



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

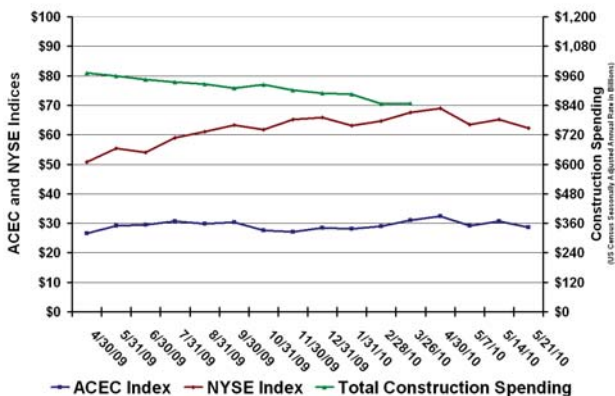
100 Years of Excellence

# Last Word

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PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

## ACEC INDEX



The ACEC Index tracks the stock performance of ACEC's publicly held Member Firms. The New York Stock Exchange Composite Index and total U.S. construction spending are also included.

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

## ACEC NEWSLINE

### Buildings/Land

#### Researchers Taking Back-to-Nature Approach to Building Design

Buildings in China on average last only 35 years despite being built with strong materials like concrete and steel. The problem is that the buildings are not flexible enough to withstand the country's rapidly changing needs...[click here](#) for more.

#### Construction Contractors Caught Between Rising Costs and Stagnant Prices

An analysis of materials costs conducted by the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) shows that construction contractors are being pinched between rising materials costs and falling output prices...[click here](#) for more.

## Private Activity Bonds Add \$6 Billion for Water; Problematic S Corp Provision

Congress is expected to act on legislation this week that includes several ACEC-backed provisions to fund infrastructure projects.

The American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act of 2010 (H.R. 4213) lifts the volume cap on private activity bonds (PABs), which are used by governmental entities partnering with private developers to fund water infrastructure projects. The provision would add as much as \$6 billion a year for water projects.

The bill also extends the popular Build America Bonds program through 2012, providing an additional \$4 billion in subsidies to support local schools, roads, and other infrastructure projects, and extends the research and development tax credit.

The Council has raised serious concerns over a provision in the bill that increases payroll taxes on professional service businesses whose principal asset is the skill and reputation of three or fewer employees. This provision would have a negative impact on smaller A/E firms organized as S Corporations.

While the intent of the provision is to address tax evasion, ACEC has expressed concerns that the bill as written would sweep in tax-compliant A/E firms. ACEC is urging Congressional leaders to find alternative ways to address this issue.

## Rep. Costello Tells ACEC He Expects Aviation Bill to Pass by July



Rep. Jerry Costello (D-IL) (left) met with Robin Black of CDM and other ACEC and industry representatives during a breakfast at ACEC headquarters last week.

Congressman Jerry Costello (D-IL), chairman of the House Aviation Subcommittee, told ACEC and industry representatives at ACEC headquarters last week that he expects legislation to reauthorize and

## Water

### Louisiana WTP a Model In Cutting-Edge Technologies

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, development projects are focused away from the Gulf of Mexico, and key to their appeal has been the deployment of water and wastewater infrastructure north of Interstate 10...[click here](#) for more.

## Transportation

### DOT Secretary LaHood Urges Women to Pursue Careers in Transportation

To counter an anticipated shortage of skilled transportation workers, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Secretary Ray LaHood recently signed an agreement with the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) International to encourage women to complete undergraduate and graduate degrees in science, technology, engineering, and math while pursuing careers in transportation...[click here](#) for more.

### Oregon Solar Highway Project Sets Standard for Other States

Oregon's Department of Transportation is working to power lights on its highways using renewable energy. While watching a NOVA special on solar power, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) project director Allison Hamilton noticed solar panels on the German Autobahn, and wondered why if Germany could light its highways with solar power, why can't the U.S.... [click here](#) for more.

[Click here](#) for more NewsLine.

## ACEC JOB BOARD

### Post Your Jobs on the Job Board This Week and Save 25%

Because the [ACEC Job Board](#) is a partner in the [Engineering and Science Career Network \(ESCN\)](#)—an alliance of 37 niche association job boards built exclusively for professionals working within engineering and science industries—it attracts qualified candidates who are interested, educated and experienced.

With a reach of 750,000 users, the ESCN provides an effective online recruitment tool to access the best quality jobs and candidates in one place, on a single network.



expand federal aviation programs to pass by early July.

Chairman Costello also discussed the importance of finishing work on pending water and surface transportation legislation, stressing their importance in promoting jobs and economic growth.

The event was co-hosted by CDM, and included representatives from ARCADIS, CH2M HILL, HDR Engineering Inc., Jacobs Engineering, and Parsons Brinckerhoff.

"This was a great opportunity for a focused discussion on our key priorities," said Robin Black of CDM. "It was also a good opportunity for the industry to show its appreciation for one of Congress' leading voices in support of infrastructure investment."

## ACEC Featured in *Boston Globe* on QBS vs. Low Cost

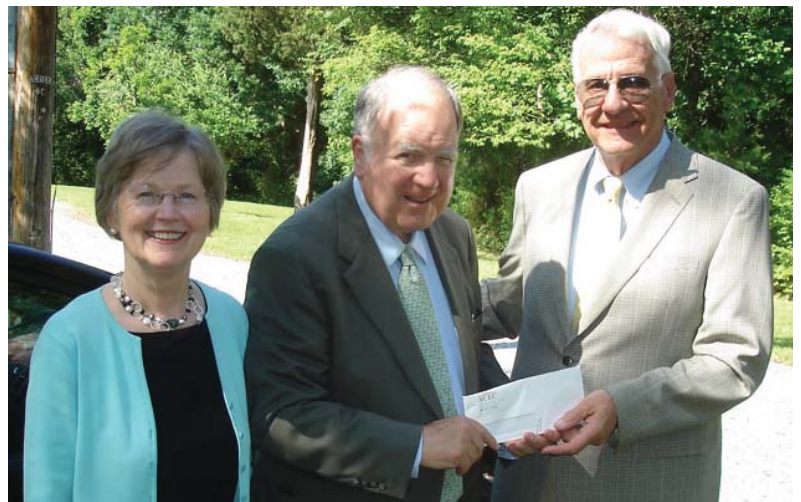
An ACEC "letter to the editor" published last week in the *Boston Globe* emphasized the benefits of Qualifications-Based Selection when procuring engineering design services for infrastructure.

The letter by ACEC President Dave Raymond was in response to *Globe* reports on recent Boston area infrastructure breakdowns that led the newspaper to write: "High-profile failures raise worry. Some engineers suggest our focus needs to shift from cost to quality."

In the letter, Raymond wrote: "Engineering services represent only a fraction of overall project costs, but have a disproportionately large impact on safety, project performance, and life-cycle costs." [Click here](#) to read the entire letter.

ACEC/Massachusetts Executive Director Abbie Goodman said, "Thanks to the efforts of Dave Raymond and ACEC, we got great exposure about the importance of QBS in the *Boston Globe* at a time when the Massachusetts legislature is considering key legislation affecting our business interests."

## ACEC/PAC Supports House Budget Chairman at S.C. Fundraiser



Jim Keistler (right) of Keistler Engineering Co., Inc. in Rock Hill, S.C. presents an ACEC/PAC check to Rep. John Spratt (D-SC), chairman of the House Budget Committee, during a fundraising reception last week. Also pictured is the Congressman's wife, Jane Spratt.

Take advantage of this extraordinary recruitment tool this week and get a 25 percent discount off all posting packages. The ACEC Member price for a single basic 30-day job posting is only \$295—before the discount. If you act now, it's just \$221.25.

Just enter the promo code QUICK25 before May 31 and save big.

[Click here](#) to access the ACEC Online Job Board. For more information, contact Mary Ann Emely, [memely@acec.org](mailto:memely@acec.org) or 202-682-4300.

## ACEC JOB BOARD

Over 500 Searchable  
Jobs Posted

Over 21,000 Searchable  
Resumes Posted

Over 2,100 Registered  
Employers

Last Five "Help Wanted"

Open Positions:

**Structural Bridge Engineer**—Camp Hill, PA  
**Business Unit Manager, CEI**—Columbia, SC  
**Director, Computer & Info. Systems**—  
Toledo, OH  
**Project Civil/Roadway Engineer**—  
Cambridge, MA  
**Project Designer, Electrical Engineering**—  
San Diego, CA

A Sampling of Posted Resumes:

Electrical Engineers—589  
Civil—Project Management—526  
Mechanical Design Engineers—1,495  
Engineering Management—1,464  
Surveyors—215

View These Resumes and Jobs  
on ACEC's Job Board

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

## Participate in the Professional Liability Insurance Survey Online Thru June 9

The 2010 ACEC Professional Liability Insurance Survey of Member Firms for Fiscal Year 2009 will be conducted online May 26-June 9.

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

"This information is crucial to determining the professional liability insurance landscape which our members must work with," said Charlie Geer, senior vice president of Kimley-Horn and Associates and chairman of the ACEC Risk Management Committee. "It also provides important data for our tort reform efforts in Congress. I strongly encourage each Member Firm's headquarters office to participate in this survey."

An email with a link to the survey has been sent to the key contacts of Member Firms. You can also [click here](#) to access the survey.

Member Firms responding to the survey will receive a free copy of the complete results upon request. The survey results will also be available for sale through the ACEC Bookstore.

## 2010-2011 Industry Trends Survey Deadline Extended to June 4

[Click here](#) to participate in ACEC's 2010-2011 Industry Trends Survey. The deadline has been extended to June 4, 2010.

Obtain instant compilations based on your financial data—a special new feature—using the online survey tool. Each survey participant will receive a free electronic version of the final composite report. All returns are fully confidential.

Contact Jeff Beard at [jbeard@acec.org](mailto:jbeard@acec.org) if you have any questions about this great opportunity to gain up-to-date practice and marketplace information by participating in ACEC's *Industry Trends Survey*.

## INSTITUTE FOR BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

### BIM Course Targets Owner Perspective, Adding IT Value, Improved Results

June 21-22, Orlando, FL

*Realizing BIM Potential for A/E Firms: Leveraging the Building Information Modeling Process for Increased ROI* is ACEC's new 2010 next-level exploration of this challenging and increasingly owner-specified process.

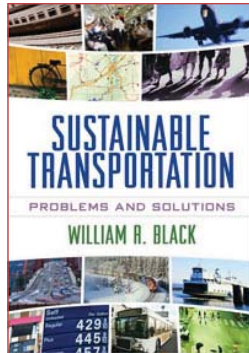
Presented June 21-22, Orlando, FL, the course focuses on fine-tuning the BIM process by adding technology value without breaking budgets; improving interoperability and streamlining workflows; reducing RFIs



## Top Transportation Titles from the ACEC Bookstore

### *Sustainable Transportation Problems and Solutions*

*William R. Black*

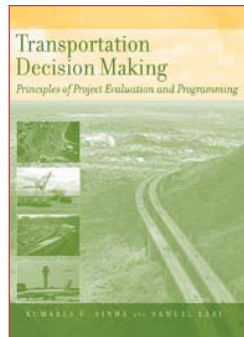


To order, [click here](#).

### *Transportation Decision Making*

#### *Principles of Project Evaluation and Programming*

*Kumares C. Sinha & Samuel Labi*



To order, [click here](#).

To see all the great products at the ACEC Bookstore, [click here](#).

## Stay Competitive, Get Bottom-Line Topics Online

Whether it's an update on the multi-functional expertise you need to manage your business more successfully, first-hand reports on the newest technology tools, market insights from key government insiders, or necessary know-how to tap the bottom-line potential of new markets, ACEC's Institute for Business Management is your best resource.

Here's a look at upcoming topics:

### June

8—[2009 A/E/C Court Cases: Lessons Learned](#) by J. Kent Holland, ConstructionRisk.com LLC, and Lauren McLaughlin, BrigliaMcLaughlin PLLC

for fee savings; ensuring M/E/P inclusion; optimizing integration of BIM into firm culture and services; legal lessons learned; and managing risk.

Faculty represent key perspectives involved in the overall process: design engineer, firm IT management, software developer, owner, M/E/P integration technology expert, and legal and risk management. They are innovators who have successfully transformed BIM projects into marketplace advantage.

A/E company principals, project managers, COOs, IT managers and business development professionals of firms already using or familiar with BIM will get a cutting-edge, first-hand look into diverse opportunities for maximizing their bottom-line benefits and moving forward with BIM.

For course brochure featuring agenda highlights, faculty bios and registration information, [click here](#).

## Add Courtroom Skills to Professional Expertise, Offer Expert Witness Services

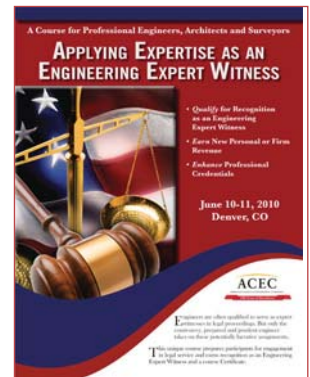
June 10-11, Denver, CO

*Applying Expertise as an Engineering Expert Witness*, ACEC's unique 1½-day course, will be presented June 10-11 in Denver to prepare participants for legal service with recognition and a certificate of course completion.

The course is designed for professional engineers, architects and surveyors interested in earning credentials for legal service engagements professionally or as an added client service. Discussion will include deposition behavior, permissible out-of-court statements, ethics, pre-courtroom testimony preparation, courtroom demeanor, how to maintain credibility, the differences between a fact witness and an expert witness, plus the agreement and compensation for taking on an assignment.

Attendees completing this course who wish to further enhance their professional credentials will have taken important first steps towards applying for the professional designation of Engineer Expert Witness (EXW<sup>SM</sup>).

For a course brochure featuring agenda highlights, faculty bios and registration information, [click here](#).



## Helping Clients Meet the Challenges of Climate Change: Anticipate, Adapt

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

In an age of changing climate, where will the business opportunities for consulting engineers be found? Ray Sirois, senior associate IT director, Wright-Pierce, presents *Public Infrastructure Planning and Design in an Age of Changing Climate: Responding to Opportunities*, an interactive online seminar.

Using case studies, Sirois will explore how infrastructure is likely

9—**Why Owners Want Your BIM Model for Asset Management** by Jim Watson, MACTEC Engineering & Consulting, Inc.

15—**America's Coming High Speed Rail Markets** by Andy Kunz, U.S. High Speed Rail Association

16—**U.S. Water Demand, Supply and Allocation: Trends and Outlook 2010 to 2030** by Ben Dziegielewski, Southern Illinois University

22—**Achieving Sustainability Goals Through By-Product Synergy** by Andrew Mangan, U.S. Business Counsel for Sustainable Development

23—**Commissioning: A Market Growing in Size, Impact and Professionalism** by Michael King, ARCOM; Earle Kennett, NIBS; Patrick Prendergast, GBA/ViroCon Inc.

## Download AASHTO Audit Guide Online Seminars

ACEC's popular series of online seminars detailing the new AASHTO *Uniform Audit and Accounting Guide* are now available for purchase and download on-demand through the ACEC Bookstore.

To order, click on the seminar title of interest:

- **New State DOT Compensation and Audit Rules That Will Affect Your Bottom Line**
- **New Rules on Allowable and Reasonable Compensation**
- **FAR Compliance in a Time of Increased Government Oversight**
- **New Guidance for Successful Overhead Audits**

to be impacted by climate change, and the A/E industry's business and adaptation responses under various scenarios.

Participants in this timely seminar will discover engineering opportunities that are integral to the challenges of climate change, and learn how to leverage the best up-to-date information available in serving client's long-term interests and their own business strategies. For details and to register, [click here](#).

## Protect Your Business, Learn About Recent A/E/C Court Cases

June 8, 1:30-3 p.m.

Attorneys Kent Holland, ConstructionRisk.com LLC, and Lauren McLaughlin, BrigliaMcLaughlin PLLC, compile and discuss the 2009 and early 2010 "cases to watch" involving contractors and project owners against design professionals.

In this informative online seminar, *2009-2010 A/E/C Court Cases Review: Lessons Learned*, June 8, 1:30-3 p.m., the presenters will provide a valuable and precautionary recap of the changing A/E/C legal landscape.

Cases will address limitation of liability, indemnification, licensing, procedural issues such as certificates of merit and time limitations on filing suits, electronic discovery, and the economic loss doctrine. For details and to register, [click here](#).

## BIM-Based Asset Management: Opportunities With Existing Buildings

June 9, 1:30-3 p.m.

"Ninety-five percent of all buildings and facilities contained in an owner's portfolio over the next decade already exist, so implementing Building Information Modeling (BIM) solutions for maintaining existing facilities makes obvious sense," says Jim Watson, director of Federal Programs, Facilities Lifecycle Group, MACTEC Engineering & Consulting, Inc.

Watson presents *Why Owners Want Your BIM Model for Asset Management*, an online seminar on June 9, to make the case for why the BIM model is increasingly in demand by owners, describing it as "the dashboard that integrated the stovepipes that exist in most entities regardless of size."

Seminar participants will view a pilot of the BIM-based Asset Management Solution to the challenge of integrated facilities management, and the reduction in total ownership costs generated by its implementation. For details and to register, [click here](#).

## Get Ready for 'New Normal': September SEI Class Has Limited Openings

In the course of five separate five-day sessions over an 18-month timeframe, ACEC's Senior Executives Institute (SEI) participants acquire new tools and high-level skills and insights to prosper in our changed—and challenging—A/E/C business environment.

The opening session, *Your Vision & The World*, offers a thoughtful

and illuminating five days in Washington, D.C., with leading authorities and visionaries on the changing environment, economic trends, public policy, global practice, and leading a living company.

Since its inception, SEI has attracted public and private sector engineers and architects from firms of all sizes, locations, and practice specialties, who are drawn to a highly interactive, energetic, exploratory and challenging learning opportunity. Class 16 begins in September 2010.

Course size is limited, and registrations for Class 16 are being accepted. Executives with at least five years' experience managing professional design programs or businesses are invited to register for this highly regarded leadership building opportunity.

For an overview of the full SEI program and to register, visit the [ACEC SEI website](#). To inquire, contact Deirdre McKenna at [dmckenna@acec.org](mailto:dmckenna@acec.org).

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