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*
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](http://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.*