



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

100 Years of Excellence

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# Last Word

NAMED BEST WEEKLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER BY ASSOCIATION TRENDS

## INDUSTRY NEWS

### **Stimulus Deadlines Snarl States' Bidding Processes**

Federal rules are complicating some states' efforts to spend stimulus money on infrastructure efforts by causing them to speed up their award processes....[click here](#) for more.

### **Will Energy Bill Create Federal Building Code?**

The U.S. House will soon consider a more than 900-page energy bill proposed by Reps. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) and Edward Markey (D-Mass.) that aims to....[click here](#) for more.

### **U.S. Chooses Four Utilities to Revive Nuclear Industry**

UniStar Nuclear Energy, NRG Energy Inc., Scana Corp., and Southern Co. are expected to share \$18.5 billion in federal financing to build the next....[click here](#) for more.

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## ACEC Rejects Administration's Proposed Delay On New Six-Year Transportation Bill

ACEC is strongly opposing the Obama Administration's proposal to delay consideration of a new six-year transportation program, and is working with key congressional leaders to force action on a package this year.

ACEC President Dave Raymond emphasized support for House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman James Oberstar's (D-MN) plan to pass a six-year, \$500 billion Surface Transportation Authorization Act in this Congress.

ACEC and its industry allies met with Oberstar to plan a coordinated effort to win approval of the bill by Congress this year.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood has urged Congress to delay consideration of the six-year bill and instead pass an 18-month extension to allow Congress "the time it needs to fully deliberate the direction of American transportation policies."

"Delaying consideration of the six-year bill by 18 months to learn more about the subject is like delaying triage on an accident victim in order to allow researchers more time to study the body's blood system," said ACEC President Dave Raymond. "What will we know 18 months from now that we don't know already? Two bipartisan commissions have already conducted exhaustive studies and made very straightforward recommendations. It's time to move forward on legislation."

The full Committee is expected to take up the bill in mid-July, and Chairman Oberstar will push for consideration before the full House before September 30, when the current program expires.

[Click here](#) to read the full text of the 775-page bill.

## ACEC Tells Obama Administration: "Don't Restrict Contracting Options"

ACEC last week urged the federal government to use all available contracting options and not to add arbitrary restrictions on their use.

The recommendations were made at a hearing to review the Obama Administration's newly issued federal contracting initiatives. Attended by many industry representatives, the hearing was moderated by the Office of Management and Budget and the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Council Leadership—which includes representatives from NASA, GSA and the DoD.



Rep. James Oberstar (D-MN) is moving quickly on the Surface Transportation Authorization Act of 2009.

## The ACEC Bookstore Has Moved!

If you've bookmarked our website, please update your link to [https://netforum.acec.org/eweb/?site=acec\\_store](https://netforum.acec.org/eweb/?site=acec_store).

## Cross The Generations with ACEC Publications

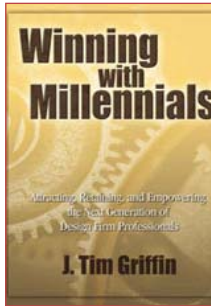
### *Winning with Millennials*

*Attracting, Retaining & Empowering the Next Generation of Design Firm Professionals*

*J. Tim Griffin, PE, LEED AP*

This groundbreaking book helps you develop a clear picture of how the generation now entering the workforce thinks, acts, and lives, as well as explore some of the environmental issues that shaped their thinking. Most importantly, author Tim Griffin provides you with practical strategies to attract the best and brightest millennials to your design firm, create a culture that will be desirable to them over the short- and long-term, and propose ways to keep them motivated, productive, and fully engaged.

[Click here](#) to order.



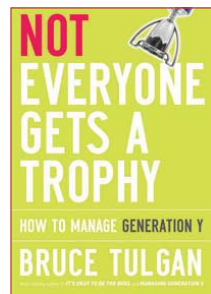
### *Not Everyone Gets A Trophy*

*How to Manage Generation Y*

*Bruce Tulgan*

This book will frame Generation Y (children born between 1978-1991) for corporate leaders and managers at time when the corporate world is desperate to recruit and retain workers in this age group. It will debunk dozens of myths, including that young employees have no sense of loyalty, won't do grunt work, won't take direction, want to interact only with computers, and are only about money.

[Click here](#) to order.



[Click here](#) to visit the ACEC Bookstore and view our full catalog of publications and merchandise.

Issued in March, the Administration's federal contracting initiatives address control of sole-source and non-competitive contracts; preference for fixed-price contracting; the capacity and ability of the government workforce; and inappropriate outsourcing for services.

Council recommendations included the need for federal agencies to increase and train staff necessary to properly manage and control the acquisition and contract management process, and to avoid performing commercially available services in-house without considering a wide variety of factors, including duration of work, need for innovation and decisions that commit action by the federal government.

ACEC also urged that federal agencies hire fully experienced private-sector technical employees, such as engineers, as government employees rather than develop technical staff to verify work performance and contract compliance.

The OMB and FAR moderators were, in general, receptive to ACEC's recommendations.

## Enter Chance To Win \$1,250 Necklace With Early Fall Conference Registration

The upcoming ACEC Fall Conference, October 7-10, in Palm Springs, Calif., will offer world-class education targeting the critical roles engineering firms will play in the nation's economic recovery.

Vicente Fox, the former president of Mexico, will be a keynote speaker. Fox is considered to be one of the world's most important voices on contemporary political and business issues.

ACEC members who register for the Fall Conference by July 1 will be automatically entered in a drawing to win a 3.5-karat blue topaz necklace donated by William Jeffrey's Jewelers and valued at \$1,250.

To be eligible for the drawing, register and pay the "full Conference" fee no later than July 1, 2009. The winner will be notified by the ACEC meetings department staff on July 6, 2009.

Register today for this important industry event. [Click here](#) for more information on the Fall Conference, the drawing for the topaz necklace, and to register.



Early Fall Conference registrants have a chance to win this 3.5-karat blue topaz necklace valued at \$1,250.

## Tips For Maximizing Your Membership ROI

### Tip 2: Encourage Industry Advocacy

Grassroots advocacy is vital to securing the legislative and regulatory changes that benefit our industry and your firm. Encouraging members of your firm to participate on ACEC committees helps the Council build the broad base of support so crucial to succeeding on issues that support your business interests.

"Participating on the Federal Agencies and Procurement Advocacy Committee has given us the ability to effectively impact legislation and regulations through a united industry voice," said James Blake, vice president of Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. in Annapolis Junction, Md.

## Advertise Today on the New ACEC Website

With more than 28,000 unique visitors each month—and with each visit averaging more than 18 minutes—advertising on [www.acec.org](http://www.acec.org) offers 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](mailto:ngoldman@acec.org) today to reserve your space.

### ACEC JOB BOARD

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#### Last Five “Help Wanted”

##### Open Positions:

**Geotechnical Engineer**—San Diego, CA  
**Electrical Engineer**—Nationwide  
**Project Manager-Municipal Water/Wastewater**—Des Moines, IA  
**Registered Civil Engineer**—Northern CA  
**Dept. Manager-Civil/Environmental**—WI & IL

#### A Sampling of Posted Resumes:

Geotechnical Engineers—**1,128**  
Water Resources/Wastewater Engineers—**1,716**  
Transportation—**1,471**  
Civil Engineers—**2,360**  
Structural Engineers—**1,693**  
Environmental Engineers—**1,538**

**View These Resumes and Jobs on ACEC’s Job Board**  
<http://www.acec.org/jobbank>

“Being involved in ACEC—and on the ACEC Transportation Committee in particular—has been a tremendous resource for our firm,” added John Kurgan, executive vice president of Michael Baker Corporation in Moon Township, Pa. “We get the most up-to-date information and numerous opportunities to interact with key policymakers and network with our peers.”

[Click here](#) to add staff members to your firm’s ACEC roster. They will receive all the benefits of ACEC membership, including *Last Word*, our bi-monthly magazine, *Engineering Inc.*, and information about upcoming educational programs.

## ACEC INSTITUTE FOR BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

### Submit 2010 ACEC Spring Convention Session Proposals Before July 22

Proposals for session presentations at the ACEC 2010 Annual Convention and Legislative Summit, set for April 25-28, Washington, D.C., are now being accepted by the ACEC Institute for Business Management.

Sessions are to be 75-minute presentations on topic areas under any of nine tracks: business management and quality, finance, human resources, information technology, leadership, legal and risk management, business development, project management and project delivery.

Featuring a unique combination of educational programming, Capitol Hill visits, the Engineering Excellence Awards Gala, networking opportunities, tours and exhibits, the Annual Convention has historically attracted an impressive roster of design professionals with wide-ranging professional education interests.

Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. EDT, July 22, 2009. For full descriptions of track topics, benefits of presenting, and the presentation entry form and requirements, [click here](#).

### Senior Executives Institute Has Limited Openings for Upcoming Class 15

ACEC’s Senior Executives Institute (SEI) begins Class 15—a two-year series of five meetings — in September 2009, and a few openings remain.

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, SEI graduates 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 [dmckenna@acec.org](mailto:dmckenna@acec.org) or 202-682-4328.

### Navigating Wetlands Work Online Seminar Now Available On-Demand

ACEC’s recent online seminar *Navigating Wetlands Work: Engineering During a Time of Transition*, is now available for purchase and download from the ACEC Bookstore.

Led by Charles “Chip” Smith, assistant for environmental, tribal and regulatory affairs, Office of Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works),

## ACEC's Job Board Offers 20 Percent Savings

The [ACEC Job Board](#) is a founding member of the [Engineering & Science Career Network](#), and we are growing. Now your job postings appear on 30 association job sites -- for the price of one.

No other recruitment tool can penetrate the association niche like ACEC's Job Board. With more than 16,900 candidate resumes, the ACEC Job Board's advanced search features produce effective, specific results for both job seekers and employers.

To get you started, we are offering a 20 percent discount on postings in the month of June. Just enter the code JUNE20 to receive your discount. Don't miss these big savings.

Visit the [ACEC Job Board](#) to create an account and post your job today.

For more information, contact Nina Goldman at 202-682-4325 or write [ngoldman@acec.org](mailto:ngoldman@acec.org).

## ACEC EDUCATION

### Online Seminars Offer Varied Topics, 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.

The number of attendees at our weekly online seminars—on a laptop or gathered in a firm's conference room—continues to grow. To meet ongoing needs for short, focused learning on topics of current business and professional interest, we're putting together the fall course schedule, which will begin in late summer.

Watch *Last Word* and the Institute for Business Management [education calendar](#) for information and to register for these new courses.

If you have an idea for an online course, we'd like to hear about it. Note 'Online Seminar Idea' in the subject line, and e-mail to [Education@acec.org](mailto:Education@acec.org).

this 1-1/2 hour presentation examines a wide array of regulatory and permitting issues governing wetlands and waterways.

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

## October BIM Course Offers Focused Look at Promise, Risks of Team Process

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

October 29-30, Seattle

Is BIM a competitive edge? Is it increasingly a factor in gaining new business for firms that utilize it? According to a McGraw-Hill *SmartMarket Report*, "the benefits are tangible and the risks of not participating outweigh those of getting engaged."

To address current and future industry challenges, ACEC will present *Building Information Modeling (BIM): The Promise and The Reality for A/E/C Firms* on October 29-30 in Seattle. This 2009 version of the course will be an informative and timely look into the many components of the increasingly popular BIM interdisciplinary project delivery system.

Course faculty will include industry innovators who are transforming the BIM multi-dimensional project planning concept into an A/E/C marketplace advantage. The 1-1/2 day agenda will be segmented into reasons for change; exploring the technology and interoperability; implementation strategies and IT case study; an updated look into risk management and insurance for "BIM-ready" firms; and a new segment on BIM from the M/E/P perspective. This course will be ideal for firm principals planning, considering or beginning to implement BIM.

For details and to register at best advance price, [click here](#).

### BIM Survey Input Sought

To update their *SmartMarket* report on the business value of BIM, McGraw-Hill is seeking participation of BIM users and non-users in an industry-wide survey on adoption of the system. Deadline for survey response is June 30. [Click here](#) to access the confidential questionnaire.

## Join Fellow Industry Finance Leaders at Forum, September 14-15 in Chicago

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 provides 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.

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