



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

Last Word

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NAMED BEST WEEKLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER BY ASSOCIATION TRENDS

INDUSTRY NEWS

A Beautiful Tomorrow for Structural Engineering?

Playing the Global Infrastructure Boom

Hotel Chains Grapple With Meaning of Green

Shopping Centers Begin to Feel Ripples of Housing's Ills

Computing and Information Technology Research in Civil Engineering—Self-fulfilling or Industry Transforming?

States Moving to Back Green Infrastructure in Stormwater Permits

[Click here](#) for more News Briefs.

[Click here](#) for a printer-friendly version of *Last Word*.

Put Combined Clout Of ACEC's Job Board And *Engineering Inc.* To Use

Ready to hire new employees, but don't know where to start? Challenged with retaining key staff? ACEC's Job Board and *Engineering Inc.* can help.

The November/December issue of *Engineering Inc.* will explore different aspects of recruitment and retention in the engineering industry. It's a "can't-miss" issue for you!

This issue is an excellent opportunity to highlight your firm in both *Engineering Inc.* and on the ACEC Job Board. Any firm that places an ad in the magazine will receive a 10 percent discount on their print ad, and a special promo code to receive a 25 percent discount on Job Board postings. Don't miss this double savings!

The deadline is approaching, so reserve your ad space **before September 27**.

The [ACEC Job Board](#), your source for new

Missouri Rep. To Introduce Landmark Bill For Engineering Students

Responding to the growing shortage of engineers, Congressman Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO) plans to introduce "GI Bill style" legislation as an incentive for young people entering the engineering profession.

The bill will create new scholarships and loan forgiveness for engineering students who are working toward their P.E. license.

The Congressman has developed this legislation in consultation with ACEC.

"My district is home to some of our nation's largest engineering firms. I have heard from them first hand about the desperate need to fill hundreds of vacancies with qualified engineers. Recent infrastructure catastrophes have brought home what we all already knew; engineers play a vital role in keeping us all safe," said Congressman Cleaver. "America's young minds are the future. This legislation will help support engineering students as they complete an education for an industry that will always be in demand. This is an investment that will benefit our country for decades."

According to the National Science Foundation, the number of people earning bachelor's degrees in engineering has declined dramatically since the early 1980s. In addition, over one-quarter of the science and engineering workforce is older than 50 and expected to retire in the next 15 years.

Former ACEC Chairman Ed Mulcahy, who worked closely with the Congressman's staff in developing the legislation said: "Congressman Cleaver is taking a critical leadership role in addressing a serious problem that hurts both the industry and the nation's economy. The entire industry needs to rally behind him when this important legislation is introduced."

For more information, contact Katharine Mottley, ACEC's Director of Tax and Regulatory Affairs at 202-347-7474 or kmottley@acec.org.



Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO)
"an investment that will benefit our country for decades."



Alaska ACEC/PAC
Champion Floyd Damron

Alaska, Wyoming Score For ACEC/PAC

ACEC/Alaska and ACEC/Wyoming reached their 2007 ACEC/PAC fundraising goals this week.

They become the 8th and 9th Member Organizations to reach their 2007 goals, joining Arizona, Kentucky, Montana, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Kansas and South Carolina. A number of other states are making strong runs to meet the year-end deadline.

"Ensuring that we have a strong political voice in Washington is particularly critical right now," said

employees. For more information, please contact Nina Goldman at 202-682-4325 or write ngoldman@acec.org.

JOB BOARD

Over 600 Searchable
Jobs Posted

Over 3,300 Searchable
Resumes Posted

Nearly 1,500 Registered
Employers

Last Five "Help Wanted"

Open Positions:

Senior Structural Engineer—Tucson, AZ

Civil Engineer—Pittsburgh, PA

Project Manager—San Francisco, CA

Structural Design Engineer—
New York, NY

Structural Engineer—Duluth, MN

A Sampling of Posted Resumes:

Geotechnical Engineers—**396**

Water Resources/Wastewater Engineers—**796**

Transportation—**459**

Civil Engineers—**1,778**

Structural Engineers—**654**

Environmental Engineers—**477**

**View These Resumes and Jobs
on ACEC's Job Board**

<http://www.acec.org/jobbank>

PUBLICATIONS

Motivational Strategies From The ACEC Bookstore



**Motivational Management:
Inspiring Your People for
Maximum Performance**

Alexander Hiam

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Alaska ACEC/PAC Champion Floyd Damron of CH2M HILL, who has spearheaded successful fundraising drives in the state every year since goals were first established. "We won't win on the legislative front if we don't have an equally aggressive political program, and that's why continued support for ACEC/PAC is so important to our Alaska members."



ACEC/PAC Champion
Roger Jacobson

ACEC/PAC Champion Roger Jacobson of Engineering Associates in Wyoming added: "Giving to ACEC/PAC is essential to protecting the future of the industry at the national level. This should be a priority for every firm principal."

ACEC/PAC trustees representing each Member Organization have set a national fundraising goal of \$700,000 for 2007. Each state has been assigned a specific fundraising target based on membership strength.

[Click here](#) to see the progress of each state in achieving its ACEC/PAC goal for 2007 and the name of the PAC Champion leading the state fundraising drive. For more information about ACEC/PAC, contact Steve Hall, ACEC's Vice President of Government Affairs, at 202-347-7474 or shall@acec.org.

New Technologies Will Enhance Bridge Safety, Says ACEC Witness At House Hearing

ACEC testified at a House hearing this week on the safety of critical infrastructure, emphasizing the role of emerging technologies to enhance bridge safety nationwide.

Chaired by Congressman Bart Gordon (D-TN), the Committee on Science and Technology examined current research and new technologies to improve the safety of the nation's bridges following the recent collapse of the I-35 bridge in Minnesota.

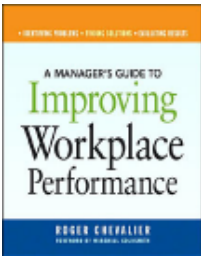
"In my home state of Tennessee, 37 bridges were found to be deficient by a Road Improvement Survey in 2005," said Congressman Gordon. "My colleagues on the Committee could all share similar statistics. Clearly, the disaster that struck Minnesota could have happened anywhere. This is a wakeup call that we need to be doing more to strengthen and secure our bridges now and for the long term."

Mark Bernhardt, director of Facility Inspection with ACEC-member firm Burgess & Niple in Ohio, delivered testimony on behalf of the Council. He was joined by witnesses from the Federal Highways Administration, AASHTO, and the academic sector.

Bernhardt briefed the panel on current inspection techniques and technologies. He also discussed the value of Structure Health Monitoring, a technology that utilizes instrumentation such as strain gauges, fiber optics, cam-



Mark Bernhardt (center) of Burgess and Niple, and ACEC Government Affairs Vice President Steve Hall (right) greet Congressman David Wu (D-OR), chairman of the House Committee on Science and Technology's Technical and Innovation Subcommittee, prior to a hearing this week on the safety of critical infrastructure. Bernhardt testified before the full committee on behalf of ACEC on current and future bridge inspection technology.



A Manager's Guide to Improving Workplace Performance

Roger Chevalier

[Click here](#) to order.

Visit the ACEC Online Bookstore to find several publications to help motivate employees and managers alike. Go to www.acec.org/publications today!

EDUCATION

Strategic Business Plans And Pandemic Flu Lead October Seminar Slate

October 2: *Developing and Implementing Winning Strategic Business Plans for the 5-200 Employee A/E/C Firm*—Clare Ross, The Clare Ross Organization, offers new insights and time-tested ideas and principles to jumpstart development and successful implementation of innovative business strategies for your firm.

*Special two-hour session, 1:30-3:30pm.

[Click here](#) to register.

October 3: *Pandemic Flu*—Dr. Daniel Barnett, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health advises firms on the *why* and *how* of implementing “effective preparedness plans” to continuously monitor all business activities, and effect rapid adjustments to changing circumstances. 1:30-3pm.

[Click here](#) to register.

50 Legal Concepts Simplifies Legal Issues For Non-Lawyers

Fifty Legal Concepts That Every Engineer Should Know

San Francisco, Nov. 5-6

ACEC presents an invaluable one-and-a-half day course for engineers on design and construction law.

Presented by consultants Michael Loulakis, of Capital Project Strategies, LLC, and J. Kent Holland, Jr., Construction Risk, LLC, *Fifty Le-*

eras, and corrosion sensors that provide decision makers more reliable, real-time information to monitor and respond to problems with bridge structures. “The structural condition data, combined with operational “risk-based” factors such as traffic counts, can be used to determine optimum prioritization of bridge repairs,” he said.

[Click here](#) for a copy of Bernhardt's complete testimony.

House Endorses QBS In FAA Funding Bill

The House of Representatives cleared a four-year, \$67.8 billion Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization bill this week that includes ACEC-supported language encouraging greater use of Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) for airport construction projects.

The FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007 (HR 2881) increases aviation fuel taxes to support additional airports projects nationwide, and endorses the use of QBS for projects funded through Passenger Facility Charges (PFCs).

Current law requires the use of QBS for projects funded through the Airport and Airways Trust Fund, which is supported through aviation fuel tax revenue. However, there is no current federal guidance on the use of QBS for projects funded through PFC revenue.

The report that accompanies HR 2881 notes that QBS “fosters creative, cost-saving, and time-saving approaches” for airport projects. “The Committee encourages the use of the QBS process for PFC-funded projects with the goal of serving the needs of all affected stakeholders.”

“This is big step forward,” said ACEC Transportation Committee Chairman Charlie Geer of Kimley-Horn. “Regardless of which federal program funds the project, we want airports to use QBS when procuring engineering, and this language will help to achieve this goal.”

Overall, the measure provides \$37.2 billion to support FAA operations, \$15.8 billion for airport construction projects, and \$13 billion for facilities and equipment. It also boosts the general aviation jet fuel tax from 21.9 cents per gallon to 35.9 cents and the general aviation gas tax rate from 19.4 cents a gallon to 24.1 cents, with the additional revenues to be devoted to modernizing the air traffic control system. The bill also lifts the current cap on PFCs from \$4.50 per ticket to \$7.00, further expanding the pool of funding available to support needed airport projects.

The Senate is still in the process of considering companion legislation to HR 2881, although both houses are expected to pass legislation before the end of the month to allow airport projects to continue uninterrupted while Congress completes the reauthorization process. The current airports program—“Vision 100”—is set to expire at the end of September.



ACEC Transportation Committee Chairman Charlie Geer

gal Concepts will cover such topics as the impact of delivery systems on project management and liability, risk identification and allocation, indemnity and insurance considerations, owner obligations under contracts, and contract administration and disputes.

[Click here](#) for agenda highlights and to register.

Is Your Firm “BIM-Ready”?

Building Information Modeling (BIM): The Promise and the Reality for A/E/C Firms

Nashville, Oct. 25-26

Building Information Modeling (BIM): The Promise and the Reality for A/E/C Firms presents an overview of the present and future for BIM as a multi-dimensional project planning concept. The course was created for COOs, IT managers, project managers and company principals seeking up-to-date information on this rapidly evolving technology and its practical application.

According to ACEC's recently published *'07-08 Design & Construction Industry Trends Survey*, only 3 percent of surveyed firms nationwide are using 3-D BIM design software. This course features a faculty of experienced practitioners, software designers and clients to provide an inside look at how BIM is transforming practice and bringing about new project delivery models. Early bird registration ends Sept. 28; hotel cut-off date for ACEC room discount is Sept. 24, so register now.

[Click here](#) for agenda, details and to register. The course carries 11 PDHs.

A/E Firm Management Course Invaluable For Firm's Executive Leaders

Business of Design Consulting (BDC)

San Diego, Oct. 24-27

Early bird registration for the San Diego presentation of ACEC's *Business of Design Consulting (BDC)* course is rapidly approaching the Sept. 28 cut-off date, and so is full enrollment!

BDC is designed to meet the business practice needs for owners and managers of facilities and civil infrastructure projects, including COOs, CFOs, business executives and administrators, HR managers, principals, and project managers at all management levels.

[Click here](#) for agenda, faculty bios, and to register. The course carries 28 PDHs.

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