

Vol. 9 Issue 2
February 2009

Welcome to the new interactive newsletter format. We designed the new format to be easier to read and easier to forward to colleagues. [Let us know](#) what you think!

Features

MEMBER NEWS

- [Membership Notices](#)
- [News Items](#)

MARKETING

Business Development
News and Opportunities

GIVING BACK

News and opportunities:
Engineers' contributions
to the community

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

E-WEEK

Engineers Week, Feb.
15-21

Programs

WAKE-UP CALL

2009 Breakfast Series,
Weds., Mar. 4th-
Renewables and Economics

Legislative Day

Over fifty ACEC/CO members gathered for Legislative Day at the Old Supreme Court Chambers at the Capitol this week to hear from leading Colorado legislators on budget cuts, transportation funding, possibilities for stimulus package funds, and to hear from ACEC/CO leaders on the importance of getting involved with the legislative process and getting to know our legislators. [Read more...](#)



Senator Abel Tapia speaks to ACEC/CO members at the 2009 Legislative Day



ACEC/CO President's Report

The Colorado Legislative session has begun and ACEC/CO is following the trend of increased political interest. This year Legislative Day had the highest turnout for our members. As engineers, our members have a solid logical approach to problem solving and providing that insight to lawmakers can only be a good thing...[Read more..](#)

It's Tax Time—Credits and Deductions You Should be Aware Of

9% A/E Tax Deduction

ACEC national was instrumental in passing this legislation several years ago. The 9% A/E Tax Credit (3% for 2005 and 2006, growing to 9% by 2010) is part of the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004. The IRS addresses this tax credit in Section 199-Income Attributable to Domestic Production Activities. Forward these articles and these links to your accountant so you don't miss out: [Summary of the law](#); [Final Guidance of the law](#)

R&D Tax Credit

ACEC national is part of the R&D Tax Credit Coalition that successfully got the Public Law 110-343 renewed and strengthened. Last October, the 110th Congress passed H.R. 1424, The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, which included a retroactive two-year extension of the R&D tax credit from January 1, 2008, through December 31, 2009. The bill was signed on October 3, 2008, by President Bush. Included in this act is language to strengthen the credit by increasing the Alternative Simplified Credit rate to 14% for 2009. Check out this law to see if your firm is eligible to receive credits for engineering and designing a new product, research aimed at discovering new knowledge, searching for ways to apply new research findings, performing environmental testing and remediation, designing/implementing new health and safety procedures and equipment, and more. See [additional information](#).

FUTURE LEADERS

Now accepting reservations for the Supervisory Series; early reservation deadline Feb. 24

- [Supervisory Series](#)
- [Management Series](#)

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

Tues., Feb. 24th, 11:30am

New Faces in Engineering and Outstanding Women in Engineering Awards

Resources

JOB CENTER

25% discount on all job postings through Feb. 28. Use code SPRING09

PODCAST CENTER

Wake-up Call Breakfast Series podcasts available \$20/members

OTHER PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

CONTACT US



Lee Johnson, CPA, CClFP

Engineers Benefit When Government Jobs Go Green: Energy Tax Deductions Available to Project Designers

Designers of energy-saving systems may qualify for tax deductions from reductions in annual energy costs for newly constructed or renovated buildings.

Federal tax deductions passed in 2005 allow some engineers and architects generous allowances for their part in the construction or renovation of energy-efficient buildings... [Read more...](#)

Future Leaders Program



Communication Skills Take you from Good to Great

Effective Communication is a critical key to success in any business relationship. To be most effective, practice these four basic skills to make your communication style clear and powerful. [Read more...](#)

Future Leaders Registration Deadline February 24

The popular Future Leaders program, facilitated by Nancy Whitsel of Performance Resources Consulting, is registering participants for its 10th year at ACEC/CO. Identify your future leaders today and enroll them in this fast track to success! See more information on the [Supervisory Series](#), or the [Management Series](#), or [contact us](#) to register. **Deadline for early registration for the Supervisory Series is February 24.**

Personal Communication Style: How to be Effective—Cooperative—Persuasive

A course in the Future Leaders Management program, Weds., March 4, ACEC/CO Upstairs Boardroom, 1-5 pm. Click for [more information](#).

Professional Development from ACEC/CO

Register [online](#) or by [e-mail](#) for any ACEC/CO program.

- **February General Meeting**
Join us to celebrate Engineers Week and the New Faces and Outstanding Women in Engineering awardees, Tuesday, February 24, 11:30 am at Four Points by Sheraton Denver Southeast Hotel, at I-25 and Hampden. View [more information](#).
- **Wake-up Breakfast Series**
Wednesday, March 4, 7:30 am at the Sunrise/Sunset Restaurant in Lakewood. A representative from Tri-State Energy will join us for a discussion on [Renewables and Economics](#).
- **Podcasts Now Available: Wake-up Breakfast Series** [Read more...](#)
- **Women's Forum**
Tuesday, March 17th, 4-6pm at the offices of Merrick & Co. Let the women in your firm know about this free event! [Read more...](#)
- **NEPA Document Quality Workshops**
Workshops to be held February 26 and April 16, to define what makes a quality NEPA document and how to get there. [Read more...](#)

25% Discount on Job Board Postings Until Feb. 28

Prices were increased on January 1 for posting your job on the national Engineering & Science Career Network, but **ACEC/CO is still offering 2008 prices**, and until February 28th, we're offering a **25% discount** on top of that!

Our job board is your best source for exposure to a highly specialized audience of and access to thousands of resumes for qualified engineers and scientists. Just use the promotional code: SPRING09, at checkout. [Click Here](#) to get started, or view [more information](#). Questions? [Contact us](#).



News from National

ACEC President's Report

Dave Raymond's report this month covers ACEC's "full court press" in Congress on the stimulus bill that helped yield \$100 billion in new infrastructure and facilities in the House; action is now in Senate...Judging for the Engineering Excellence Awards happens this month; winners to be announced April 28... and [more...](#)



ACEC President
Dave Raymond

Action Alert: Encourage Senators to Pass Stimulus Package and Repeal 3% Withholding

The House of Representatives recently passed an economic stimulus package that includes over \$140 billion in new funding for infrastructure and public buildings as well as schools, health care facilities and other structures, as well as full repeal of the onerous [3% withholding mandate](#) on government contracts. [Read more...](#)

Sign up for a Role on ACEC Committees

Participation on an ACEC committee brings vitality to the Council and ensures that the issues of members are dealt with in Council operations. [Read more...](#)

Engineers Week Activities

- [Engineering Excellence Awards](#) Panels to be Displayed at the State Capitol [Read more...](#)
- Plans to Recognize New Faces and Outstanding Women in Engineering [Read more...](#)
- Engineering Videos to be Aired Across Colorado [Read more...](#)

Marketing and Business Development

This month's highlights include:

- *Engineering Colorado* Magazine Now [Online](#)
- How to do Business with the Denver Public Schools Workshop Offered

[Read more...](#)

Legislative Day



Speaker of the House Terrance Carroll

Over fifty ACEC/CO members gathered for Legislative Day at the Old Supreme Court Chambers at the Capitol this week to hear from leading Colorado legislators on budget cuts, transportation funding, possibilities for stimulus package funds, and to hear from ACEC/CO leaders on the importance of getting involved with the legislative process and getting to know our legislators.

Speaker of the House Terrance Carroll (D), estimated that 40,000 jobs could be created in transportation and peripheral industries by increasing transportation funding. "There's no question that this economic downturn provides an opportunity to test ourselves and to stretch ourselves...Transportation funding [is] the one place

where we impact all the citizens of Colorado."

Senator Abel Tapia (D), a member of the Joint Budget Committee and a civil engineer, commented that we are working with "a very demanding and challenging budget that is probably going to be with us for...at least three years." He spoke about the possibilities for the national stimulus package and described variables that could affect how those funds might help Colorado, as well as possibilities for a state stimulus package.



Senator Abel Tapia at the 2009
ACEC/CO Legislative Day

Senate Minority Leader Josh Penry (R) advocated re-allocating road-use tax revenue to transportation spending and described his goals to "take the budget we have and...build transportation funding into it...on a compounding basis" instead of allowing transportation funding to get what's left at the end of the line of funding priorities.



Representative Cory Gardner (R) said, "We need to find wasteful spending and ineffective programs" and eliminate them, and "take advantage of this downturn now to [put] the structures in place so that in the next economic downturn, we won't have to make cuts in higher education and infrastructure..."

Legislators demonstrated their enthusiasm for hearing thoughts and ideas from Colorado's engineering community at lunch, where they joined us for informal discussions with members interested in transportation, business practices, and water issues.

Legislators who met with Transportation members:

- Senator Nancy Spence (R) from Centennial (also met with members at the Business Practices table)
- Representative Frank McNulty (R) from Highlands Ranch
- Representative Spencer Swalm (R) from Centennial
- Aides representing Senator Linda Newell (D) from Arapahoe and Jefferson Counties and Senator Paula Sandoval (D) from Denver



Senator Nancy Spence talks with ACEC/CO member Mike Ellsberry, Huitt-Zollars, Inc. during the Legislative Day lunch

Legislators who met with Business Practices Members:

- Senator Kevin Lundberg (R) from Larimer and Weld Counties
- Representative Cheri Gerou (R) from Evergreen
- An aide for Rep. Mike May (R), House Minority Leader, from Parker

Legislators who met with Water Members:

- Representative Randy Fischer (D) from Ft. Collins and a PE
- An aide for Rep. Jeanne Labuda from Arapahoe and Denver Counties



President's Report

**"Democracy is the government of the people, by the people, for the people"
- Abraham Lincoln**

It seems fitting to start with a quote from Lincoln, as we celebrate the bicentennial of his birth this month. It is also fitting in this time of great political interest and political change. The election and inauguration are over, and the Colorado legislative session has begun. Seems like the last year (or more) has been centered on political discussion and debate. Now that the partying and speeches are over, it's time to get down to business. The 2008 US election was the highest voter turn-out since 1968, and ACEC/CO is following the trend of increased political interest. This year at our Legislative Day we had the highest turnout of our members. I personally am very heartened by the trend, as I truly believe that the more our members engage in this process, the better our country will be. As engineers, our members have a solid, logical approach to problem solving, and providing that insight to lawmakers can only be a good thing.

At Legislative Day we heard from details from leadership regarding the challenges facing the state of Colorado. As our lobbyist Bill Artist observed, the leadership was definitely focused on the challenges, and on the solutions. Our members are more active than ever, especially through the Legislative, Water and Transportation Committees. Committee members have been meeting individually with legislators, testifying before the legislative committees, and sending letters both at a state and federal level. Marilen and I testified before the "Jobs by June" committee in December, and we have been submitting information from our members regarding issues facing businesses. We have also been working on a white paper in partnership with AIA and AGC, focused on the importance of infrastructure investments and on spending on the built environment. At a national level, ACEC has been providing significant input to the House, Senate, and White House regarding the stimulus package. For those of you who want to stay current on a daily basis, you can visit the legislative page at http://www.acec-co.org/legislative/legis_updates.html, and be sure to check your e-mail every week for the new *Legislative Voice* newsletter.

To date, the Board has officially voted to support the FASTER bill, which increases the available funding for transportation in the state, and also the proposed prompt pay legislation. As always, we want to hear from our members regarding other issues and bills of interest, so please do not hesitate to send an e-mail to the office, and they will distribute it to the appropriate committees and to the Board. The pace is fast and furious at the state capitol, so remember to respond as quickly as possible, or else we will miss the boat! I saw a bumper sticker not too long ago that I think President Lincoln would have supported - *If the people will lead, the leaders will follow.* So please help the Council lead on these important issues.

-Lauren Evans, ACEC/CO President

Engineers Benefit When Government Jobs Go Green

Energy Tax Deductions Available to Project Designers

By Lee Johnson, CPA, CCIFP

Designers of energy-saving systems may qualify for tax deductions from reductions in annual energy costs for newly constructed or renovated buildings.

Federal tax deductions passed in 2005 allow some engineers and architects generous allowances for their part in the construction or renovation of energy-efficient buildings, in particular, government buildings. The incoming administration has proposed the renovation of government buildings as an item in its economic stimulus package, opening a door that may help engineers and architects reduce their taxes while thinking green.

The owners of commercial buildings typically receive the benefit of deductions for energy-efficient construction and renovation. The exception is government buildings—government entities do not pay taxes and cannot benefit from tax deductions. Therefore, the law provides that the party responsible for creating the technical specifications for the energy-saving system(s) may qualify for the deduction.

The law applies to all government buildings whether local, state or federal. Most commonly the tax deductions are associated with the construction or renovation of public schools, colleges and universities, but would also apply to office buildings, courthouses and other public buildings.

Tax Benefit Knowledge -- A Competitive Edge for Engineers

Projects may be won or lost based in part on the degree to which energy-saving materials and systems are incorporated into the design. When asked, Scott Tracy, Clifton Gunderson's firm-wide construction practice leader, stated what he thought of the potential for architects and engineers to win business based on their green readiness. He said, "Professionals involved in the construction process can play a critical role in promoting and designing buildings that maximize energy efficiency and tax savings. The ability to provide this expertise adds substantial value to their services."

Deduction Details

Projects that yield a 10 to 50 percent savings on annual energy costs can net a deduction ranging from 60 cents to \$1.80 per square foot. To qualify for these energy deductions under current law, buildings must be located in the U.S. and the energy-efficient property must be placed into service after Dec. 31, 2005, and before Jan. 1, 2014. The energy savings must be achieved by constructing or renovating any one of three building systems — the envelope (exterior walls, floor, roof, doors, windows, etc.), interior lighting or heating, cooling and hot water systems. Qualification for the deduction is determined by comparing the energy savings to Standard 90.1-2001 of the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE).

Before deductions can be claimed, the taxpayer must obtain independent certification of energy savings from a qualified, licensed professional engineer or third party contractor using Department of Energy-approved software.

If the building meets the 50 percent energy savings requirement, it will qualify for a tax deduction of \$1.80 per square foot. If the energy savings are less it may still qualify for a partial deduction of 60 cents per square foot if energy costs related to the envelope, interior lighting, and heating, cooling and hot water systems are reduced by 16.7 percent. A special election for the building envelope is available if energy costs related to the exterior walls, floor, roof, doors and windows are reduced by 10 percent and interior lighting and heating, cooling and hot water systems are reduced by 20 percent.

Special interim rules, in effect prior to publication of final Section 179D regulations, allow up to 60 cents per square foot deduction for a 40 percent reduction in lighting power density. Various other requirements must also be met, but the calculation of this deduction is significantly easier and requires no other energy cost reductions within the building.



Tax deductions are available for energy-saving systems placed in service from Jan. 1, 2006 through Dec. 31, 2013. Even if the deductions were not originally taken in 2006 or 2007, they can generally be claimed now by amending previously filed returns.

Green Benefit is Enduring

There is little doubt that green building is here to stay. High energy costs have always been an incentive for improving the energy efficiency of buildings. Now the threat of global climate change and a struggling economy have ratcheted up the urgency of efforts by the government to promote energy-conscious building practices. The value of green building construction is projected to increase to \$60 billion by 2010.

Whether or not the current energy tax deduction is available to qualified design and construction professionals becomes less of a consideration in light of the long-term benefit of energy efficiency – reduced energy consumption and lower costs. Engineers, architects and contractors that educate themselves and their customers about green technologies and building methods will be better positioned to be a part of the green market of the future.

About Clifton Gunderson

Clifton Gunderson, ranked as one of the Nation's largest certified public accounting and consulting firms, provides a wide range of assurance, accounting, tax, and consulting services to clients in a variety of industries including construction and real estate. Founded in 1960, Clifton Gunderson has a staff of more than 2,000 professionals serving clients from 45 offices across the country. The firm has been recognized as one of the country's best places to work. If you would like to learn more about our firm, visit our Web site at www.cliftoncpa.com.

Lee H. Johnson, CPA, CCIFP, is a partner in Clifton Gunderson's Denver office. His 20 years experience includes tax planning, tax compliance, and accounting and financial consulting, with an emphasis in construction and real estate development. He is a member of the Institute of Certified Construction Industry Financial Professionals, a board member of the Colorado Chapter of Construction Financial Management Association, and a [sustaining member](#) of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Colorado and the Associated General Contractors.

The Difference Between Good & Great is Excellent Skill in Communicating

By Nancy Whitsel of Performance Resources Consulting, and ACEC/CO Future Leaders Instructor

Words from Future Leaders participants:

"Well worth the time and cost. The topics are relevant and not part of normal engineering curriculum."

"The FL program is like medicine. I'm not always eager to attend, but it was good for me. This series made me a better, more valuable employee."

"Good workshops. Regardless of experience level, attending can provide new skills or further refine existing skills."



Your Key to Success in Business Relationships

Effective Communication is a critical key to success in any business relationship—whether it is your boss, a co-worker, or client. Communicating a message is an interactive exercise between two people; therefore, both the sender and receiver have responsibilities to complete the process. To be most effective, practice these four basic skills: LISTENING, QUESTIONING, FEEDBACK, AND NON-VERBAL MESSAGES. Using these 4 steps encourages dialogue, which makes your communication style clear and powerful.

I. LISTENING is possibly the most important key to great communication. Since we have two ears, it is best to spend twice as much time receiving information than sending your message. Listening is the greatest compliment that you can give anyone. It is a skill requiring your complete and undivided attention. This complex process of hearing takes place inside your brain, so it should be demonstrated through physical attention, inviting posture, encouraging gestures and good eye contact.

II. QUESTIONING is essential to understand others and identify how you can best respond. Before answering, it is sometimes a good strategy to ask questions for more clarity. With appropriate questioning, you can gain a better understanding of others' thoughts, feelings, and perceptions. Knowing this allows you to form a more complete overview of the issue so that your input can be more valuable.

III. FEEDBACK is the critical link needed to complete the communication process. Good feedback helps others to realize that they have been both heard and understood. A very powerful method to do this is to **paraphrase**. This means to summarize in your own words both the *emotion and the content* you have received. Appropriate feedback contributes

positively to the communication process. Therefore, focus on: the issue—not the person; the facts—not your opinion; sharing ideas—not giving advice.

IV. NON-VERBAL MESSAGES help complete the communication process in two ways: 1) to provide impact when delivering and 2) to supply insight when you are receiving.

Non-verbal messages are a physical form of feedback that includes the following:

- *Body Language* – visual clues such as posture and gestures that demonstrate emotions.
- *Facial Expression* – eye contact, smiles, frowns that help emphasize or dramatize the meaning of your statements.
- *Voice Quality* – pitch, tone, volume, and inflection that adds character to the message.

Communication is a very complex concept and a key ingredient that contributes to excellent interpersonal relationships. To learn the specifics of how to develop effective business communication skills, [read more](#) about Future Leader workshops starting March 5. The brochure will show how your project managers can benefit by attending. To register please call Jennifer Shaw at 303-832-2200 or e-mail jennifer@acec-co.org.

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Membership Notices

Prospective Individual Members

John Migliaccio, San Engineering, LLC

Prospective Affiliate Members

Mark Boggs, PBS&J

Robert Manzanares, HNTB Corporation

Prospective Sustaining Member

Cathy Smith, EGS, Inc.

Welcome New Sustaining Member

Robert Eadie, IntraSearch, Inc., 5340 S. Quebec St. #300 S. 303-759-5050 ext.195 readie@intrasearch.com
IntraSearch, Inc. provides services in aerial mapping, satellite mapping and GIS data. Recommended by John McLain.

Resignations

John Patterson, J.W. Patterson & Associates, Inc.
DeWayne Hansen, HCL Engineering & Surveying, LLC
Jean Phillips, JP Engineering, Inc.
Wendell Day, AES Colorado Ltd.
James Sato, J.F. Sato & Associates, Inc.

News from National

President's Report

General

- ACEC's "full court press" in Congress on the stimulus bill helped yield \$100 billion in new infrastructure and facilities in the House; action is now in Senate. Maintaining close liaison with ACEC members and state organizations on stimulus bill.
- Four new Executive Committee members have been elected by the Board of Directors for terms beginning April, 2009: Gerald Stump (TN) to serve as chairman-elect; Robin Greenleaf (MA), Bartlett Patton (CA), and Kenneth Wightman (OR) – each to serve as Vice Chairmen. (See *Last Word* January 22, 2009).



ACEC President
Dave Raymond

- Engineering Excellence Awards program received 168 entries this year, compared to 158 in 2008, for judging to take place in February and recognition of winners at the EEA black-tie gala April 28, 2009 in Washington, D.C.

Government Affairs

- Approved Minuteman Fund grant for ACEC/Virginia statute revision effort to permit A/E firms to use limitation of liability clauses in their contracts without challenge.
- Advocated for successful House passage of the \$819 billion stimulus bill that includes over \$46 billion in transportation, over \$17 billion in environmental, and over \$49 billion in energy infrastructure, as well as over \$37 billion funding for public buildings, and business favorable tax provisions including repeal of the 3% withholding mandate.
- Launched “Economic Stimulus Resource Center” on the ACEC website for easy access to bill summaries, legislative text, ACEC advocacy and other materials related to the stimulus effort.
- Extended ACEC’s congratulations and support to new Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood on his confirmation.
- The final fundraising tally for ACEC/PAC in 2008 was \$605,500 and \$1.6 million for the 2007-2008 election cycle, a new record; 34 State Organizations achieved their 2008 ACEC/PAC goal, also a new record.
- Successfully challenged the use of “cascading set aside” procurements for A/E services by the Corps of Engineers.
- Secured several key industry priorities among recommendations released by the National Committee on Levee Safety, including the need to address emerging liability issues.

Institute for Business Management

- Sent new Engineering Careers brochures to all ACEC state organizations, for use in state activities to inspire interest by middle and high school students in engineering careers.

Action Alert: Encourage Senators to Pass Stimulus Package and Repeal 3% Withholding

The House of Representatives recently passed an economic stimulus package that includes over \$140 billion in new funding for infrastructure and public buildings as well as schools, health care facilities and other structures, as well as full repeal of the onerous 3% withholding mandate on government contracts. See more information the repeal of the [3% withholding mandate](#).

The focus now shifts to the Senate, which is taking up a stimulus package this week that includes funding for infrastructure, energy and public buildings, but at levels below the House-passed bill. ACEC members are asked to contact their Senators today and urge them to increase infrastructure funding in the bill and to add language from the House bill to repeal the 3% withholding mandate.

[Click here](#) to log in to ACEC’s Legislative Action Center, where you will find a sample letter. ACEC members are encouraged to add individual, firm and state-specific details to their message, and to FAX the letter to their Senators (the fax number will be included on the sample letter).

Sign Up Now For ACEC’s 2009-2010 National Committees

ACEC members are encouraged to sign up for service on ACEC National committees. Participation on an ACEC committee brings vitality to the Council and ensures that the issues of members are dealt with in Council operations. Most of ACEC’s committees are “open” (i.e., sign up and you’re on!). A few require appointment by the incoming ACEC chairman. The terms of committee members begin during the 2009 Annual Convention, April 26-29. Open and appointive committees are listed below. Be sure to share this information with co-workers and encourage them to volunteer as well—remember, ACEC committee membership is open to all employees of ACEC member firms.

Open Committees

Contract Documents Committee
 Environment & Energy Committee
 Federal Agencies & Procurement
 Advocacy Committee
 Institute for Business Management Committee
 Peer Review Sub-Committee*
 SEI Alumni Committee**
 International Committee
 Management Practices Committee
 Membership Committee
 Public Relations Committee

Risk Management Committee
 Tax and Regulatory Affairs Committee
 Transportation Committee Appointive
 Committees:
 Budget Committee
 Engineering Excellence Awards Committee
 Planning Cabinet
 Professional Conduct Committee
 Bylaws & Procedures Committee
 ACEC/AASHTO Joint Committee
 Tellers Committee

*Must be employees of Peer Reviewed firms.

**Must be SEI Alumni.

[Click here](#) to view current Committee Goals.

To join a committee, send an email message to Mary Ann Emely, ACEC vice president of operations, memely@acec.org and designate which committee(s) you are interested in joining. Remember, if your interest is in an "open" committee, you will automatically be added. If you are interested in an "appointive" committee, please so indicate and if you are selected, you will be notified in March. Current members of "open" committees will be automatically continued, unless they advise otherwise. If you have questions about the process, please contact memely@acec.org.

Current Members of ACEC Committees:

ACEC PAC Champion: Gregg Ten Eyck

Awards: Stu Monical, Chair

Contract Documents: David Furry

Environment and Energy: Todd Bragdon, Tim Corrigan, Doug Eberhart, Russ Erbes, Lauren Evans, Brian Kennedy, Peter Smith, Dave Stewart, Jim Viellenave, Tim Voltz, Bill Wallace, Sasha Woodard

Federal Agencies and Procurement: Brien Gidlow, Mark Hamouz, Pete Lagasse

Management Practices: Brien Gidlow, Bill Siegel

Membership: Bob Felsburg

PR: Narender Kumar

Risk Management: Sue Zen

Small Firm Council: Gregg Ten Eyck, Chair

Transportation: Jim Brady, Ken Burns, David Perez, Rob Refvem

ACEC/CO Events

NEPA Document Quality Workshops

CDOT, FHWA and ACEC/CO are taking a collaborative effort to define what makes a quality NEPA document and how to get there. To this end, we are co-hosting two workshops. The first workshop will be February 26th, 1:00 - 5:00 pm at the Police Protective Association, 2105 Decatur St. The next will be April 16th, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm at FHWA, 12300 West Dakota Ave., Trail Ridge Rd. Conf. Rm, Lakewood. Register for the workshops by sending your name, agency/company, e-mail address and the days you plan to attend to deborah.mcalexander@fhwa.dot.gov. For general questions and more information contact Stephanie Gibson at Stephanie.gibson@fhwa.dot.gov.



Women's Forum: The Art of Gracefully Standing up for Yourself



Michele Towers, New Directions Coaching, LLC, will present *The Art of Gracefully Standing Up for Yourself* on March 17th, 4:00 pm.

If you find yourself intimidated by others, not heard by others, and not respected by others, then it's time to make a change! Towers' presentation will touch on these topics.

- > How you are perceived by others, versus how you see yourself,
- > Getting your priorities straight when dealing with difficult people, and
- > How to communicate in a more empowering and confident way.

Breakfast Series Podcasts For Sale

Missed a Wake-up Call Breakfast Series? Not to worry! Now you can catch up by purchasing our breakfast series presentations podcasts. Available to members for \$20 each or 3 for \$45. To purchase, contact jennifer@acec-co.org or call 303-832-2200. The following are now available:

- January 7th, 2009: *It's Not As Bad As You Think: An Economic Review* By: Brian Coggon, Engineered Finance, LLC
- December 3rd, 2008: *Important Emerging Trends & Issues* By: Bill Wallace of Wallace Futures Group, LLC,
- November 5th, 2008: *Demographics and the World of Predicting Your Market* By: Rod Hoffman, CEO and co-founder of S&H Consulting

Engineers in the News

JVA Inc. has named key members of its staff as senior associates and associates. **Howard McHenry** has been named senior associate. **Derek Pedersen**, **David Heinrich**, and **Derek Henderson** have been named associates.



Kevin Greer of **Richard P. Arber Associates** (pictured at left) has obtained his professional engineering license from the state of Colorado.

Nolte Associates Inc. named **Robert Van Uffelen** as director of the Fort Collins office.

Melissa Chalona, P.E., has joined **CTL/Thompson** as an environmental project manager within their Fort Collins Environmental Department.

MWH named **David Barnes** CFO and **Richard Parry** chief risk and legal officer.

Erik Jeanette and **Jessica Lorentz** joined **EMC Engineers Inc.**

The Denver office of **Parsons Brinckerhoff** has named **Paul Scherner** lead traffic engineer.

URS Corp. named **Ron Miller** program manager, power and renewable energy; **Sean Berzins** water/wastewater engineer; **Christian Breedan**, civil designer; **Dong Ding**, environmental geologist; **Brian Bucklin**, civil designer; **Zeb Fultz**, airport baggage systems designer; and **Brian Francis**, civil-geotechnical engineer.

Congratulations to **Alan Lisowy** of **H-P Geotech**, who assumed the presidency of CAGE (Colorado Association of Geotechnical Engineers) last month.

Welcome New Interns

We are proud to announce that two interns have recently joined our staff at ACEC/CO.

Luisa Davila is a our tech intern who manages our podcasts and helps with other tech-related projects. She is a Technical Communication (Multimedia) student at Metro State College of Denver.

Robyn Curtis is the communications intern and assists with the monthly newsletter as well as our weekly updates. She is majoring in journalism with a minor in psychology at Metro.

Welcome Ladies!



Luisa Davila, Tech Intern



Robyn Curtis,
Communications Intern

Engineers Week Activities

National Engineers Week is February 15-21. Join your fellow colleagues nationwide in celebrating this week by checking out the [National Engineers Week Foundation](#) for special activities and events. Participate in "Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day," join the "Engineer your Life" campaign, or view awards nominations to recognize spectacular individuals within the industry and so much more!

"The engineer has been, and is, a maker of history"
- James Kip Finch

ACEC/CO E-Week Activities

[Engineering Excellence Awards](#) Panels to be Displayed at the State Capitol

Panels from the Colorado Engineering Excellence Awards competition will be displayed at the State Capitol during Engineers Week. Legislators will receive letters highlighting the projects that have a connection to their district. To view the panels, visit the east hallway on the first floor of the Capitol, near the elevators.

Plans to Recognize New Faces and Outstanding Women in Engineering

Don't miss the [February General Meeting](#), where we'll celebrate Engineers Week by recognizing the 2009 Outstanding Women in Engineering nominees and award winners, and the 2009 New Faces in Engineering.

Engineering Videos to be Aired Across Colorado

Two educational videos produced by ACEC/CO will be aired on stations all over the Colorado during Engineers Week. *Engineering a Century of Change* and *Invisible World: The Bridge Makers* will be broadcast by Comcast every week in February (view *Century* on Wednesdays at 10pm and *Invisible World* on Tuesdays at 8am). Additionally, check your local listings for air times for the cities of Colorado Springs, Lakewood, Wheat Ridge, and Glenwood Springs, and Mesa County. Or view the videos in small-screen format at www.acec-co.org/students/educationalVideos.html.

Marketing and Business Development

Engineering Colorado Magazine Now Online

The annual ACEC/CO magazine features a photo of Governor Ritter and ACEC/CO President Lauren Evans on the cover. Inside, Governor Ritter responds to questions from ACEC/CO on the issues facing the industry and the state, and projects completed by member firms showcase our shared vision for our state. As President Evans puts it, "ACEC/CO's members have answered the call to engineer the vision." Our thanks go to all of the member firms who contributed articles for the magazine, and to our advertisers. Access it online [here](#).



How to do Business with the Denver Public Schools Workshop Offered

A bond was passed last fall, offering opportunities for engineering firms and others. Come learn how the procurement process works with DPS. Workshops are offered February 10 or March 10, 9:30-11:30 am, at the DPS Training Center, 2700 W. 7th Ave. in Denver. Seating is limited. For more information or to register, e-mail info@denverbusinessassociates.com.

Topics include:

- Certification and pre-qualification requirements
- Registration as a Business Diversity Outreach Program Vendor/Contractor
- How to complete Pre-Qualification Forms

Giving Back: News and Opportunities

CSU's Professional Learning Institute Looking for Professionals to Lead Discussions

CSU's Professional Learning Institute is looking for engineers and other professionals in the industry to lead discussions on a variety of topics. The focus is on teaching the soft skills in 1-2 hour presentations, workshops, or panel discussions. This is one-time commitment and they are flexible on working with the speakers. CSU engineering graduates are technically competent, but need additional professional skills to better prepare them for their future careers, and to differentiate them and increase their competitiveness.

The mission for PLI of Colorado State University College of Engineering is to "prepare students for engineering careers that advance society and serve the world." The PLI program focuses on five areas that are not covered in the standard engineering curricula: global culture and diversity, innovation, leadership, public service, and ethics. These areas are developed into a series of workshops offered each semester. Students can obtain a certificate upon graduation for completing PLI requirements. For more details and information on the program visit www.engr.colostate.edu/pli/. To participate, contact Alma Rosales at csu_pli@yahoo.com or 303 589 6685.

Come Meet Colorado's Future Engineers and High Tech Professionals

Colorado Mathematics, Engineering, Science, Achievement (MESA) is actively recruiting volunteers to help facilitate and judge student competitions at the 2009 High School Engineering and Science Jamboree. The Jamboree is a hands-on design challenge of approximately 250 high school MESA students who compete in a series of improv and built-in-advance engineering challenges. For a detailed description of the competition list, including rules and guidelines, please visit the website at www.cmesa.org/projects/jamboree/index.html. To volunteer, contact Victor Vialpando at victor.vialpando@ucdenver.edu or 303.352.3869 or Gale Day at 720.352.5771. No engineering experience is required to participate.

Judges Wanted for Science & Engineering Fair

If you enjoy science, have a good knowledge base and enjoy working with students, please consider judging at the **2009 Denver Metropolitan Regional Science and Engineering Fair** on Wednesday, February 25th at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. The judges orientation/networking session begins at 11:00 am, to which all judges are encouraged to attend. Register before February 13th. For more information contact Meredith Tennis at 303-315-0017 or meredith.tennis@uchsc.edu.

SWE-RMS Announces Essay Contest for 6th Graders

The Society for Women Engineers, Rocky Mountain Section is accepting entries to their annual essay contest for 6th graders. Deadline is March 3. Do you know a teacher or student who should enter? For more information, contact Sonya Reiser at sonyareiser@yahoo.com.

Additional Professional Development Opportunities and Events

CASE Publications on Sale and Valentine's Day Merchandise at the ACEC Bookstore

Save 20% on Council of American Structural Engineers, (CASE), Publications, CASE Contracts and CASE Tools during the month of February. The discount will be applied automatically at check-out. Also, Enter coupon code **VDAY** at checkout to receive free domestic ground shipping through February 12, 2009 when you order Valentines Day Merchandise at the [ACEC Bookstore](#).



The Business of Design Consulting Program

ACEC presents an *The Business of Design Consulting for the Engineering Firm of the 21st Century*, March 25-28 in Orlando, FL. Register by Feb 27 for discounted prices. Contact La'Creshea Makonnen at education@acec.org or call 202-347-7474, ext. 338.

Engineering Graduate Student Visit Day

Colorado State University's College of Engineering hosts an Engineering Graduate Student Visit Day on Friday, March 6 to highlight engineering graduate programs and research opportunities at CSU. Click [here](#) for more information.

P.E. Civil Breadth Exam Review Courses

Six-session review for the Principles and Practices of Engineering Civil Breadth Exam, scheduled for Saturdays 8am - 5pm from March 7 through April 18, Registration deadline is Friday, February 20. See the [Student Application](#) to register.

Building Information Modeling (BIM) Seminar

The Promise and the 2009 Reality for A/E/C Firms: ACEC presents the experiences of industry innovators who are transforming the BIM multi-dimensional project planning concept into an A/E/C marketplace advantage, March 26-27 in Seattle, WA. To register and for additional information visit the ACEC website, www.acec.org or e-mail education@acec.org, or by contact phone at 202-347-7474 ext. 338.

SWE-RMS Joint Meeting with School of Mines

Volunteers needed for a panel discussion/presentation to encourage students to transition to professional members in SWE. Wednesday March 18, 12-12:50 pm at the CSM campus. E-mail Aspen Coombs at aspensleaf5@hotmail.com. Corporate sponsorship is sought for the lunch.

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