Executive Director’s Report

As I write this, in less than two weeks, voters will go to the polls and cast their ballots in the 2018 mid-term election. Traditionally, turn-out for mid-terms is light but in the current politically charged atmosphere, turn-out is expected to be heavier than usual. With many pundits forecasting a takeover of the US House of Representatives by Democrats, what will happen in Washington? And will Democrats break the super majority Republicans hold in the North Carolina State House and Senate? Only voter turn-out and what might happen between now and election day on the world stage could foretell. At the recent Buildings & Infrastructure Symposium, noted political commentator John Davis presented his analysis titled “Two Waves and a Seawall” predicting that due to the positive economic climate, the gerrymandered districts, and the bitterness exhibited by so many voters, not much in North Carolina will change.

Meanwhile, your ACEC/NC (State) PAC has been busy holding receptions for key legislators who helped pass the “Build NC Bond Act” and contributing to pro-business candidates that have supported our issues both here and in Washington through our national ACEC/PAC. Only though your generous contributions to these PACs can we help re-elect legislators who support the business of engineering. We have had much success in our advocacy efforts over the past five years and we fully anticipate that to continue. Watch for news in early 2019 about our initiative to eliminate onerous Indemnification/Duty to Defend clauses in professional service contracts, and thank you again for your support of our advocacy efforts!

It is an honor and privilege to serve the members of ACEC/NC,

James A. Smith, P.E.
Executive Director, ACEC/NC
Dear Colleagues –

For the second month in a row, our thoughts go out to our members impacted by disasters. Following Hurricane Lane, which struck the Hawaiian Islands in August, Florence devastated the Carolinas with severe flooding this month and causing at least 47 deaths across multiple states. A series of gas fires and explosions broke out in the Merrimack Valley region of Massachusetts costing one life and causing significant property destruction. As I wrote last month, engineers – our members – play a role that is both vital and inspiring in designing infrastructure that is resilient to these kinds of events. ACEC’s mission is to promote a business climate that best supports engineers as they go about this important work. To that end, I have had the pleasure of meeting with many of you at the first two of four “listening sessions” at central locations around the country. This is giving me the opportunity to hear first-hand from you on how we can work together to accomplish our common goals for the benefit of our members. I look forward to the next two sessions, in Denver on October 4 and in Napa on October 11; volunteer leadership of the MOs and executive directors are invited and encouraged to attend. If you have not already signed up for one of these two remaining sessions, please RSVP to Melissa Thompson and Sully Sullivan. And later in October, we’ve got a great Fall Conference at the world-renowned Bellagio in Las Vegas. See you all there!

Linda

PRESIDENT’S MONTHLY UPDATE
October 1, 2018

Government Advocacy

• Secured an expanded of QBS requirements on federally funded airport projects in the final FAA reauthorization bill; the legislation also features a new $1 billion annual airport infrastructure grant program and provisions to authorize more risk-based permitting for unmanned aircraft systems.

• The House and Senate have agreed on a new version of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), authorizing new Corps of Engineers water projects and increasing investments in drinking water infrastructure.

• ACEC engaged with ACEC/California to circulate information to the broader membership about the effort to defeat a November ballot initiative to repeal the state gas tax increase, which would remove $5.4 billion annually for road and bridge improvements.

• ACEC Chair Manish Kothari led the ACEC delegation to the 2018 FIDIC International Infrastructure Conference held in Berlin; major topics were FIDIC’s leadership transition and goals of greater use of member association expertise; strengthening FIDIC staff; and improvement of its annual conferences.

• ACEC national staff made presentations at emerging leaders’ programs in Michigan and Kansas, an ACEC/Maine event to support ACEC/PAC, and at the SEI Class 18 reunion in Portland, Maine.

• Submitted comments in support of the Treasury Department’s proposed rule to implement the Section 199A 20 percent passthrough tax deduction, which is available to engineering firms organized as S corporations, partnerships, LLCs, and sole proprietorships.

• Joined a coalition of business allies in supporting legislation that would make the new passthrough tax deduction permanent.

• House and Senate leaders included language in a major spending bill to prohibit the Administration from moving forward with a proposed transfer of a significant portion of the Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works program to the Departments of Transportation and Interior.

• The House passed legislation that would amend the Affordable Care Act to change the definition of full-time employee from those who work 30 hours per week to employees working 40 hours per week; the measure would also repeal penalties that apply to employers with more than 50 employees that do not offer qualified health insurance, and delays the so-called ‘Cadillac tax’ on high-cost health plans until 2023.

• ACEC/Illinois and ACEC/Kentucky achieved their ACEC/PAC goals, bringing the number of MOs at goal to 14 so far this year.
Reports & Updates

In October, ACECNC/PAC hosted a reception for @JohnTorbett for his support of transportation/infrastructure funding. Well done! @ACEC_National @ACEC_NC #infrastructure #Funding #ncga #pac

And also hosted a reception honoring Senators Bill Rabon and Kathy Harrington for their support of transportation/infrastructure funding. Sen. Phil Berger, president Pro-Tem NC Senate also attended. @ACEC_National @ACEC_NC #infrastructure#funding

ACEC/NC supports Rep. Dean Arp at his reception in Monroe, NC on 10/18/18. Pictured is ACEC/NC Vice President Scott Hinesley with Rep. Arp.
December 4
5:30PM - 7:30 PM
Charlotte Holiday Member Reception
Complimentary for ACEC/NC Members but please register by November 23 so we have an accurate headcount.

December 11
11:30AM-1:30PM
Legislative Committee
Complimentary for ACEC/NC Members but please register so we have a headcount.

December 13
6:00PM-10:00PM
Holiday Reception & Auction
Complimentary for ACEC/NC Members but please register so we have a headcount.

December 19-20
ACEC/NC NCDOT Joint Transportation Conference

--- 2019 ---

January 17
11:30a
Environmental

ACEC President's Monthly Update Continued from Page.2... From the ACEC.ORG QBS RESOURCE CENTER website...

QBS PROTECTS THE PUBLIC WELFARE. Most individuals would not select medical or legal services based solely on cost — these highly skilled services are too important to leave to the lowest bid. Likewise, engineering is a highly skilled service that should not be selected on basis of the firm offering the cheapest price. Engineers design the highways and bridges we drive on, our water treatment systems, and all other infrastructure and systems upon which we rely. The design services provided by engineering firms directly affect the health, safety and welfare of the public, and it is important that only the most qualified and experienced firms be tasked with this critical function.

QBS BENEFITS SMALL FIRMS. QBS helps small firms compete by providing a forum to demonstrate their unique capabilities that often include a greater degree of niche market expertise, knowledge of local regulations and business practices, and greater involvement of senior level management in the execution of a project.

QBS PROMOTES TECHNICAL INNOVATION. Using QBS, owners have the opportunity to fully define the project scope during the selection process. This process fosters innovative, cost-saving and timesaving approaches to problems, ensuring that the final project meets or exceeds the functional and performance goals set by the owner.

• ACEC/PAC hosted congressional fundraising events for U.S. Senator Tom Carper (D-DE) and U.S. Representatives Cheri Bustos (D-IL), Jim Clyburn (D-SC), Mike Gallagher (R-WI), Mike Kelly (R-PA), Peter Visclosky (D-IN), Don Young (R-AK), and Kevin Yoder (R-KS); there were also 29 ACEC/PAC check presentations to Members of Congress made in the state by 10 different MOs.

• The ACEC/PAC leadership also approved General Election support for five congressional candidates: Katie Arrington (R) in SC 1, Michael Guest (R) in MS-3, Greg McCauley (R) in PA-6, Mike Miller (R) in FL-7, and U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS) who was appointed to a vacancy and is running to serve the remainder of the term for retired Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS).

Business Resources
• With more than 80 registered sites, September’s most popular online class, The Nitty-Gritty on the New Pass-Through Deduction, walked member firms through the requirements for claiming the new tax benefit, including discussion of what qualifies as eligible business income, rules on reasonable compensation for owners, anti-abuse safeguards, and aggregation rules for firms with multiple legal entities.

• ACEC’s Human Resources, Finance, and Information Technology Forums met in Minneapolis, where more than 250 members participated in two days of peer-to-peer information sharing, problem-solving, and networking.

• Laying the Foundation for Superior Project Managers: Practices, Principles, and Fundamentals, an interactive live/or online eight-week program on effective project management, kicked off with 41 registrants.
HEADLINE LINKS from ACEC

>> Senate Passes FAA Reauthorization with Expanded QBS; President Expected to Sign Bill into Law

>> Twenty-Eight Member Organizations Participate in ACEC Listening Tour

>> ACEC Chair Kothari Participates in NAFTA Update; Supports Opening of International Markets for Engineering Services

>> ACEC Supports Proposed Passthrough Tax Deduction Rule

Welcome our Newest Council Members

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

Cole Jenest & Stone, P.A.
www.colejeneststone.com
Charlotte

Green Engineering, P.L.L.C.
www.greeneng.com
Wilson

Delta Oaks Group
www.deltaoaksgroup.com
Raleigh

Henson Foley
www.hensonfoley.com
Huntersville

Percheron Survey NC PLLC
www.percheronllc.com
Charlotte

Soil & Environmental Consultants, PA
sandeccom
Raleigh

- ACEC’s new Private Industry Briefs will focus on the dynamic energy and utilities market for its third issue (October/November 2018); the brief includes details on top clients, significant market trends, and relevant current legislation and policy.


- October webinars will include: Simple Incentive Compensation That Works; ONE Solution to the 23 Most Common Engineering Firm Challenges; Preventing and Responding to Sexually Harassing Conduct; Repositioning in an Era of Accelerating Change; How to find “Success” in Ownership Transition; Addressing New Technological Threats/Opportunities for the Practice of Engineering; M&A in Engineering: Threats, Opportunities and Strategies; The Consulting Engineer’s Guide: 60 Tips in 60 Minutes; Transitioning Project Managers to Firm Leaders; Your Marketing Toolbox 2020; Optimizing Your Firm’s Website for Maximum Impact; How to Maximize Profits Using the R&D Tax Credit.

ACEC CEO BAUER DARR MAPS OUT ROAD AHEAD FOR COUNCIL

After three months in office and in the wake of a listening tour of the State Organizations, ACEC President/CEO Linda Bauer Darr laid out her vision for the Council to the Board of Directors. Her vision is to:

“Work with and through our extensive network of grassroots member organizations to communicate and grow the ACEC value proposition for our members, and build strength and prominence for ACEC and the business of engineering locally, in Washington, DC, and on the national stage.”

Over the next 12 months, the Council will update its strategic plan. “To support that effort,” Darr said, “we will survey our members to assess where we are in terms of providing value and to get a sense of their priorities.”

Darr will reallocate resources within the national organization, creating a new Membership and Member Organization Services Department “to strengthen our relationship with the MOs and to ensure that they are well-resourced to grow.” Darr will move part of the existing team into the newly formed department to focus on enhanced member communications and to build greater awareness of the ACEC value proposition.

Darr plans to “build out the ACEC Research and Management Foundation to support our public policy agenda...and to create a new position focused on strategic communications to create a compelling narrative about our industry and to target opportunities to engage with the media, extend our influence, and build prominence for engineering and ACEC.”

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 on our website:

- COMMITTEE/FORUM
  - Buildings & Infrastructure
  - Business Practices
  - Environmental & Energy
  - Future Leaders Program
  - Legislative Committee
  - Senior Leaders Forum
  - Transportation

ACEC PRESIDENT/CEO LINDA BAUER DARR ADDRESSES THE MORE THAN 900 COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING THE 2018 ACEC FALL CONFERENCE IN LAS VEGAS.

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

December 4, 2018
5:30-7:30pm
THE OLDE MECKLENBURG BREWERY
Grosse Festhalle
4150 Yancey Rd,
Charlotte NC 28217

ACEC/NC Charlotte Member Reception

This event is for Charlotte-area members and a guest. There is no charge to attend.

Please RSVP by November 23rd so we have an accurate headcount.

ACEC/NC Holiday Reception and ACEC/PAC Auction

December 13, 2018
6:00PM TO 9:30PM
THE GLENWOOD
3300 WOMAN’S CLUB DR
RALEIGH, NC

Join us for games, silent auction, food and drinks!

Please RSVP by December 7th

Click to download our 2019 Future Leaders Nomination Form - Deadline for nominations is December 7, 2018.

December 25
ACEC/NC Office Closed

January 1, 2019
ACEC/NC Office Closed

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

JUSTINE D’ANDREA @jjenkins627

@Giving back to our profession is so important and something we believe in @RameyKemp. Yesterday Greg Salle with @McAdamsCo and myself received the incredible honor of the 2017/2018 Outstanding Committee Chair Award from @ACEC_NC! Thanks @ACEC_NC and @MontellIrvin for this award!!

James A. Smith, Jr.@JSmithacecncoct 1

Congratulations to TBJ 2018 “Fast Fifty” Award winners @ACEC_NC Member Firms: Calyx (an NV5 Company), Kimley-Horn, McAdams, SEPI, Summit Design. Well Done!

Kleinfelder@KleinfelderHQ

OCT 2

We are very proud to announce that Mark Koegel, an assistant project manager and task lead for Kleinfelder’s Raleigh, NC engineering design team, was awarded 2018 Engineer of the Year by the North Carolina Section of ASCE! goo.gl/myviJc #award #ASCE

Calyx, an NV5 Company@CALYXengineers

NOV 6

Honored to have our President, @Jillwellsheath, receive CALYX’s #TBJFast50 Award tonight! We can’t wait to see how we continue to grow! @TriangleBIZjrnl

@ Sreekanth Nandagiri, P.E., PMP

READY FOR NC STATE FAIR? TRINITY PEDESTRIAN TUNNEL IS READY!

Trinity Pedestrian Tunnel (connecting NC State Fairgrounds with the NC State Football Stadium, Raleigh, NC) was open on September 29, 2018. Wolfpack fans loved it for the last two home games! AECOM worked closely with NCDOT, NC Agriculture Department, NCSU, City of Raleigh and other stakeholders on this important project. AECOM is proud to complete this “turnkey” project for NCDOT by completing planning, design, and construction support on this fast-track project! Check out CBS 17 video on the opening day at: https://youtu.be/IT6PF_MOmEU

Gannett Fleming@GannettFleming

Oct 11

We’re welcoming Jeff Thatcher to our #NorthCarolina team! W/ 20+ years of experience, he’ll focus on the #Durham-Orange Light #Rail #Transit project for @GoTriangle. Get to know Jeff! ow.ly/iCid30mc2wO @NCDOT @ACEC_NC #GannettFleming #JoinOurJourney #constructionmanagement

JEFF THATCHER, PE, CCM

Senior Construction Manager
Engineering North Carolina’s Future.

On Thursday November 8th, ACEC/NC Members and their guests came together at 214 Martin in downtown Raleigh for the annual Engineering Excellence Awards Dinner. The foyer hall was lined with boards displaying the winning projects representing North Carolina Firms at work all over the country. Fourteen projects placed in this year’s competition. Raleigh-based S&ME received the “Henry A. Stikes Grand Conceptor Award.” This top honor was given for their project, “Surcharge Program and NOVO NORDISK DAPI Project” which is the largest life science facilities investment in North Carolina.

S&ME recognized an opportunity to value-engineer a surcharge program that resulted in elimination of 4,600 piles, saving the project over $10 million in construction costs, while beating schedule and settlement requirements.

Four firms were awarded the competition’s second-highest honor.

The recipients of these “Grand Awards” were:

- AECOM Raleigh, “Trinity Road Pedestrian Tunnel”
- WK Dickson, Charlotte, “Butterfly Branch restoration and Linear Park”
- Michael Baker International, Cary “Gallants Channel Bridge”
- McKim & Creed, Inc. Wilmington “Melinda K. Knoerzer Adaptive Ecosystem Reclamation Facility”

Honors Award recipients are:

- WithersRavenel for Crabtree Creek Greenway – Cary, NC
- Dewberry Engineers, for NC Global TransPark Strategic Plan – Kinston, NC
- WSP for Salem Creek Connector, Winston-Salem, NC
- Schnabel Engineering for Hope Mills Lake Dam Hope Mills, NC
- The Wooten Company for Pennington Park Baseball Field – Lumberton, NC
- North State Engineering for Brunswick Town – Fort Anderson Shoreline Stabilization, Brunswick County, NC
- Freese and Nichols, Inc. for Town of Chapel Hill Bond and Program Management, Chapel Hill, NC
- STV for CATS LYNX Blue Line Extension, Charlotte, NC
- Kimley Horn for NC State University Harrelson Hall Demolition in Raleigh, NC

The “People’s Choice Award” recipient was given to STV, Charlotte for their “CATS LYNX Blue Line Extension.”

Those in attendance at the dinner were asked to vote for the project that was the most impressive and the most deserving of recognition. ACEC/NC annually presents the “Engineering Excellence Awards” to honor and recognize engineering firms located in North Carolina for projects which demonstrate the highest degree of achievement, value and ingenuity.

Congratulations to all of our 2019 winners!
MeaAcham Reminds Fall Conference Audience that American Politics Has Been Here Before

October 28-31, 2018 Las Vegas, NV

Presidential historian and author Jon Meacham told Fall Conference attendees that despite the nation’s despair about the current political climate, nothing that is happening today is new.

“There’s no way we can say ‘things have never been worse politically,’” he said. “If we don’t acknowledge and learn from our history, we’re doomed to make the same mistakes over and over again.”

Meacham recounted that in the late 1700s, President John Adams coined the phrase “fake news,” and in the early 1900s the influx of Asian immigrants gave rise to a fervent nationalist movement.

He said America will always contain 50 percent of the citizens who like what’s going on and 50 percent of the citizens who don’t. “It doesn’t mean we’re going off the cliff, it’s called a democracy.

“Closing our minds strictly because of affiliation makes it difficult to discover those things that we may actually agree on.”

Save the Date - 2019 Fall Conference

The ACEC Fall Conference occurs every fall across the United States, Caribbean and Canada. This year over 1000 attendees, including a contingent of NC leadership, attended educational sessions, networking events, and ACEC/PAC fundraising events in Las Vegas, Nevada.