



# Practice Area Summit

InterContinental Houston– Houston, TX  
February 26-27, 2026

- Daily Schedule of Events -

## Thursday, February 26

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<b>7:30 am – 9:00 am</b>	<b>Kickstart Breakfast: Meet Your Coalition Community</b> Networking and morning kick-off
<b>9:00 am – 11:45 am</b>	<b>Coalition Leadership Strategy Session (Closed)</b> Executive business meetings for volunteer leaders.
<b>9:00 am – 11:45 am</b>	<b>Morning Connection Lounge: Coffee with Sponsors &amp; Speakers</b> For general attendees: coffee, conversation, early networking
<b>11:45 am – 1:15 pm</b>	<b>Luncheon Keynote: Inside the Digital Engine of the Houston Airport System</b>  Speakers: <b>Darryl Daniel</b> , Deputy Director & Chief Technology Officer – Houston Airport System & <b>Matthew Meiers</b> , Aviator Project Manager – Burns Engineering.  A behind-the-scenes look at the technology and integrated digital systems powering Houston’s airports.
<b>1:15 pm – 1:30 pm</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>1:30 pm – 2:30 pm</b>	<b>Professional Practice Sessions</b>
<b>Geoprosessionals</b>	<b>Recruiting and Retention for Firms of All Sizes</b> Speaker: <b>Mark Dornak</b> , Senior Materials Training and Development Specialist at Terracon
<b>Land Development</b>	<b>Land Development 2.0: Innovation and Market Trends</b> Speaker: Pending, Academic or Market Intelligence Expert
<b>MEP Engineering</b>	<b>Leading the MEP Firm of the Future: Strategy, Structure &amp; Success</b> Speaker: <b>A/E Industry Advisor</b>
<b>Surveyors</b>	<b>Tech Horizons: What’s Next for Surveying Professionals</b> Speaker: Panel discussion facilitated by <b>surveying technology leaders</b>
<b>Structural Engineers</b>	<b>AI &amp; Digital Delivery: What’s Next for Structural Practice</b> Speaker: <b>Jim Jacobi</b> , Managing Principal & CIO Emeritus, Walter P. Moore
<b>2:30 pm – 3:30 pm</b>	<b>Coalition Roundtables: Your Practice, Your Priorities</b> Facilitated peer discussions for each discipline <u>except Geoprosessionals</u>



**Geoprosessionals**

**Inside the Crystal Ball: What the Workshop Revealed**

Speaker: **Andrew Pennoni**, Regional VP - Pennoni, **Paxton Anderson**, CEO - Strata, **Victor Donald**, Senior Principal - Terracon

**3:30 pm – 4:00 pm**

**Coffee Break**

**4:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

**Professional Practice Sessions**

**Geoprosessionals**

**Lessons From the Field: Real Cases, Real Consequences**

Speaker: Presented by the **Geoprosessional Business Association**

**Land Development**

**Houston Land Development: Projects Shaping the Region**

Speaker: *Houston-Based Land Developer*

**MEP Engineering**

**The Future of MEP Practice: Tools, Trends, and Opportunities**

Speaker: *Leading MEP Practitioner*

**Surveyors**

**LiDAR & Reality Capture: Turning Data Into Decisions**

Speaker: **Bill Swope**, Geospatial Technical Expert, Olsson

**Structural Engineers**

**The Contract Language Every Structural Firm Should Master**

Speaker: **Karen Erger**, SVP, Director of Practice Management, Lockton Companies

**5:00 pm – 7:00 pm**

**Evening Reception**

Networking with attendees, sponsors, and speakers

**Friday, February 27**

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**7:30 am – 8:15 am**

**Breakfast & Networking**

**8:15am – 8:45 am**

**Breakfast Speaker (TBD)**

**8:45 am – 9:00 am**

**Transition Break**

**9:00 am – 10:30 am**

**Interactive AI Experience: Real Tools You Can Use Today**

A 90-minute, hands-on session showing practical AI applications for operations, communication, staffing, and delivery. Facilitated by ACEC Technology Committee.

**10:30 am – 10:45 am**

**Break**

**10:45 am – 11:30 am**

**Market Intelligence Briefing: Market, Workforce & Practice Trends**

Insights on national market conditions, workforce dynamics, and business outlooks. Speakers pending.

**11:30 am – 12:00 pm**

**Closing Program Session & Remarks**

Program wrap-up, takeaways, and closing messages