



# COLLEGE OF FELLOWS NEWSLETTER

Vol. 6, Issue 2

Winter, 2016

## Chair's Corner



Committee of Fellows  
Chair June Nakamura

Thanks to everyone who attended another successful ACEC Fall Conference at the spectacular Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs and for participating in our COF events.

Our COF Welcome Reception for our award winners was a big hit, as we were able to meet our new Fellows, four community service award recipients, Young Professional awardees and a

couple of the scholarship recipients.

My favorite event at the Conference was our inaugural Charity Walk on Saturday morning. Walking briskly

around the lake and watching the sunrise with fellow engineers and their



spouses was a great way to start the day. As leaders of our community and sponsors of the Community Service award, we've been looking for ways to work with the Member Organization where the Fall Conference is held to give back to the local community. This year we raised \$1,360 for the Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity. Next year in Florida, we hope to exceed this goal and organize and even healthier experience for all.

Plans are already underway for the COF program at the ACEC Annual Convention. In addition to the normal Fellow's activities, we have confirmed Pat Lavin—Chief of Safety for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority—to speak at our breakfast meeting. Please make sure to check out the tentative program and look for the COF sponsored activities. There may be more information and surprises to come.

If you have any suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me at [jnakamura@kukulullc.com](mailto:jnakamura@kukulullc.com) and/or Daisy Nappier at [dnappier@acec.org](mailto:dnappier@acec.org). More importantly, if you would like to get involved, we have openings on the Committee and subcommittees as we continue to grow ACEC.

**June Nakamura, Chair**

### ACEC Committee of Fellows

**June Nakamura (Chair)**  
**Dennis Ford (Vice-Chair)**  
**Bob Barnett**  
**Edwin Dedeaux**  
**Alain Gallet**  
**Miller Love**

**Edward Mulcahy**  
**Lennox Nishimura**  
**Cathy Ritter**  
**Richard Wells**  
**Doris Willmer**  
**Daisy Nappier, Staff**

## ACEC Members Join Order of Engineers



The Committee of Fellows conducted the second induction of new members into the "Order of Engineers" at the ACEC 2016 Fall Conference. This group joins the initial inductees at the ACEC 2015 Fall Conference as part of the College of Fellows outreach program to all members of ACEC Member Firms. For information on the Order of Engineers, contact Daisy Nappier ([dnappier@acec.org](mailto:dnappier@acec.org))

## Weihenmayer: "Chase Your Dreams"



The keynote luncheon featured Erik Weihenmayer, an American athlete, adventurer, author, activist, and motivational speaker, and the only blind person to reach the summit of Mount Everest on May 25, 2001. Erik's presentation included slides illustrating the ability of all to achieve their goals and life's expectations. He was given a standing ovation by the ACEC membership.

## ACEC/PAC Backs 2016 Election Winners

Of the 271 congressional candidates that ACEC/PAC supported in the 2016 election, more than 97% were victorious. While many of those winners were incumbents, PAC-backed candidates won seven out of eight open races and 13 of 16 "toss-up" races.

ACEC/PAC has contributed nearly \$1.9 million to U.S. House and Senate candidates and committees for the 2015-2016 election cycle. In the coming weeks, the PAC's totals will climb still higher as it helps to retire debts for winning candidates.

Looking 2017, the PAC will continue to support pro-business men and women from both political parties to Congress who understand the importance and limits of the government's role in engineering issues.

For more information on the ACEC/PAC, contact Gregory Knopp, ACEC's Executive Director of Political Affairs ([gknopp@acec.org](mailto:gknopp@acec.org)) at 202-347-7474.

## BoD Welcomes ACEC/RI, Reviews Contracting Out

Meeting before the Fall Conference, the ACEC Board of Directors welcomed ACEC/Rhode Island as the Council's 52nd Member Organization.

ACEC President/CEO Dave Raymond gave an upbeat report on the State of the Council, announcing that ACEC's finances were given an excellent rating by the outside firm of CliftonLarsonAllen,LLP.

Dan Purvine of A/E Clarity presented the results of the ACEC-commissioned study: "Why Private Firms are Less Expensive—National Contracting Out Study on State DOTs' vs. Private Engineering Firms." Researchers at New York University (NYU) used publicly available information on State DOTs to develop average salary, cost of fringe benefits, and overhead costs for each DOT, and compared those results with corresponding data submitted by ACEC member firms in participating Member Organizations. Comparing the true costs of performing engineering design services in-house versus contracting out demonstrated that private engineering firms are less expensive.

To get a copy of the Study results, contact Steve Hall (shall@acec.org).

## COF Recognizes Award, Scholarship Winners

ACEC and the College of Fellows honored the 2016 Award and Scholarship Winners at the annual Awards Luncheon during the Fall Conference.

**2016 Young Professional Of the Year awards** were presented to five Member Firm employees who have made significant contributions to the industry early in their careers: Dana Al-Qadi of AECOM, Chicago, Ill.; Annie Blissit of Gresham, Smith & Partners, Alpharetta, Ga.; Stephanie Kunkel of Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Sparks, Md.; Adam Leonard, formerly with Fitzmeyer & Tocci, Woburn, Mass.; and Bridget Osborn of HR Green, St. Paul, Minn., who was also chosen by National Engineers Week to represent ACEC in its annual "New Faces of Engineering" promotion.

**2016 ACEC Scholarship Winners** were: Jeremy Ensz, \$10,000 ACEC Scholar of the Year Scholarship; Kristen Copeland, \$5,000 ACEC Life/Health Trust Scholarship; Jeffrey Bloss, \$2,500 Council of American Structural Engineers (CASE) Scholarship; Lauren Grimley, \$2,500 A/E ProNet Scholarship; and Aryn Cowley, \$2,000 Small Firm Council Scholarship.

**2016 Community Service Awardees**—recognized for their extraordinary contributions to their communities—were Ben Chen of Chen Moore Associates, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Lauren Evans of Pinyon Environmental, Lakewood, Colo.; Robert Pence of Freese and Nichols, Fort Worth, Texas; and Charles Phillips of KCI Technologies, Sparks, Md.

For more information about ACEC's Awards and Scholarship programs, contact Daisy Nappier at dnappier@acec.org.

## College Inducts Nine New Fellows



ACEC Chairman Peter Strub (right) and Committee of Fellows Chair June Nakamura (second from right) with the seven new Fellows at the ACEC Fall conference: (left to right) Kyle Anderson of Felsburg, Holt & Ullveig, Omaha, Neb.; Thomas Blackburn of Blackburn Consulting, Auburn, Calif.; Mary Erchul of Ghirardelli Associates, Irvine, Calif.; Sergio Girau of Linfield, Hunter & Junius, Metairie, La.; Joel Goodmonson of Architectural Engineers, Boston, Mass.; Bert Parker of Garver, North Little Rock, Ark.; and Gregg Spagnolo of North Arrow, Washington, D.C. Two other new Fellows did not attend the Conference: Charles Craddock of Clark Dietz, Champaign, Ill.; and Charles Huddleston, Schemmer Associates, Omaha, Neb.

## Unexpected Outcome Offers New Opportunities

While unexpected, Donald Trump's win introduces prospects of an Administration focused on infrastructure investment, tax and regulatory reform, and aggressive energy actions. All of which line up with ACEC's agenda, creating a positive outlook for 2017.

ACEC supports President-Elect Trump's plan to use P3s for major infrastructure projects. Innovative financing, however, is only part of the answer. Additional public funding for core programs is vital. We need to ensure the long-term solvency of the Highway Trust Fund. The gas tax needs to be on the table for consideration, along with phase-in of a Vehicle-Miles-Traveled program (VMT).

We support a similar balanced effort for water infrastructure, both through innovative financing mechanisms and increases in the State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs for water and wastewater.

On Tax reform, ACEC will continue to advocate for a balanced approach, one that treats corporations and pass through entities—including S corporations, partnerships, and sole proprietorships—equally. We will work to protect key provisions in the tax code used by the industry, including the R&D tax credit, the Section 199 domestic production activities deduction, and the cash method of accounting.

In Energy policy, ACEC has always supported a robust "all of the above" energy agenda to promote traditional oil, gas and nuclear sources as well as wind, solar and other renewables, as well as reforms that streamline permitting processes.

Finally, ACEC's regulatory reform agenda will likely get a boost, particularly in rolling back problematic regulatory initiatives, including the so-called "black-listing" rule affecting firms working for federal agencies and the recent increase in the salary threshold under the Fair Labor Standards Act.