



**For immediate release
December 24, 2008**

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HALLOWELL - The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Maine recently held their Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) competition and project recognition in association with their Annual Fall Forum. This year's Fall Forum was held at the University of Maine Orono campus.

The EEA Program is part of a national competition so honor the best engineering projects completed in the past year. The Maine competition resulted in four projects being recognized. They were the "WPCF – Past, Present and Future", designed by the firm Wright-Pierce of Topsham and the recipient of an Honor Award; the "Congress Street Bridge Replacement", designed by Sebago Technics of Westbrook and the recipient of an Honor Award; "Mercy Hospital at the Fore", designed by Haley & Aldrich of Portland and the recipient of an Honor Award; and "Ocean Gateway", designed by Woodard & Curran of Portland, the winner of the top prize, the Grand Conceptor Award.

Engineering students from the university attended the event and participated in selecting a Students' Choice Award winner from among the EEA entrants. The Students' Choice Award winner was also the Ocean Gateway project.

Displays of the award winners and the other nominated projects will be available to the public at various engineering related events during 2009, including the Engineering Week activities in Portland during the week of February 16.

It is expected that the Grand Conceptor Award winner will be submitted to the National ACEC EEA competition held in Washington, DC, with the national winners to be announced at the April National Meeting of ACEC.

The ACEC of Maine is an association of engineering firms. There currently are 53 firms that are members, with 1,260 employees.