Founded in 1909, ACEC is a large federation of 52 state and regional councils representing the great breadth of America's engineering industry. ACEC members employ engineers, architects, land surveyors, scientists, and other specialists. Member firms range in size from a single registered professional engineer to corporations employing tens of thousands of professionals.

The Council's mission is to contribute to America's prosperity and welfare by advancing the business interests of member firms.

ACEC Leadership & Government Affairs Department

Linda Bauer Darr  
President and CEO  
lbdarr@acec.org

Steve Hall  
Senior Vice President, Advocacy and External Affairs  
shall@acec.org

Dan Hilton  
Director, Procurement Advocacy and International Affairs  
dhilton@acec.org

Matt Reiffer  
Senior Director, Transportation Programs  
mreiffer@acec.org

Jeff Urbanchuk  
Director, Strategic Communications  
jurbanchuk@acec.org

Katharine Mottley  
Senior Director, Tax and Regulatory Affairs  
kmottley@acec.org

Jennifer Pugh  
Director, ACEC/PAC  
jpugh@acec.org

Lynn Schloesser  
Director, Environment & Energy Programs  
lenschloesser@acec.org

Brenden Carol  
Government Affairs Coordinator  
bcarol@acec.org

American Council of Engineering Companies  
1015 15th Street, NW 8th Floor  
Washington, DC 20005  
(202) 347-7474  www.acec.org
When we say that ACEC is the business of America’s engineering industry, we mean it.

Across the United States, we represent over 600,000 professionals employed by firms ranging from sole proprietorships to international enterprises consisting of tens of thousands of professionals engaged in the full spectrum of engineering services from structural, civil, mechanical and electrical engineering, to surveying and mapping. Our member firms design and build the infrastructure we see and use daily, from the essential public works that empower us as a nation, to the soaring vertical projects that shape the American skyline.

But engineers do more than simply design in the built environment. They design solutions to the challenges facing our society. They keep people safe; they make the air we breathe and the water we drink cleaner; they provide buildings that shelter and roads that connect. In its highest form, engineering sustains and advances life.

That is why it is my honor to help represent this noble industry. It is also why the people of ACEC National, and our 52 affiliate State Member Organizations work tirelessly to advocate for policies that protect and improve the engineering industry.

America’s engineering firms are ready to build a 21st century America, but their efforts require the support of Congress. That means:

» Long-term, rational, and sustainable infrastructure funding that addresses revenues and the long-term solvency of the Highway Trust Fund.
» Tax policies that encourage investment in sustainable construction.
» Regulations that emphasize resilient design techniques that adapt to a changing climate and increasingly severe storms and disasters.
» A workforce agenda that prioritizes STEM education and immigration policies that allow us to keep the best and the brightest.
» Contracting and procurement rules that emphasize project success.
» More investments in the nation’s airports, ports and waterways.

ACEC’s agenda is really about promoting America’s quality of life, economic growth and long-term success.

On behalf of ACEC, I look forward to working with you to make this a reality.

Sincerely,

Linda Bauer Darr
The Engineering Industry at a Glance

• The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) represents over 5,600 firms that employ more than 600,000 engineering and architecture professionals throughout the country and around the world.

• ACEC is made up of 52 state and regional councils across the country.

• In 2018, the biggest markets for the top 500 engineering firms in the country were buildings, transportation and energy infrastructure.

• America's engineering industry is responsible for designing public and private sector projects in the built environment that totals nearly $1.3 trillion. (source: U.S. Census Bureau).

• Architecture/Engineering firms’ revenues totaled $339.5 billion in 2018 (source: U.S. Census Bureau).

• ACEC member firms range in size from sole proprietorships to large companies operating all over the country and all over the world, with tens of thousands of employees in all disciplines including civil, structural, mechanical, electrical, surveying, architecture and planning.

Images of the Baha’i Temple of South America in Santiago, Chile, a 2018 ACEC Engineering Excellence Awards Grand Award Recipient. Structural engineering for the project was performed by ACEC/Massachusetts member firm, Simpson Gumpertz & Heger Inc. of Waltham, Mass.
ACEC’s Members are Designing a Better Tomorrow

ACEC member firms are the innovators, problem solvers and thought leaders working on America’s toughest challenges to build a better tomorrow.

Here are the public policy areas that matter most to the engineering industry:

- Designing a 21st century infrastructure agenda ................................................................. 5
- Resilient, sustainable solutions to climate change .............................................................. 8
- Innovation & competitiveness .............................................................................................. 9
- A robust, sustainable energy agenda .................................................................................. 12
- Water & environmental protection ...................................................................................... 13
- Supporting federal, state & local governments ................................................................. 16
- Workforce development ..................................................................................................... 17
- Global leadership in engineering services ........................................................................ 20

ACEC’s annual Engineering Excellence Awards - the premiere awards program of the engineering industry - recognizes preeminent engineering achievements from throughout the world, including the annual Grand Conceptor Award for the year’s most outstanding engineering accomplishment.

A distinguished panel of judges representing a variety of built environment disciplines, in addition to academia and the media selects the winning projects using criteria such as uniqueness and originality, complexity, and technical, economic and social value.

MIT.nano Building - 2019 Engineering Excellence Grand Award Recipient
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Firm: Bard, Rao + Athanas Consulting Engineers, LLC (BR+A)
DESIGNING A 21ST CENTURY INFRASTRUCTURE AGENDA

America’s infrastructure remains deficient and underfunded. ACEC and its members call on our elected leaders in Washington to act quickly on a bold national infrastructure strategy that significantly increases investment in core federal infrastructure programs to bring our existing facilities to a state of good repair and modernize our systems for a growing economy and changing population. As part of this national infrastructure strategy, ACEC advocates for:

• Raising revenues to restore solvency to the Highway Trust Fund and continuing to develop alternative funding mechanisms such as mileage-based user fees.
• More funding for the State Revolving Fund (SRF) and USDA water programs.
• Lifting the cap on Passenger Facility Charges (PFCs); boost Airport Improvement Program funding.
• Incentivizing private investment through TIFIA, WIFIA, RRIF, and Private Activity Bonds.
• Opposing policies that restrict the ability of State DOTs to contract with local firms.
• Streamlining regulations for efficient project delivery while ensuring environmental performance and public interest protections.
America’s engineering industry confronts the challenges of climate change daily, working with public and private sector clients to reduce their carbon footprint and adapt to the effects of sea level rise and extreme weather events. Engineering firms are designing innovative solutions to increase efficiency, reduce carbon emissions, increase reliability, and enhance the resilience and sustainability of the nation’s critical infrastructure and other structures from natural and manmade disasters. Consistent with the industry’s role, ACEC supports policies at the federal and state level to mitigate risk and encourage resiliency and sustainability:

- Support a multi-year extension of the Section 179D energy-efficient commercial buildings tax deduction and Section 45 Production Tax Credit (PTC) to support the development of renewable energy sources.
- Support a financially stable federal flood insurance program, as well as initiatives and funding to support mitigation and enhance the resiliency of critical infrastructure against natural and man-made disasters.
ACEC members are designing the future and innovation is at the heart of the services America’s engineering industry provides to their clients. ACEC supports a 21st century innovation agenda that enables the industry to serve a growing economy, compete in the global marketplace and raise the bar of what is possible.

ACEC supports:

- Tax and regulatory policies – such as the R&D tax credit – that promote innovation and incentivize growth.
- Ensuring that the tax code maintains balanced tax treatment for engineering firms of all business structures.
- The Export-Import Bank and fully restoring its ability to approve project financing.
- Trade agreements that protect strong engineering licensure standards and intellectual property.
- Promoting and expanding the use of Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) in procuring engineering services to incentivize innovation, protect the taxpayer and ensure project success.
- Policies to foster the advancement of new and emerging technologies such as unmanned aircraft systems, connected and automated vehicles, energy storage, advanced nuclear, and clean fossil energy systems.
A ROBUST, SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AGENDA

America’s engineering industry is engaged throughout the energy sector – from traditional oil and gas to nuclear and leading-edge renewable sources – to support and sustain a growing economy. ACEC supports this “all of the above” national energy strategy to make full use of the nation’s diverse energy resources, including:

• Incentives to modernize our energy infrastructure and protect against natural disasters and other threats.
• Incentives to enhance investment in affordable, reliable and resilient energy systems with high environmental performance.
• Streamlining the regulatory and permitting process to speed project construction.
• Support for programs that help to finance innovative, leading edge energy technologies and infrastructure.
America’s water resources are the lifeblood of our nation’s economic security. Greater investment is essential for drinking water, wastewater and land and water remediation projects to protect human health and the environment. More investment is also needed in the nation’s ports and critical water corridors, both to facilitate navigation and the flow of commerce as well as protect against devastating flood events.

- Reauthorize and expand the Clean Water Act State Revolving Fund (SRF) program.
- Boost appropriations for the water and wastewater SRF programs, USDA’s rural water program, and innovative financing for water projects through WIFIA.
- Support timely passage of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and boost investment in Corps of Engineers water projects.
- Provide stable funding for the Superfund and DOE Environmental Management programs.
New United States Embassy
London, England
Firm: Arup
2019 Engineering Excellence Grand Award Recipient
SUPPORTING FEDERAL, STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

America’s engineering industry is a trusted partner to federal, state and local agencies, planning, designing and managing construction of innovative and sustainable solutions in the built environment, including infrastructure projects and public facilities such as courthouses, schools and military installations. By engaging local firms, public agencies benefit from the specialized experience, innovation, and on-budget and on-time performance that the private sector brings to the table to ensure project success. ACEC supports:

- Policies that promote a strong partnership between public agencies and the engineering industry.
- Funding and financing initiatives that invest in critical federal and state infrastructure programs and the development and improvement of public buildings.
- Maintaining and expanding public procurement rules that require the use of QBS to emphasize innovation and qualifications to facilitate successful project delivery.
- Requiring all federal agencies to include FAR compliance as a condition of receipt of funding by state and local governments for grant, loan and aid programs.
America’s engineering industry serves clients representing a broad range of markets and needs more engineering graduates to support and sustain a growing economy. According to the National Science Foundation, nearly 30 percent of all engineering and science degree holders are over 50 and expected to retire in the next 15 years. ACEC supports a workforce agenda to make it easier for firms to assist recent graduates with student loan debt, and federal immigration policies that enable firms to attract and keep the best and brightest talent from around the world. ACEC supports:

- State and federal programs that support STEM education.
- Loan forgiveness and other incentives for engineering graduates.
- Federal immigration policies to attract the best and brightest talent from abroad, including increasing the cap on H-1B visas.
America’s engineering industry represents the gold standard in quality, safety and resiliency and it remains sought-after beyond our borders. From supporting U.S. diplomatic and developmental missions abroad through projects sponsored by agencies such as USAID and the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), through programs and entities – such as USTDA and the Export-Import Bank – that play an important role in helping engineering firms to compete in the international marketplace, American firms have a global footprint that brings clean water, modern transportation networks, safe schools and hospitals, and reliable energy systems to the world. ACEC supports:

- The reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank and the full restoration of its ability to approve project financing.
- Ratification of the United States, Mexico, Canada (USMCA) agreement.
- International development programs such as USAID and MCC and greater efforts to engage U.S. firms to ensure project success.
- Promoting the use of procurement rules internationally that are reliably implemented and enforced with transparency.
is

THE BUSINESS
OF AMERICA’S
ENGINEERING
INDUSTRY