



Dear Colleagues –

The President's State of the Union address featured a pitch for a \$1.5 trillion infrastructure program to rebuild the nation's roads, bridges, water systems, energy and other critical assets, but failed to identify sources of funding – without which the plan would be a mirage. ACEC is now working with Congress to fund the plan and, in particular, remedy the declining Highway Trust Fund. The large amount we raised for ACEC/PAC in 2017 – a record-breaking \$1,069,704 – will be put to good use in our aggressive 2018 advocacy program recently approved by the ACEC Executive Committee.

Dave

PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY UPDATE

February 1, 2018

General

- The ACEC Executive Committee approved the Council's 2018 legislative agenda, which focuses on infrastructure funding, energy legislation, regulatory reforms, and other key measures.
- The Executive Committee approved the establishment of a new Geotechnical/Geoprofessional Coalition to provide business resources and advocacy for firms engaged in these disciplines.
- The Executive Committee also approved an amendment to the ACEC Bylaws, subject to final approval by the Board of Directors, that would authorize the ACEC Chair to make any needed interim appointment to fill a Vice Chair position that becomes vacant prior to the end of a term.

Government Advocacy

- Advocated for the extension of key expired tax provisions, including the Section 179D energy-efficient commercial buildings tax deduction.
- Submitted comments to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and General Services Administration (GSA) seeking elimination of the term "professional

engineering" in GSA's Federal Supply Schedule in order to clarify that such services should be procured using QBS procedures.

- Met with GSA's new Public Buildings Commissioner to brief him on: the importance of QBS, the need for increasing the number of engineering projects funded through the agency, and action on other issues related to the \$5 billion Public Building Fund.
- Briefed senior U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staff on the status and purpose of the ongoing New York University (NYU) study on the costs of performing work in-house by the Corps versus contracting out to the private sector.
- Asked the Department of Labor to reconsider its 2013 decision to apply Davis-Bacon wage rules to survey crews.
- The author of the ACEC-sponsored study *Superfund 2017: Cleanup Accomplishments and the Challenges Ahead* (Kate Probst) testified on the study before the House Energy and Commerce Committee.
- Collaborated with ACEC/Illinois on outreach to their state congressional delegation to help address FAR compliance concerns at Illinois DOT.
- ACEC/Indiana became the first state to meet its 2018 PAC goal; Georgia's Jay Wolverton became the first fully paid ACEC/PAC Capitol Club member for 2018 (contributing the legal maximum of \$5,000 in a calendar year).
- ACEC/PAC hosted a fundraising event for Rep. John Culberson (R-TX) in Houston.

Business Resources

- Nearly 400 sites registered for January online classes on critical industry topics, including tax reform, DFARS, and workplace harassment; a webinar on the impact of the new tax reform law in particular was a blockbuster with 160 registrants.
- With more than 60 registered sites, *Sexual Harassment Prevention in the A/E Workplace: Understanding the Law; and Establishing and Improving Policies, Procedures and Effective Training*, was another popular webinar which helped identify the elements of effective policies on sexual harassment.
- The Registered Continuing Education Program (RCEP) added three new providers in January: *The Engineering Management Institute*, *Advantage Strategy Consultants*, and *Martech Media*. <https://www.rcep.net/>
- Coalitions' best sellers for January included CASE's [Quality Assurance Plan](#) and COPS' [Health and Safety Manual](#).

- Held [*Mysteries of the FAR Revealed: Using the AASHTO Audit Guide: Course One - Orlando 2018*](#), where nearly 20 attendees explored effectively using the AASHTO Audit Guide in the development and administration of A/E consultant direct and indirect costs and rates.
- February online programs will feature: *How Consulting Engineers Create Added Value; Your Marketing Toolbox 2020; Less Talk, More Action: 5+ Strategic Ways to Master Project Coordination; Strategy Execution Secrets - Avoid Risks and Succeed; Communicating Technical Information to Decision Makers; The Do's and Don'ts of Contracting for Professional Services; How to Position Your Firm to Win Work Before the RF is issued; Communicate with Presence; Impact of Automated & Connected Vehicles on Transportation, Site/Land and Parking Design*; register at <http://www.acec.org/education/online-classes/>