



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

100 Years of Excellence

Last Word

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NAMED BEST WEEKLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER BY ASSOCIATION TRENDS

INDUSTRY NEWS

U.S. DOT's TIGER Grants Target Major Transportation Projects

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood has announced the availability of \$1.5 billion in TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) Discretionary Grants for capital investment...[click here for more.](#)

U.S. DOE Allocates \$2.4 Billion for Carbon Capture/Storage Projects

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Steven Chu has announced that \$2.4 billion from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will be used to expand and accelerate the commercial deployment of carbon capture...[click here for more.](#)

House OKs \$6.4 Billion to Make Schools Greener

In a largely party-line vote, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a \$6.4 billion school modernization bill for building and remodeling of more energy-efficient school buildings. This includes substantial funding for improvements...[click here for more.](#)

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ACEC PUBLICATIONS

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Legislation Introduced To Honor ACEC For 100 Years Of Industry Service

Congressmen Heath Shuler (D-NC) and John Boozman (R-AR) have introduced legislation recognizing ACEC on its 100th anniversary.

The bipartisan resolution congratulates ACEC for its many achievements and service to the engineering industry.

The resolution (H.R. 447) notes that ACEC Member Firms have been responsible for the nation's infrastructure, energy and industrial advances.

The legislation's sponsors anticipate that the House will vote on H.R. 447 later this summer.



Rep. Heath Shuler



Rep. John Boozman

House Poised to Pass FAA Reauthorization, Which Increases Funding, Expands QBS

The House of Representatives is expected to pass ACEC-backed legislation Thursday evening to reauthorize Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) operations and funding for four years.

The bill substantially increases funding for airport improvement projects and expands the application of QBS to cover more airport projects nationwide.

The FAA Reauthorization Act (H.R. 915) extends FAA operations and programs through Fiscal Year 2012 and provides \$16.2 billion for the Airport Improvement Program, an increase of more than \$500 million annually. The bill also raises the allowable cap on passenger ticket fees from \$4.50 to \$7.00 per flight segment, potentially financing an additional \$1.1 billion annually.

An ACEC-backed provision mandates the use of QBS on local airport projects funded through passenger ticket fees. Current law only requires QBS on federal airport improvement funds.

The FAA is currently operating under a short-term extension that expires at the end of September. Senate action on the bill is expected in the coming months.

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New ACEC Website Now Accepts Advertising

Promote your firm on ACEC's new website. The newly revamped ACEC homepage now includes advertising space for you to promote your products and services.

WWW.ACEC.ORG receives 28,000 unique monthly visitors, both members and non-members, and each visit to the site averages 18 minutes. Advertising on ACEC's official website provides you with a great opportunity to build your brand, promote your firm and grow your business

[Click here](#) to view pricing and sizes, or contact Nina Goldman at ngoldman@acec.org today to reserve your space.

ACEC JOB BOARD

Enjoy 25% Savings on the ACEC Job Board

With college graduations upon us, May is the month to post your available engineering positions on the [ACEC Job Board](#).

Be one of the first 10 firms to post a job and save 25 percent on any posting package you choose. You must use the code SPRINGSAVINGS before May 31 to receive your discount.

ACEC Emphasizes Liability Protections At House Levee Safety Hearing



HDR's Leslie Harder emphasized the need for liability protections in the nation's levee system program in testimony this week before the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

ACEC delivered testimony before the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment as Congress attempts to establish a National Levee Safety Program to address the aging and deterioration of the nation's levee systems and the increasing occurrence of flooding.

Leslie Harder, Jr., senior water resources technical advisor at HDR, represented ACEC and urged Congress to address several levee liability issues, such as mandating risk-based flood insurance; developing national levee safety standards; developing tolerable risk guidelines; and improving public involvement and education/awareness.

Harder also called for a change in terminology to clarify services and risks; emphasized that program responsibilities should be delegated to the states, and pushed for the establishment of a National Levee Rehabilitation, Improvement and Flood Mitigation Fund.

Harder expressed ACEC's support for the recommendations contained in the National Committee on Levee Safety report to Congress. [Click here](#) to view the report. [Click here](#) to view Harder's testimony.

For more information, contact Mark Steiner at msteiner@acec.org.

ACEC's Professional Liability Insurance Survey Continues Through June 5

The 2009 ACEC Professional Liability Insurance Survey of Member Firms for Fiscal Year 2008 will run through Friday, June 5.

This annual survey collects information on Member Firms' professional liability insurance, their claims experience, and the impact of the threat of litigation.

An email with a link to the survey has been sent to the key contacts of Member Firms. If your firm has not yet received this link, [click here](#) to access the survey.

Member Firms that respond to the survey will receive a free copy of the complete results upon request.

"This information is crucial to determining the professional liability insurance landscape which our members must work with. It also provides

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Open Positions:

Experienced Airport Planner—Vancouver, WA

Senior Geotechnical Engineer—Santa Rosa, CA

Structural/Bridgework—Puget Sound Region

Civil Engineer—Montana

Lead Project Manager—Chicago, IL

A Sampling of Posted Resumes:

Geotechnical Engineers—1,125

Water Resources/Wastewater

Engineers—1,710

Transportation—1,462

Civil Engineers—2,352

Structural Engineers—1,688

Environmental Engineers—1,533

View These Resumes and Jobs
on ACEC's Job Board

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

important data for our tort reform efforts in Congress," said Charlie Geer, senior vice president of Kimley-Horn and Associates and chairman of the ACEC Risk Management Committee. "I strongly encourage each Member Firm's headquarters office to participate in this survey."

The results of the survey will be compiled and a summary published in the July/August 2009 issue of *Engineering Inc.* Complete survey results will be available for sale through the ACEC Bookstore.

Three Engineering Students To Receive 2009 ACEC Scholarship Awards



Ipshita Thomas



Kendra M. Schenk



Rita Lederle

ACEC's Committee of Fellows has selected three engineering students to receive 2009 ACEC Scholarships.

Ipshita Thomas, who recently graduated with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, will receive the \$10,000 ACEC Scholar of the Year scholarship.

Kendra M. Schenk, who is entering her senior year at Purdue University, will receive the \$7,500 Kennedy/Jenks Consultants Scholarship. Schenk will earn her bachelor's degree in science and civil engineering in May 2011.

Rita Lederle, who is a senior at the University of Minnesota, will receive the \$5,000 Small Firm Council Scholarship. Lederle will receive her bachelor's degree in civil engineering in December 2009.

ACEC will recognize the three award winners at the upcoming Fall Conference in Palm Springs, Calif.

For further information about ACEC Scholarships, contact Daisy Nappier at [dnappier@acec.org](mailto:dnapier@acec.org).

Industry Trends Survey Questionnaire Deadline Extended To May 22

You still have time to participate in ACEC's 2009-2010 Industry Trends Survey. ACEC has extended the deadline for returning the completed questionnaire to May 22.

To access the survey questionnaire online, [click here](#).

Firms participating in the survey will receive an electronic version of the final report—indispensable for strategic planning and benchmarking against industry norms—free.

Online Seminars Are Cost-Effective Source For Business Tools, PDHs

With one registration fee payable per Internet connection, a roomful of staff can participate in an ACEC online seminar at no additional cost—a welcome and cost-effective way to gain knowledge and earn needed PDHs. ACEC's 2009 calendar of online seminars features a wide variety of topics in support of better A/E business management knowledge and the techniques needed to weather an uncertain economy.

May

26—[The Climate Project: Impact of Global Climate Change on Engineering Practice](#) by Raymond Sirois, Wright-Pierce Engineers

27—[Lessons Learned in Implementing BIM and IPD in a 900-Person Multidisciplinary Firm](#) by Sean Smith, Gresham, Smith and Partners

June

2—[Take Charge of Your Health!](#) by Jean Kapetanios, UnitedHealthcare

4—[Navigating Wetlands Work: Engineering During a Time of Transition](#) by Charles "Chip" Smith, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

9—[Negotiating Better Engineering Contracts: A Win-Win Situation](#) by Gary Bates, Roenker Bates Group

10—[A Tool Box You Can Actually Use for Risk Management](#) by Doug Ashcraft, Walter P Moore and Associates and Corey Matsuoka and Mike Matsumoto, SSFM International, Inc.

16—[Risk Taking Under the 2007 AIA, Consensus and EJCDC Documents](#) by Roger Sabo, Schottenstein Zox and Dunn

17—[If You Haven't Planned It, You Can't](#)

For a limited time, participants in on-site, multi-day ACEC courses will take home a \$200 BONUS coupon—for personal or firm use—to apply to the registration fee of a future ACEC on-site course.

Corps of Engineers' Chip Smith to Detail Wetlands Permitting Issues Online

On Thursday, June 4, ACEC presents a unique online seminar featuring Chip Smith, assistant for Environmental, Tribal and Regulatory Affairs, USACE. Smith will discuss the array of regulatory and permitting issues governing wetlands and related property and waterways: what various agencies do; what recent regulatory and court actions mean; and what various permitting processes might entail. Smith will also share related insights of interest to any firm working in wetlands and related environments.

The focus of the interactive seminar will be on the impact of the Rivers and Harbors Act and the Clean Water Act requirements on applications for Corps of Engineers permits for development near waterways—including wetlands—as influenced by the new administration, court decisions, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

[Click here](#) to register.

Business of Design Consulting Updates Management for Challenging Economy

Business of Design Consulting: Managing to Succeed in a Challenging Economic Environment

June 3-6, Portland, ME

There's no better time to update your A/E business management know-how—at a stimulus registration price you can't afford to miss—than with a focused four-day course that has become an industry standard. Set for June 3-6 in Portland, ME, ACEC's *Business of Design Consulting: Managing to Succeed in a Challenging Economic Environment* examines and updates every element and function of the successful A/E business in the context of today's challenging marketplace.

Presented by leading practitioners who specialize in the A/E environment, course curriculum is custom-tailored to your workplace, focusing on the essential business topics not offered by engineering schools such as: business management, finance, marketing, risk management, contracts, leadership, human resources, and information technology.

If you are an owner, executive, principal, business administrator, project manager (all levels), human resources manager, or manager of facilities and/or infrastructure projects, this ACEC course is a cost-effective investment in your firm's future.

For details and to register, [click here](#).

Seminar Can Provide New Courtroom Skills And Legal Services To Portfolio

Applying Expertise as an Engineering Expert Witness

June 18-19, Philadelphia

Control It by Gary Bates, Roenker Bates Group

23—How Can You Exceed My Expectations If You Don't Know What They Are? Looking for Real (and Useful) Client Feedback by David Stone, Stone & Company

In challenging economic times, adding new services that capitalize on your firm's existing skills and expertise is an important business strategy. Only the court-savvy, prepared and prudent engineer should take on the potentially lucrative assignment of being an expert witness in legal proceedings.

A sell-out in its recent debut, ACEC's *Applying Expertise as an Engineering Expert Witness* course will again be presented on June 18-19 in Philadelphia. The course prepares participants for legal service with recognition and a certificate of course completion and 11 PDHs.

Designed for professional engineers, architects and surveyors interested in earning credentials for legal service engagements, attendees will learn from expert faculty about courtroom demeanor, how to maintain credibility, the differences between a fact witness and an expert witness, deposition behavior, permissible out-of-court statements, ethics, pre-courtroom testimony preparation, visual aids and more.

For agenda details and to register, [click here](#).

Denver Course Focuses on Green Civil Projects, Civic Planning

Green Infrastructure and Sustainable Communities: Opportunities in New Markets

July 13-16, Denver

ACEC and Colorado State University developed this course for engineers and planners seeking advanced training on civil infrastructure projects and town/regional planning approaches to sustainable design and construction.

Industry interest in green markets continues to build.

Constructioneer magazine recently noted that "Companies proficient in green building methods and building green facilities... will be at an advantage as they pursue opportunities to participate in the federal stimulus program."

A previously sold-out session, this timely presentation is expected to draw an even greater-than-usual response. Topics include sustainable development in a business context, sustainable design tools and techniques, impacts of development and projects on the environment, sustainable design for specific engineering markets (urban water management, transportation, buildings) and client interaction on sustainable projects.

For agenda, faculty, and to register, [click here](#).

Online Seminars Detail Climate Impact on Engineering Practice, BIM and IPD

The Climate Project: Impact of Global Climate Change on Engineering Practice

May 26, 1:30-3 p.m.

In response to research from the scientific community on the changing global climate, engineers are increasingly faced with having to engage the issue of climate change in design. Raymond Sirois, Wright-Pierce Engineers, looks at several examples of recent climate impacts on local infrastructure and how it is changing and challenging engineers' approach to design.

[Click here](#) to register.

Lessons Learned in Implementing BIM and IPD in a 900-Person Multidisciplinary Firm

May 27, 1:30-3 p.m.

Among the hurdles to overcome in adopting Building Information Modeling (BIM) and Integrated Project Delivery (IPD) practices at larger firms is the challenge of implementation. Sean B. Smith, Gresham, Smith and Partners—and a faculty member for ACEC's popular course [BIM: The Promise and the Reality for A/E/C Firms](#)—explores the implementation strategy of his own organization with multiple locations, markets and services.

[Click here](#) to register.

A/E Finance Leaders to Gather for Fall Forum; Registration Opens

ACEC's Finance Forum for industry finance professionals has opened registration for the next meeting, set for September 14-15 in Chicago. The popular Forum event gives attendees the opportunity to network with peers and exchange valuable information and best practices.

Planned topics for the fall meeting include the economic downturn, the stimulus package, cash flow, acquisitions, ESOPs and additional areas of interest that may arise. The Forum is open to members and non-members.

[Click here](#) to register.

Senior Executives Institute Has Limited Openings for Class 15

A few openings still remain for Class 15 of ACEC's Senior Executives Institute (SEI)—a two-year series of five meetings—which begins in September 2009.

SEI curriculum is specific to the complex contemporary world in which design professionals practice, with executives enrolled in the program increasing their personal knowledge, skills, business acumen, and awareness of their environment. Emerging as more effective leaders, they can better clarify matters of importance to themselves and their businesses, enabling the emergence of new and compelling visions, goals and strategies.

[Click here](#) for details and to register; or contact Deirdre McKenna, at 202-682-4328.

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