

November 1, 2015

PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY UPDATE

Dear Colleagues –

Congressional debt ceiling and budget deal breakthroughs now clear the way for a long-term transportation bill before year's end. Our Fall Conference in Boston topped 950 participants – a new record. Historian Doris Kearns Goodwin's insights on Presidential leadership provided an interesting backdrop to the current primary debates. Renowned explorer Robert Ballard cited the resource-rich ocean floors, not outer space, as our next frontier. The ACEC Nominating Committee brought forward a slate of new candidates (See below for full line-up). And we've just begun our annual state leadership orientations in Washington D.C., where I look forward to seeing many of you.

Dave

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General

- ACEC's Nominating Committee tapped Satch Pecori (ACEC/Illinois) for Chair in 2017-2018, following Peter Strub; and Mary Erchul (ACEC/California), Joel Goodmonson (ACEC/Massachusetts), Tom Mosure (ACEC/Ohio) and John Nelson (ACEC/Maine) for Vice Chairs commencing in April 2016.
- North Dakota, Maryland, Georgia, Arizona, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Nevada all met their ACEC/PAC fundraising goals for 2015, bringing the total number of states at goal to 19.
- ACEC and the Korean engineering association (KENCA) signed a cooperative MOU during the recent state visit of South Korea's President Park Guen-hye to the U.S.

Government Advocacy

- Secured approval of a bipartisan six-year transportation reauthorization bill by the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, including a 2% inflationary increase in funding and ACEC-backed policy reforms such as environmental review streamlining, and multi-state pilot projects to assess mileage-based user fees and other alternative revenue systems.
- Defeated several harmful proposed amendments to the Transportation bill, including a repeal of QBS requirements, mandatory in-sourcing of all construction inspection, and a cost-benefit calculation designed to impede state DOT contracting out.
- Endorsed bipartisan legislation (S. 1656/H.R. 2883) to expand the use of master limited partnerships to include renewable energy projects.
- Secured passage in the House of a four-year reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank, which also includes ACEC-backed provisions to expand the scope of energy projects eligible for Bank financing.
- ACEC members participated in a joint ACEC-AIA architecture/engineering trade mission to Doha, Qatar and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- ACEC/PAC has almost reached the \$800,000 mark toward its goal of \$1 million.
- Awarded a Minuteman Fund grant to ACEC/Louisiana to help pass state constitutional amendments relating to the transportation trust fund and an infrastructure bank.
- ACEC/PAC co-hosted congressional events for Senators Richard Durbin (D-IL), Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), Jim Inhofe (R-OK), and Rob Portman (R-OH), the latter of which was held at the ACEC national office; ACEC/PAC also co-hosted an in-state event for Rep. Reid Ribble (R-WI) in Green Bay.

Business Resources

- Fall conference offered attendees a broad array of educational sessions on industry topics including firm management, marketing, HR, finance, IT, and legal/risk management; one of the most popular, with over 100 attendees, was *Mergers & Acquisitions: Challenges*

and Opportunities.

- With 135 participants, October's most popular webinar, *The AASHTO Uniform Audit & Accounting Guide 2015 Update: Challenges and Opportunities*, offered members an overview of the changes and challenges in the updated guide.
- ACEC Coalitions released the updated CASE Contracts library, an online repository of contracts for the structural community, and the new COPS Coordination and Localization tool, available at www.acec.org/bookstore.
- RCEP added two new registered providers: Shockey Consulting and Duradek.
- Don't miss these valuable webinars coming in November: *Negotiating Better Engineering Contracts*; *Grid Stability, Reliability and Resiliency: Technical, Economic, and Political Reality*; *Information Technology Strategic Planning for Engineers*; *Blue Ribbon Firms – What are the Characteristics of Higher Performing Design Firms*; *Developing and Implementing Winning Strategies for Solid, Measurable Results*; *Project Delivery – Stand it on its Head!*; and *Big-Picture Trends Shaping the Future of Engineering Firms*.