



For immediate release:

ACEC of Maine
Maine Engineering Excellence Awards Announced
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AUGUSTA - ACEC of Maine announces their 2016 Engineering Excellence Awards as a prelude to the national ACEC competition for the most innovative engineering projects in the country. At this year's awards event hosted at the University of Southern Maine, six firms received recognition.

Kleinschmidt Associates received this year's top honor - "The Grand Conceptor Award". They were honored for their work on the Menominee Fish Lift System for Lake Sturgeon Passage project. The system uniquely applies proven fish lift technology to develop a first-of-its-kind passage for the threatened lake sturgeon population in the Menominee River, which borders Michigan and Wisconsin and flows into Lake Michigan. Kleinschmidt provided the conceptual design, agency consultation, final design and construction support for the fish lift. This solution produced an effective means of upstream passage for sturgeon for less than half the cost of traditional lake sturgeon passage designs, minimized disruption of hydropower generation, and exceeded goals set by state and federal agencies for fish passage during the spring migration.

ACEC of Maine presented two Special Recognition Awards for Engineering Excellence. **T.Y. Lin, International** was recognized for their work on the Brookfield Floating Bridge in Brookfield, VT. One of only a handful of floating bridges in the world, the project transformed an aging floating structure into a state-of-the-art fiber-reinforced polymer pontoon system with a life expectancy of 100 years. This replacement bridge is also able to shoulder highly-variable ice pressure loads.

The second Special Recognition Award went to **Becker Structural Engineers, Inc.** for their work on the Capital Judicial Center in Augusta. The project involved design of a new 12,000 SF addition connected to the 185-year-old existing Kennebec County Courthouse via pedestrian bridge. A number of structural considerations were in play, and an aggressive schedule required Becker Structural Engineers, Inc. to collaborate extensively with the project team during design and construction.

Three Honor Awards for Engineering Excellence were also presented. The first was to **Haley & Aldrich, Inc.** for their work on an addition to the Casco Bay Island Transit District Ferry Terminal Building. The firm used lightweight EPS geofoam for foundation support to mitigate minimize post-construction settlement, and protect a seawall vital to the ferry terminal's operations. This approach resulted in significant foundation cost savings.

The second Honor Award went to **CES, Inc.** for the Presque Isle Solid Waste Landfill Closure. CES designed a final cover system for nine acres of solid waste to minimize surface infiltration from traveling into the waste and causing leachate to migrate into an aging leachate collection system. The final cover reduces the amount of leachate generated by approximately one million gallons per year.

The final Honor Award for Engineering Excellence went to **Baker Design Consultants** for their work on the River Point Bridge Design-Build Project in Falmouth. This project involved the replacement of a 100+ year old municipal bridge using 105' single span steel truss bridge. The design incorporated a mechanically stabilized earth retaining wall system that reused onsite granite from the demolition of the old structure onsite, reusing them in a cost-effective and sustainable manner.

Special thanks to this year's Judges Panel of: Eric Landis, Professor at the University of Maine Orono; Dave Nazaroff, President of the Penobscot Company and AGC Maine Representative; Ellen O'Brien, President of Northstar Hydro and President ASCE Maine; James Gauthier, Principal at Canal 5 Studio and AIA Maine Representative; and, Theresa Patten, President of Credere Associates and ACEC of Maine Board of Directors, and host of the judging panel, Wright-Pierce. ACEC of Maine also thanks Carolyn Bird of Casco Bay Engineering and Timothy Boyce of S. W. Cole for managing this year's competition.
