Place to Work while Achieving Financial Success**, by Rizwan Siddiqui, president and CEO, EBA Engineering, Inc. The presentation will focus on challenges faced by small business and mid-sized A/E firms with limited resources and high employee expectations due to an extremely competitive marketplace.

29—**Avoiding the Glaze and the Yawns - Proposals and Presentations that Close the Deal**, by Jim Creedon, President, Creedon Management Associates. Develop stronger and more interesting proposals and presentations.

31—**Emerging Technologies for Engineers**, by Paul Doherty, president & CEO, the digt group, inc. Explore the tech forces that are driving change and examine real-world examples and case studies on projects, tools, and suggested next steps.

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Contact ACEC/NC: 919-781-7934 or info@acecnc.org
ACEC/NC TO SPEARHEAD EFFORT TO CORRECT ONEROUS INDEMNIFICATION/DUTY TO DEFEND CONTRACT LANGUAGE

ACEC/NC member firms in North Carolina employ over 9,300 residents as engineers, architects, surveyors, and landscape architects, many of these firms being small, local businesses.

Indemnity clauses in Design Professional contracts used by some government entities and private developers place unreasonable liability on member firms, undermining traditional notions of liability based on fault, and creating contractual liability in the absence of any wrong-doing. To make matters worse, professional liability insurance policies available on the market do not provide coverage for these indemnities. In short, indemnification and duty to defend clauses are often uninsurable, exposing a design firm to unreasonable cost.

Design professionals are willing to indemnify owners for damage caused by their own negligence, but that obligation should not extend to claims arising out of the negligence of the owner, the construction contractor, or other third parties. ACEC/NC is proposing legislation that would apportion liability and the cost of defense solely on the Design professionals proportional share of the fault. This will protect our member firms from inequitable and uninsurable liability, while making sure the public and private entities are protected by insurance-backed indemnities.

Watch for further news and developments as we prepare this important legislation for introduction in this year’s NCGA long session!

THE ACEC/NC BOARD has welcomed the following new members:

Carolinas Geotechnical Group, PLLC
www.carolinasgeotech.com
Charlotte

Delta Oaks Group
www.deltaoaksgroup.com
Raleigh

Percheron Survey NC PLLC
www.percheronllc.com
Charlotte

Soil & Environmental Consultants, PA
sandec.com
Raleigh

Thompson Engineering Inc.
www.thompsonengineering.com
Raleigh

Traffic Planning and Design, Inc.
www.trafficpd.com
Asheville

Visible Value
visiblevalue.net
Cary

Committees and Forums 2018-2019

ACEC/NC Committees and Forums are one of the most important benefits to our members. Each group has a Board nominated Chair and Vice-Chair who are selected each year from the active participants. Your entire staff can be involved. Following are the Committees’ and Forums’ Board Liaisons:

Click the Committee or Forum name to go to the Descriptions our website:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMITTEE/FORUM</th>
<th>BOARD LIASION</th>
<th>CHAIR</th>
<th>VICE CHAIR</th>
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<tr>
<td>Buildings &amp; Infrastructure</td>
<td>Brian Glidewell</td>
<td>Eddie Brock</td>
<td>Eric Olsen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business Practices</td>
<td>Mike Slusher</td>
<td>Greg Sallee</td>
<td>Justine D’Andrea</td>
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<td>Environmental &amp; Energy</td>
<td>Amit Sachan</td>
<td>Joe Starr (ACEC/NC Co-Chair)</td>
<td>Tom Bach (PENC Co-Chair)</td>
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<td>Future Leaders Program</td>
<td>Derek Clyburn</td>
<td>Jessica McClure</td>
<td>Steve Browde</td>
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<td>Legislative Committee</td>
<td>Scott Hinesley</td>
<td>Jeremy Potter</td>
<td>Jay Barr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Leaders Forum</td>
<td>Monty Irvin</td>
<td>Valoree Eikinas</td>
<td>Keith Skinker (Design)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>Liz Phipps</td>
<td>Jason Peterson</td>
<td>Robert Walker (CEI)</td>
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PFAS and Other Emerging Contaminants Conference

April 23, 2019 - April 24, 2019

The American Council of Engineering Companies of North Carolina (ACEC/NC) and Groundwater Professionals of North Carolina (GWPNC) invites you to attend the inaugural PFAS and Other Emerging Contaminants Conference, from Tuesday, April 23 through Wednesday, April 24th at the Marriott City Center in downtown Raleigh.

This will be a seminar style conference, and is structured to be a “practitioners guide to emerging contaminants”. Our target audience includes geologists, environmental scientists, and engineers in the industry of environmental assessment and remediation; and is appropriate for regulators,

Marriott Raleigh City Center
500 Fayetteville Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

Special Group Hotel Rate: $117.00
Start Date: 4/23/19
End Date: 4/24/19

Last Day to Book: 3/25/19

Event Contact Information:
Send an Email

Event Fees/Admission:
Consulting Congress Day (Before 2/1/19)
Standard Registration: $350.00
Government Registration: $130.00
Student Registration: $50.00
(Limited number available)

After 2/1/19
Standard Registration: $400.00
Government Registration: $150.00
Student Registration: $75.00
(Limited number available)

GroundwaterProfessionalsNC@gmail.com

Contact ACEC/NC: 919-781-7934 or info@acecnc.org
Members in the News

**Stantec@Stantec**
Nov 19

**James Purkis**, a recognized global leader in transit has joined Stantec to head our Transit Practice. James has worked in 15 different countries around the world, and we’re proud to say he’s chosen Stantec as his next home. See the full release here: ow.ly/dVw630mFG4g

**WK Dickson & Co, Inc@wkdickson**
11/19/2018

A warm welcome to our recent hires...we’re glad you’ve joined WK Dickson. #growth

**Freese and Nichols@FreeseNichols**
20-Nov-18

Congratulations to our 12 newly licensed #professional #engineers in #Texas and #NorthCarolina! Learn about the many ways we assist our employees in obtaining their professional licenses. #JoinFNI bit.ly/2BhDAUX

**NCDOT Triangle Area@NCDOT_Triangle**
11/20/2018

Two NCDOT maintenance workers in Wilson County stopped and saved a driver who had suffered a heart attack and crashed. Read this story and more in the November newsletter for Edgecombe, Halifax, Johnston, Nash, Wayne and Wilson counties: conta.cc/2QMB6TD

**Cardno@Cardno**
11/26/18

Cardno congratulates **Greg Quartucci**, Senior Consultant, for being named a Principal as part of our 2018 Technical Excellence Program. #cardno

**DRMP, Inc.@DRMPInc**
11/20/2018

Congratulations to **Chuck Smith, III**, PWS who was promoted to Transportation Environmental Manager. bit.ly/2zdxi7b

**Gannett Fleming@GannettFleming**
Dec 6

We’re welcoming **Susan Taylor** to our #Raleigh, #NorthCarolina, team as #GannettFleming’s #Southeast Region business development & marketing manager! Click to learn more about our work in NC. ow.ly/NnpW30mTv50

**Colejenest & Stone**
Dec ’18

Congratulations to our **Leah-Craig Perkins** for passing her #PE exam! Cheers!

**Vandeventer Black LLP**
Dec ‘18

We would like to welcome #attorney **Vania Ratliff** to the #VanBlackLaw team! She will work from our Norfolk office to practice in the firm’s #litigation group. Learn more about Vania here: http://ow.ly/iOuo30mEdOn

**PARSONS@ParsonsCorp**
Jan 2

We’re proud to announce that our own **Brian Pourciau** has been named by @ENR_MA as a Top Young Professional for 2019. Read more: bit.ly/2SDioPy.

**Cardno**
Dec ’18

Cardno congratulates National Environmental Policy Act Compliance and Management expert **Dana Banwart** for being named a Principal as part of our 2018 Technical Excellence Program. Dana supports our clients from our Hamp USA office. Connect with Dana: https://lnkd.in/ds_Cegi...
We’re so excited for 2019, but first, we wanted to share some exciting news from 2018. Our very own, Chase Smith and Mary Lee, passed the PE Exam! #Congrats #Proud #Celebrate

See a familiar face on Construction Productivity’s “40 Under 40: Construction Champions of 2018” list? Congratulations Leonard (Lenny) Coleman, P.E., CCM, LEED AP on your nomination and award!

We are pleased to announce that Bryan Odom, PE, our practice leader for water and wastewater services since 2008, will now serve as the director of all the firm’s water resources practices. #promotions

Congratulations to CPL’s Richard Waite on his appointment to the @USGBC LEED Committee Sustainable Sites Technical Advisory Group, where he will provide technical advice to LEED committees/working groups. We’re proud to honor our experts who serve in nationally significant roles!
ACEC National Developing New Strategic Plan

We wanted to give you a heads-up that in the next few months you may be receiving a survey or surveys from ACEC as the precursor to a new national Strategic Plan.

The ACEC Executive Committee, along with new President and CEO Linda Bauer Darr, have challenged a new Strategic Planning Committee to take a top-to-bottom look at ACEC to set a new Vision and Mission for the future.

To that end, the rank-and-file members will be asked to participate and provide input.

While we don’t yet know the “depth & breadth” of who will be surveyed, if you see something come into your In-Box, please respond. Your response will be invaluable and help set the direction of ACEC for years to come.

###

FREESE AND NICHOLS EXPANDS CHARLOTTE OFFICE AND WATER/WASTEWATER SERVICES

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Jan. 17, 2019 – Freese and Nichols, Inc., continues its North Carolina growth with the hiring of John Fishburne, PE, a former top engineer for the City of Charlotte. With his long experience and knowledge of the region, Fishburne is well-placed to assist clients with all of their water and wastewater needs.

Fishburne spent 13 years with Charlotte Water. After four years as a pipeline rehabilitation and replacement project manager, he spent almost a decade as the principal engineering, construction and analytical resource on the leadership team for the Field Operations Division, a 250-person department responsible for an 8,000-mile drinking water distribution and wastewater collection system. He handled high-priority field operations, worked with infrastructure owners, other City departments and environmental regulators, and led the Critical Asset Team overseeing high-priority and vulnerable collection and distribution system pipeline assets.

###

FREESE AND NICHOLS HIRES DAN MCKENZIE AS ENERGY PRACTICE LEADER

DALLAS – Jan. 22, 2019 – Freese and Nichols, Inc., has bolstered the growth of its energy services by adding Oil & Gas Group Manager and Practice Leader Dan McKenzie, PE, a veteran of the oil and gas industry who has led a variety of multimillion-dollar projects.

McKenzie has spent almost four decades developing broad and deep experience in gas processing, treating, gathering, compression design, construction, operation and optimization. He most recently was a regional engineering manager for a large firm engaged in gas gathering, treating, processing and distribution and in crude oil, natural gas and natural gas liquid (NGL) transportation.

“Dan’s experience on the owner side of the industry will give us additional insights into clients’ needs so we can have an even better understanding of how to help them achieve their goals,” said Freese and Nichols Division Manager Kevin Johnson, who had been leading the practice.

###