

ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Colorado

THE VOICE

OF COLORADO'S ENGINEERING INDUSTRY

[Home](#)
[Member Log-in](#)
[Events Calendar](#)
[Newsletter Archives](#)

Vol. 10 Issue 3
March 2010

[Printable Version](#)

Features

[President's Report](#)
[Committee Spotlight](#)
[Membership Notices](#)
[Engineers In The News](#)

Programs

[Wake-Up Call Breakfast Series](#)

Weds., April 7, 7:30 a.m. at
Sunrise Sunset Restaurant.

[March General Meeting](#)

Tues., March 23 at the
Sheraton Denver Tech Center

Marketing

[Spring Transportation Symposium](#)

President's Report

It is a tumultuous time in Washington. Congress has many measures before it that will have profound impacts on our businesses and the business of engineering. Now more than ever we as business owners and managers need to advocate our positions with our Senators and Representatives.

I am asking every member to be more involved with legislation that is being proposed. Study it and read ACEC's national position. Then call, write, or email your Senator or Representative to let them know how this legislation impacts your business. As engineers, business owners and managers, our legislators respect our opinion and want to hear from us. [Read More..](#)



ACEC/CO President
Rob Refvem

Committee Spotlight

ACEC/CO committees are the driving force behind the Council and we are always looking for new members to join. Committee involvement is important, therefore we will be highlighting one of our committees each month in "The Voice" Newsletter. Be watching for these articles and keep in mind who in your firm would be good on a committee:

Legislative Committee: Protecting the Industry

It's a busy time of year for the Legislative Committee which is constantly working hard to be the voice heard for ACEC/CO. In February the committee held its annual "Legislative Day at the Capitol" where committee members sat-in on hearings and had lunch with legislators, meeting them face-to-face and discussing issues that directly affect the industry. Committee Chair Elizabeth Stolfus said that the committee also held its annual "off-session meetings" with legislators to discuss issues in detail and in person.

"The off-session meetings and Legislative Day allow legislators to get to know us personally," Stolfus said. "Both were very successful." [Read More..](#)

Future Leaders: Celebrating 11 Years of Leadership Excellence for Engineering Professionals



Coaching for Results Part III - How to Use Compliments to Improve Morale and Motivate Your Staff

(Part three of three installments)
by Nancy Whitsel, of Performance Resources Consulting and ACEC Future Leader Instructor

The term coaching encompasses a variety of communication skills from informing, teaching, and encouraging to advising, correcting and mentoring. In **January**, we discussed five steps to complement and strengthen staff performance. In **February**, I offered six steps to correct

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poor performance quickly and in a way that motivates your employee to improve. For this **last installment**, we will explore what should be included in a motivational compliment. Great managers make a habit of using this positive feedback technique repeatedly. [Read More...](#)

In the News

ACEC/CO Awards \$1,000 to Bridge Building Scholarship Winner

The 43rd Annual Colorado High School Bridge Building Contest took place during Engineer's Week on February 20. Max Vannata, a junior at Cheyenne Mountain High School, was this year's Region 2 winner and received \$1000 in scholarship money from ACEC/CO. This is Max's second year in a row winning the contest. [Read More..](#)



New Faces in Engineering (L-R) ACEC/CO President Rob Refvem, Felsburg Holt & Ullevig; Rebecca Allen, Kleinfelder; Celeste Cizik, EMC Engineers, Inc.; Nathan Pilcher, Kleinfelder; Linsey Chalfant, Ayres Associates; Jeremy Whitley, The RMH Group, Inc.; Walker Jones, EMC Engineers, Inc.; Jessica Jones, The RMH Group, Inc.

"Outstanding Woman" and "New Faces in Engineering" Honored at Feb. General Meeting

At our February General Meeting, ACEC/CO celebrated National Engineer's Week by recognizing our "New Faces in Engineering" and honoring our "Outstanding Women in Engineering." The New Faces of Engineering Awards strive to promote the accomplishments of young engineers by highlighting their engineering contributions and the resulting impact on society. [Read More..](#)



Outstanding Women in Engineering (L-R) ACEC/CO President Rob Refvem; 2010 ACEC/CO Outstanding Woman Julie Vlier, Tetra Tech; Nominees: Kirsten Cremona, The RMH Group, Inc.; Anne Pagano, Drexel, Barrell & Co.; Holly Buck, Felsburg Holt & Ullevig; Stacy Tschuor, David Evans and Associates, Inc.; Kallie Bauer, Applegate Group, Inc.; Belinda Butler-Veytia, URS. Not pictured: Sally Corey, Outsourcing Marketing

We are proud to announce that **Julie Vlier, P.E. of Tetra Tech** has been named ACEC/CO 2010 Outstanding Woman in Engineering. The Outstanding Woman award recognizes women who demonstrate exceptional technical, educational, community involvement and leadership competence in the engineering industry. The award was established by the ACEC/CO Public Relations Committee in 2004. This year eight women were nominated and each proved to be outstanding on their own merits and very worthy of recognition for their achievements. [Read More..](#)

News from National

President's Report

From ACEC's President Dave Raymond on the latest developments of ACEC's government affairs on your behalf. [Read more..](#)

Sign Up Now For ACEC's 2010-2011 National Committees

ACEC members are encouraged to sign up for service on ACEC National committees. Most of ACEC's committees are "open" (i.e., sign up and you're on!). A few require appointment by the incoming ACEC chairman, and the terms of appointed committee members begin during the 2010 Annual Convention, April 25-28. [Read More..](#)

Membership Notices and Engineers in the News

[Membership Notices](#) for new and prospective members and other membership changes.

[Engineers in the News](#) from our members and member firms.

ACEC/CO Events and Professional Development

Register [online](#), by calling 303-832-2200, or by [e-mail](#) for ACEC/CO programs.

- **March General Meeting**

Tuesday, March 23, 11:30 a.m. Members will have an opportunity to hear how our panelists helped to grow each of their respective companies in varied economic climates by keeping their focus on the goal. [Read More..](#)

- **Wake-up Call Breakfast**

Wednesday, April 7, 7:30 a.m. at Sunrise Sunset Restaurant. "State Board Licensure" to be discussed. [Read More..](#)

- **ACEC/CO Annual Meeting**

Friday, April 16, 6:30 p.m. at Lakewood Country Club. Register by April 13. More info to come.

- **Save the Date for the annual ACEC/CO Expert Witness Practices seminar**

To be held Wednesday, June 9, 2010 from 12 noon – 5 pm at the Grand Hyatt in Denver. More information coming soon.

Marketing and Business Development

Sponsorships Requested for WTE/ ITE/ ACEC/CO Spring Transportation Symposium

The 8th Annual Spring Transportation Symposium will be **Friday, April 9**, at the Denver Pepsi Center. This year the symposium is sponsored by ACEC/CO alongside WTS, ITE, and ITS RM, and all net proceeds from the event will go toward scholarship funds for these organizations.

Corporate sponsorships of the event are requested as part of the fundraising effort for the scholarship funds. Your Symposium sponsorship also supports the community of transportation planners, engineers, and decision makers by making it possible for us to provide public agency attendees with lower registration costs. This is a great opportunity to get your firm noticed. Many sponsorship levels are available. [Click here to view sponsorships and more information.](#)

ACEC/CO Sponsorship Opportunities

ACEC/CO would like to encourage our members to consider sponsoring a meeting and/or event as a marketing strategy to get your name out there and in front of other member firms. **Our March General Meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, March 23, is the next sponsorship opportunity.** [Read more..](#)

**We See Green —
And We're Not Talking Shamrocks.**
Play in the 2010 ACEC/CO Golf Tournament.

MARCH 2010
SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY

Sponsorships Available
Hole Sponsorship \$300
Beverage Cart \$450
Hole-in-One \$500
Free Shot Sponsor \$575
Lunch Sponsorship \$800

You don't have to be a great golfer, you can always rely on luck...
All proceeds from this tournament help fund scholarships awarded to promising engineering students each year. In 2009, the ACEC/CO Scholarship Program awarded \$32,500 in scholarships to Colorado engineering students, \$2,000 of which was raised through the golf tournament.

Register by calling 303-832-2200
or email jennifer@acec-co.org or
[click here for more information.](#)

ACEC
of Colorado

*August 9,
2010
Perry Park
Country Club*

Additional Professional Development Opportunities and Events

- **Spring WTS/ITE/ACEC Transportation Symposium**
Save the date: April 9, 2010. Net proceeds will go to fund scholarships including ACEC/CO. [Read More..](#)
- **SMPS Upcoming Events:**
Check out the upcoming events for the Society for Marketing Professional Services (SMPS) [Read More..](#)
- **Tailings and Mine Waste 2010 Conference and Call for Papers**
The conference will be held October 17-20, 2010 at Vail Cascade Resort Hotel in Vail. [Read More..](#)

President's Report

It is a tumultuous time in Washington. Congress has many measures before it that will have profound impacts on our businesses and the business of engineering. Now more than ever we as business owners and managers need to advocate our positions with our Senators and Representatives.

I am asking every member to be more involved with legislation that is being proposed. Study it and read ACEC's national position, then call, write, or email your Senator or Representative to let them know how this legislation impacts your business. As engineers, business owners and managers, our legislators respect our opinion and want to hear from us.



ACEC/PAC's bipartisan approach to electing pro-business members of Congress means better policies to promote the engineering industry. The following are a few of our most recent legislative accomplishments:

- House passage and Senate committee passage of a multi-year water infrastructure bill that boosts funding for water projects and expands QBS.
- House passage of an aviation reauthorization bill that expands funding and broadens the application of QBS.
- An economic stimulus program that included \$130 billion in new infrastructure investments.
- A House-passed Jobs bill that sets aside an additional \$50 billion for infrastructure.
- Successful conclusion to the US DOT OIG audit and the corresponding AASHTO Audit Guide update.
- New building code requirements in pending House and Senate energy legislation that will create opportunities for mechanical/electrical firms.

Therefore, I am also asking all of our members to become involved with our national Political Action Committee (ACEC-PAC). We need a minimum contribution of \$100 from every principal in every firm in the state. I am also inviting our company leaders here in Colorado to become a member of one of the ACEC-PAC clubs. This financial commitment is what gives ACEC a strong voice in Washington. There are four levels of commitment. They start with the Congressional Club at \$500, Millennium club at \$1,000, Chairman's Club for \$2,500, and the Capital Club for the maximum of \$5,000 per year. Give me or the ACEC-CO office a call and we will gladly give you more information on all the benefits we as members have derived from our National PAC and how you can join.

- Robert Refvem, ACEC/CO President

Committee Spotlight

Legislative Committee: Protecting the Industry

It's a busy time of year for the Legislative Committee which is constantly working hard to be the voice heard for ACEC/CO. In February the committee held its annual "Legislative Day at the Capitol" where committee members sat-in on hearings and had lunch with legislators, meeting them face-to-face and discussing issues that directly affect the industry. Committee Chair Elizabeth Stolfus said that the committee also held its annual "off-session meetings" with legislators to discuss issues in detail and in person.

"The off-session meetings and Legislative Day allow legislators to get to know us personally," Stolfus said. "Both were very successful."

Stolfus said that the committee is also working to schedule meetings with federal legislators when they visit Colorado. At a local level, the committee is participating in several coalitions that share similar interests in issues like infrastructure funding, prompt payment and more.

"ACEC/CO testified on some current bills, such as HB1148, the Architect's Repeal of Continuing Competency bill; and our members are standing by to testify on legislation, as needed," Stolfus said. "Finally, we are preparing for some members to travel to Washington DC in April by meeting with Russ George of CDOT and Martha Rudolph of CDPHE."

Although all ACEC/CO committees are important, the Legislative Committee is looking out for the industry's best interests and fighting to protect those interests.

"The Legislative Committee considers all ACEC disciplines in developing opinions, uses effective lobbyists, teaches members how to make a difference in the legislative process, and fosters participation in government," Stolfus said.

Co-Committee Chair Tony Marcello said that the most valuable part of the Legislative Committee is "Being able to help our

legislators see issues affecting our industry from our perspective. It provides them [legislators] valuable insight into how decisions made at the legislative level can potentially affect our industry and the State of Colorado in both a positive and negative manner.”

For the duration of the year, the committee will continue to focus on licensure issues, SB10-116 change orders in public contract, and repeal of late registration penalties in the FASTER statute.

“We will also remain on the lookout for potential legislation on construction defects, taxing of professional services, and other issues that are considered harmful (or beneficial) to the health and welfare of our member firms and their employees,” Stolfus said.

Anyone interested in joining the Legislative Committee, learning more about any of the topics above, or the legislature in general, can contact Elizabeth Stolfus 303-221-2330 elizabeth@stolfusandassociates.com or Marilen Reimer 303-832-2200 mar@acec-co.org. ACEC Colorado participates in PAC activities federally and locally. Please consider contributing to CEPAC. CEPAC funds are used for state-wide elections and really make a difference. Contact Mark Hamouz mhamouz@lonco.com for more information or to contribute.

Future Leaders ~ Celebrating 11 Years of Leadership Excellence for Engineering Professionals

Coaching for Results Part III - How to Use Compliments to Improve Morale and Motivate Your Staff

(Part three of three installments)

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

The term coaching encompasses a variety of communication skills from informing, teaching, and encouraging to advising, correcting and mentoring. In **January**, we discussed five steps to complement and strengthen staff performance. In **February**, I offered six steps to correct poor performance quickly and in a way that motivates your employee to improve. For this **last installment**, we will explore what should be included in a motivational compliment. Great managers make a habit of using this positive feedback technique repeatedly.

Remember that an excellent coach acknowledges good efforts and compliments often. This ensures that you are fair in noticing both employee strengths and areas that need improvement. If you take advantage of positive feedback when you ‘catch ‘em doing something right’ -- it makes your criticism more acceptable. People want to do a good job and they appreciate being recognized. This goes a long way toward encouraging continued high-quality work and promotes employee satisfaction.

The following six items illustrate what should be included in a compliment that strengthens and supports dedication to superior performance. Your statement should be:

Job Related - Speak truthfully about good performance that you want to reinforce.

Direct - Be straightforward. Tell the person exactly what he/she did to earn your praise.

Serious - Don't make a joke. Speak in terms that will be meaningful. Tell why it counts.

Sincere - Be genuine and honest and in your comments. Say why you are proud of them.

Specific - Describe what you noticed and appreciated about what he/she said or did. Mention how these actions demonstrate professionalism and positively reflect on the firm.

Timely - Don't wait until review time to mention compliments. Tell them immediately!

It is OK to compliment in public. It sets a good example and encourages others to follow. When it comes to compliments, it is good to share gossip! Every time you hear good comments about your people, pass this good news along to your staff. Give positive reinforcement often; it makes everyone feel good—including you. Compliments improve staff satisfaction and it boosts moral when the boss notices good efforts.

We look forward to welcoming your engineering supervisors to these practical and award winning workshops next year. On behalf of the **ACEC Future Leader program**, thank you for supporting these popular professional development workshops in 2010!

[Click Here](#) to watch a video on the benefits of participating in the Future Leaders Program from the perspective of a past participant.

Future Leader Participant Quotes:

"Attending FL is great jumpstart to your project manager career, full of good ideas and techniques. This has been a valuable class for me as a project manager. I will benefit from it and will look back on course material to develop my skills as I progress as a manager."

"ACEC FL workshops were a great framework for the development of my management skills. I enjoyed networking and getting to know how other firms operate."

"These worthwhile and beneficial seminars help build confidence and increase productivity. Attending was time well spent."



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In The News

"Outstanding Woman" and "New Faces in Engineering" Honored at Feb. General Meeting

At our February General Meeting, ACEC/CO celebrated National Engineer's Week by recognizing our "New Faces in Engineering" and honoring our "Outstanding Women in Engineering."

Outstanding Women in Engineering

We are proud to announce that **Julie Vlier, P.E. of Tetra Tech** has been named ACEC/CO 2010 Outstanding Woman in Engineering. The Outstanding Woman award recognizes women who demonstrate exceptional technical, educational, community involvement and leadership competence in the engineering industry. The award was established by the ACEC/CO Public Relations Committee in 2004. This year eight women were nominated and each proved to be outstanding on their own merits and very worthy of recognition for their achievements.

Julie, a manager in the Water Resources division of Tetra Tech, has led engineering design and water quality studies for over 25 years. She is committed to sustaining and improving water quality in Colorado and the Western U.S., and has demonstrated her leadership and dedication through voluntary and appointed positions. This includes her appointment by the Governor, and confirmed by the Senate, as one of nine members on the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) from 1995 – 2001, where she served as its chairperson from 1999-2000.

Julie has always been involved with organizations that support environment and community improvement. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for Imagine! Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides support services for mentally and physically disabled citizens in Boulder County. She maintains active membership in several organizations such as the American Water Works Association (AWWA); the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE); the Society of Professional Engineers; the National Association of Lake Management (NALMS); the Colorado Lake and Reservoir Management Association (CLRMA); and, the Water Environment Federation (WEF).



Nominees:



Anne Pagano, Drexel Barrell & Co. began her career as an EIT at Drexel Barrell. Over the past 12 years, she has been an asset to the firm and has been promoted to several positions including Project Engineer, Project Manager, and finally to Regional Manager of the Steamboat Springs office. She has designed and managed many successful projects throughout her career. She opened the branch office for Drexel Barrell in Steamboat Springs in 2005. Anne is a LEED Accredited Professional and also a member of the Steamboat Sustainable Business Program. She is dedicated to sustainable design practices and implements them into her projects whenever possible.

Kallie Bauer, P.E., Applegate Group, Inc. has worked her way up from staff engineer to senior engineer, where she works to make Colorado's water world a little better. She was project manager for construction of Windsor Lake's new outlet works project, which won an ACEC/CO Honor Award. Kallie co-developed and taught Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) training for seven years where she also proctored the CFM exam for six years assisting over 200 people obtain their CFM license. Kallie was CASFM's committee chair for six years and served as Four States Irrigation Council Board member.



Holly Buck, P.E., Felsburg Holt and Ullevig, has focused on transportation engineering and planning industry all of the 16 years of her career. As a senior project manager within the firm, Holly frequently serves as an advisor to younger engineers and she freely spends time to provide guidance, whether it be technical in nature or career development focused. Professionally, she actively participates in the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), she serves on the Programs Committee of the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS), she is a member of the Colorado Association of Transit Agencies (CASTA), and she participates in the Transit Alliance. Holly is a member of SUNI (her local neighborhood organization) and offers her expertise on transportation issues in the community.

Stacy Tschuor, David Evans and Associates, Inc. has 15 years of experience in traffic engineering. She has managed projects for some of David Evans and Associates' largest clients, including the National Park Service and the Denver Regional Transportation District. She currently leads the Denver transportation group of DEA, where she is managing the transportation plan update for Arapahoe County. The plan will be used for regional transportation planning and project selection for local, regional, and federal funding. Stacy is a member of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS), and the Intelligent Transportation Society, Rocky Mountain Chapter (ITSRM).



Belinda Butler-Veytia, URS, was promoted to the position of Manufacturing and Commercial Business Line Team Leader in 2008, and has successfully driven URS' business in this market sector ever since. She serves as a member of the Leadership Council for the White House Project, a non-profit, non-partisan 501(c) (3) organization that aims to advance women's leadership in all communities and sectors—up to the U.S. presidency—by filling the leadership pipeline with a richly diverse, critical mass of women. Belinda is a member of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), Society of American Military Engineers (SAME), and serves on the Board of Trustees of the Children's Outreach Project in Adams County, CO, which supports early childhood education and a therapeutic school.

Kristen Cremona, The RMH Group, Inc., began as an entry-level engineer in 1995, and in less than ten years, her performance led her into project management and senior electrical engineering roles. She has achieved several major project-related accomplishments throughout her career, including work on projects with historical significance for the National Park Service. Kirsten is completing work on the installation of turbines at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's National Wind Technology Center, a truly one-of-a-kind project. Having three sons involved in Cub Scouts, Kirsten has given presentations to the scouts about what it means to be an engineer and how engineers help solve the problems of daily life.



Sally Corey, Outsourcing Marketing, has been an active member in ACEC and the engineering community for over 20 years. Her specialty is marketing and business development, and she has devoted her career to providing these services to the industry as a member of the staff at local, national and international engineering firms. She began her own firm in 2002 for the specific purpose of offering marketing and business development services to the engineering community. Sally has developed over 50 strategic plans and pursuit plans for engineering, architectural and construction firms. She is not an engineer but a world-class marketing professional that has dedicated her talents, skills, time, and efforts to the engineering community in Colorado.

New Faces in Engineering

ACEC/CO participates in Engineers' Week "New Faces in Engineering" program. The New Faces of Engineering strives to promote the accomplishments of young engineers by highlighting their engineering contributions and the resulting impact on society. ACEC/CO would like to thank our seven nominees for their contributions to our profession.



Rebecca Allen, P.E., Kleinfelder, has been with Kleinfelder in the Golden Office for four years. She has field experience in the area of soil drilling, grout placement, geologic mapping, dam safety investigations, placement of roller compacted concrete (RCC), and placement of earthen embankment material. Over the past year Rebecca has been involved in numerous professional organizations including The Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists (AEG), Engineers without Boards (EWB) and the Association of State Dam Safety officials (ASDS). Rebecca recently received her Professional Engineering License in Colorado and is a leader for Sustainability and Stewardship in Kleinfelder's Golden Office.

Walker Jones, EMC Engineers, has been an asset to EMC since joining after graduation in 2004. Walker currently plays a key role in EMC's in-house technical design standards and processes to insure technical consistency for clients. He is the project manager for several important sustainable design projects such as Casey Middle School in Boulder, CO. This project, currently under construction, will be LEED Gold certified with possible Platinum. Walker volunteers his time to consult with neighborhood, community, nonprofit, and other organizations, including his hometown YMCA, church, school, and current homeowners association. He helps these organizations reduce their energy costs, save money on installation, and create more sustainable facilities.



Linsey Chalfant, P.E., Ayers Associates, was hired as a Project Engineer but has performed well beyond her years as she assumed many project management duties for a large commercial land development project. She quickly became the central clearing house for information and coordination between city staff, developer, architect, landscape architect and other consultants because of her excellent organizational and people skills. Through her projects, Linsey has demonstrated excellent technical skills (both analysis and final design) and outstanding communication and organizational skills. Linsey is well respected and admired by all who have had the opportunity to work with her.

Jessica Jones, The RMH Group, is a mechanical engineer-in-training and the LEED-EB coordinator at The RMH Group. She is a LEED AP in all available categories, an accomplished energy modeler and is active in many industry organizations. Her engineering contributions are evidenced in her volunteer efforts with ASHRAE and successful LEED project administration. Jessie was a founding member and chair of the ASHRAE Rocky Mountain chapter sustainable engineering committee whose goal is to engage the non-engineering community in sustainability issues. She recently helped achieve LEED-EB registration for Republic Plaza, the largest office building in the Rocky Mountain region, which garnered an international award nomination.



Celeste Cizik, P.E., EMC Engineers, started her career in mechanical system design and quickly moved to leading large projects from multi-family residential to a LEED Gold certified school. To pursue her true passion, Celeste moved from design to energy engineering at EMC Engineers. Within this field, Celeste has been dedicated and motivated to lower energy use in buildings. Her recent projects have included retro-commissioning for the Hawaii State Capitol Building and eight City of Aurora buildings. In all of these buildings, opportunities were identified to provide significant energy savings. Celeste is an active participant with the ASHRAE sustainable engineering committee which is helping to promote sustainability in the field.

Nathan Pilcher, EIT, Kleinfelder, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Geotechnical Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines in May 2007. Since graduation he has worked as a geotechnical engineer for Kleinfelder in Golden. Nathan has been involved in a wide range of projects in the transportation, energy, and commercial sectors, including the Langford Wind Farm, Xcel Energy Transmission Line Relocation, Trans Allegheny Interstate Transmission Line (TRAIL), Horse Hollow Transmission Line, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NEON) project, and the Pinon Ridge Uranium Mill and has worked throughout Colorado and the United States.



Jeremy Whitley, The RMH Group, had limited design experience when he joined The RMH Group in 2006. Today, he is an electrical engineer-in-training and a LEED AP who excels at project execution. He works on a wide variety of projects in many sectors, including hospitals, fire stations, aerospace facilities and schools. Part of his success lays in his unique ability to describe electrical systems in ways that everyone, from architects to contractors to owners, can understand and evaluate. This ability was developed through his work as an electrician in the field and gives him "real-world" knowledge of how electrical systems look and work when built. His favorite assignments are projects such as fire stations and schools where his design choices can directly impact individuals and communities.

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The 43rd Annual Colorado High School Bridge Building Contest took place during Engineer's Week on February 20. Max Vannata, a junior at Cheyenne Mountain High School, was this year's Region 2 winner and received \$1000 in scholarship money from ACEC/CO. This is Max's second year in a row winning the contest.

The event, which is sponsored by the Professional Engineers of Colorado, the Bureau of Reclamation, and ACEC/CO, is a statewide program aimed at providing interaction and communication among practicing engineers, high school students, and other professionals. ACEC/CO has been a sponsor of the event since 2000 and has awarded \$10,000 in scholarship money over the past ten years. The top winners of each region are eligible to advance to the international contest, which will take place May 1, 2010 in Philadelphia,

Pennsylvania. Congratulations Max from ACEC/CO and good luck!

News From National

President's Report

With the Senate passage of a "jobs bill" that provides for highway funding through 2010 and extends the Build America Bonds program, ACEC is focused on achieving a matching result in the House. After that we are promoting a wave of measures for transportation, aviation, water and energy that will boost funding, ensure QBS, get beyond the limited "shovel ready" approach of the first stimulus bill, and provide additional flexibility for states.



ACEC President
Dave Raymond

In the current health care debate ACEC has advocated measures that would help keep costs down for our firms such as allowing competition across states lines (which is not in any of the bills thus far), medical malpractice liability reform (which is not in any of the bills), and insurance exchanges to allow for greater competition among private carriers (which is in the House and Senate bills). We have opposed the onerous employer mandates of the House bill; the Senate bill has looser mandates.

On the union front, we have fought the unfair card-check legislation, which seems dormant for the time being but is expected to rear its head again. And we are pleased that the President has spoken favorably about nuclear power as part of a balanced energy package.

Finally, because ACEC/PAC has grown to be one of the largest and most recognizable PACs in Washington, House and Senate members of both parties are calling on us more and more for support. The ACEC/PAC "success story" is one we can be proud of and I encourage all states to get an early start with this program in 2010 as it will serve as a critical vehicle for meeting our legislative goals.

By Dave Raymond, ACEC President

Sign Up Now For ACEC's 2010-2011 National Committees

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Participation on ACEC committees brings vitality to the Council and ensures that the issues and interests of members are brought into Council operations and public policy.

Open Committees

- Contract Documents Committee
- Environment & Energy Committee
- Federal Agencies & Procurement Advocacy Committee
- Institute for Business Management Committee
- International Committee
- Management Practices Committee
- Membership Committee
- Public Relations Committee
- Risk Management Committee
- Tax and Regulatory Affairs Committee
- Transportation Committee

Appointed Committees

- Engineering Excellence Awards Committee
- Planning Cabinet
- Bylaws & Procedures Committee
- Tellers Committee

[Click here](#) to view the committees. Click on committees of interest to see their goals and rosters. If you are interested in joining

one or more of the committees, click on the link at the bottom of that page.

Questions about the committee appointment process? Contact Mary Ann Emely, ACEC Vice President of Operations & Membership at memely@acec.org, or 202-682-4300.

Membership Notices

Prospective Individual Members :

Brian Zick, The Engineering Co. (TEC)
James Heath, Water Resources of the West, LLC
Philip Voegtle, Jr., Merrick & Company

Prospective Affiliate Members:

Shane Ewing, Martin/Martin, Inc.
Matthew Schlageter, Martin/Martin, Inc.
Keith Swedhin, Huitt-Zollars, Inc.

Prospective Associate Members:

Arthur Hirsch, TerraLogic, LLC

Welcome Affiliate Members:

Hunter Gardner, Pinyon Environmental Engineering Resources, Inc.: 9600 West Jewell Avenue, Suite 1, Lakewood, CO 80232. 303-980-5200 gardner@pinyon-env.com. Hunter is a graduate of University of Colorado-Boulder, with a BA degree in Biology. Recommendations came from Lauren Evans, Scott Epstein, and Karlene Thomas.

Brian Partington, Pinyon Environmental Engineering Resources, Inc.: 9600 West Jewell Avenue, Suite 1, Lakewood, CO 80232. 303-980-5200 partington@pinyon-env.com. Brian is a graduate of Metropolitan State College of Denver with a BS degree in Environmental Science. Recommendations came from Lauren Evans, Scott Epstein, and Karlene Thomas.

John Guenther, HNTB Corporation: 1600 Broadway, Suite 1300, Denver, CO 80202. 303-542-2214 jguenther@hntb.com. John is a graduate of the University of Kansas with a BS degree in Architectural Engineering. Recommendations came from; Greg Fischer, Ridley Moorman, Robert Manzaneres, and Tony Marcello.

Welcome Individual Members:

Mary Beth Sepper, URS Corporation: 8181 East Tufts Ave., Denver, CO 80237. 303-740-2789, mary_beth_sepper@urscorp.com. Mary Beth is a graduate of Ithaca College, New York, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Theatre Arts. Recommendations came from: Tara Schutter, Bill Ettenger, Stu Monical, and Ridley Moorman.

Robert Leberer, Anderson & Hastings Consultants, Inc.: 12596 West Bayaud Ave., #350, Lakewood, CO 80228. 303-433-8486 rleberer@ahceinc.com. Robert is a graduate of the University of Colorado-Boulder, with a Bachelor of Environmental Design degree in Architecture. He also has a Masters degree in Civil Engineering. Recommendations came from Scott Beck, Jim Hastings, and Ron Stevens.

Transfer:

Rodney Eisenbraun from AECOM to Kleinfelder.

Reinstatement:

Jeffrey Schwiethale, Caveo Consulting Engineers, Inc.

Engineers in the News

Aqua Engineering Inc. appointed **Douglas Macdonald, ASIC, LEED AP**, and **Darren Salvador, PE**, vice president's of the firm. **Richard Belt III, PE, PH**, was named principal of the firm.

Dan Baxter, a principal in the transportation practice of **Stantec's Denver office**, recently received a leadership award from the Freeway Operations Committee of the Transportation Research Board at a committee meeting in Washington, D.C. **Trey Howell** of **Merrick & Co.** has been named Merrick's corporate facility security officer.



Michelle Swanson

The **RMH Group** has recently added two new staff members. **Bud Gaines, PE**, has been hired as mechanical engineering project manager and **Michelle Swanson PE, LEED AP** has been added as mechanical engineer. Gaines and Swanson are both versatile and proven engineers who will provide immediate impact to the firm with their work on a variety of projects, including federal government facilities, military installations, and central utility plants.



Bud Gaines



The URS Corporation Culinary Club. On February 27 they cooked a home-made meal for than 30 residents of the Ronald McDonald House in Denver

Beaudin Ganze Consulting Engineers Inc. recently hired **Stan Hahn** to join its Vail office. BGCE also welcomed **Phil Sitges**, an electrical engineer; **Melanie Amend**, CAD technician; and **Joel Mekkes**, mechanical engineer, to its Albuquerque office.

The Culinary Club at **URS Corporation** spent the evening of February 27 preparing dinner for the current residents at Ronald McDonald House in Denver. More than 30 people enjoyed a home cooked meal prepared by the 12 URS employees and spouses who participated. This included salads, main course, side dishes, and dessert, all of which were donated by the URS employees. URS' Culinary Club was formed two years ago as social network to bring together URS employees with an interest in food and culinary arts. The group recently turned their sights to applying this interest to community-minded activities. The Ronald McDonald House provides comfortable, low-cost housing to out-of-town families with seriously ill or injured children who are being treated at metro area hospitals.

ACEC/CO Events

Register [online](#), by calling 303-832-2200, or by [e-mail](#) for any ACEC/CO program or event.



March General Meeting - Strategic Planning Outcome

The March General Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 23**, 11:30 a.m. at the Sheraton Denver Tech Center, 7007 South Clinton Street in Greenwood Village. At the meeting, members will have an opportunity to hear how our panelists helped to grow each of their respective companies in varied economic climates by keeping their focus on the goal. Panelists include Dave Huelskamp, Merrick & Company; Rick Poppe, Weitz Company; Gregg Ten Eyck, Leonard Rice Engineers, Inc. Sponsorships for the meeting are available! Contact [Jennifer Shaw](#) for registration and more information.

Wake-up Call Breakfast Series

Start the new month off right with ACEC/CO at our monthly Wake-up Call Breakfast Series. Our next Wake-up Call will be **Wednesday, April 7**, at 7:30 a.m. at the Sunrise Sunset Restaurant. This month's topic is "State Board of Licensure." Billy Harris of Harris Kocher Smith will discuss the composition and purpose of the board, current issues, and new issues and policies under board consideration. Cost is \$25 per member, (\$35 for non-members), and now includes

breakfast. You can register by contacting [Jennifer Shaw](#), 303-832-2200.

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 three for \$45. To purchase, contact jennifer@acec-co.org or call 303-832-2200. The following are now available:



- December 2, 2009: *The Reality of Bank Lending*, by Jody McNerney, Compass Bank
- September 2, 2009: *Fastracks & RTD Update*, by Phil Washington, RTD GM
- May 6, 2009: *The Current Economic Meltdown & Its Implications for Infrastructure Planning*, by Edward F. Harvey, Harvey Economics
- April 1, 2009, *Colorado Economy*, by Richard Wobbekind, of the Business Research Division and Associate Dean for External Relations at the University of Colorado at Boulder
- March 4, 2009: *Renewable Energy Sources and Costs* by Lee Boughey, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association
- January 7, 2009: *It's Not As Bad As You Think: An Economic Review* by Brian Coggon, Engineered Finance, LLC
- December 3, 2008: *Important Emerging Trends & Issues* by Bill Wallace of Wallace Futures Group, LLC,
- November 5, 2008: *Demographics and the World of Predicting Your Market* by Rod Hoffman, CEO and co-founder of S&H Consulting.

Marketing and Business Development

Sponsorships Requested for WTE/ ITE/ ACEC/CO Spring Transportation Symposium

The 8th annual Spring Transportation Symposium will be **Friday, April 9**, at the Denver Pepsi Center. This year the symposium is sponsored by ACEC/CO alongside WTS, ITE, and ITS RM, and all net proceeds from the event will go toward scholarship funds for these organizations.

Corporate sponsorships of the event are requested as part of the fundraising effort for the scholarship funds. Your Symposium sponsorship also supports the community of transportation planners, engineers, and decision makers by making it possible for us to provide public agency attendees with lower registration costs. This is a great opportunity to get your firm noticed. Many sponsorship levels are available. [Click here to view sponsorships and more information.](#)

USDA Rural Development Engineers Training Seminar

USDA Rural Development invites you to attend the Engineers Training Seminar - Water and Environmental Program Projects - on Thursday, March 18, 8:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. If you are currently working on or planning a water/wastewater project and are considering applying to USDA Rural Development you should attend this event. The seminar will focus on: Preliminary Engineering Reports, Environmental Reports, and Contract Documents. Space is limited so please RSVP to Allison no later than March 12, 2010 @ allison.trujillo@co.usda.gov or (720) 544-2920. [View preliminary agenda here.](#)

New ACEC/CO Sponsorship Packages Available

ACEC/CO is pleased to present sponsorship packages for you. Being a sponsor of a meeting or event will give you the opportunity to get your name and company before our membership. Sponsorships allow ACEC/CO to continue to provide quality programs and activities at a reasonable price. **Our March General Meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, March 23, is the next sponsorship opportunity.** [Click here to view sponsorship packets and more information.](#)

Additional Professional Development Opportunities and Events

Save the Date for Spring Transportation Symposium

Save the date for the Spring Transportation Symposium on **Friday, April 9, 2010** at the Denver Pepsi Center. This event brings together the region's transportation planners, engineers and decision makers to share information and lessons from innovative and successful transportation projects. All net proceeds will go to fund scholarships for ACEC/CO, ITE, WTS, and ITS RM. Sponsorships are also needed for this event! For more information, or if you're interested in presenting at the event, contact Jamie Archambeau, jarchambeau@pbsj.com.

Tailings and Mine Waste 2010 Conference Announcement and Call for Papers

Tailings and Mine Waste '10 is the next of a series of symposia on mill tailings management started at Colorado State University in 1978. The primary purpose of the Conference is to provide a forum for members of the mining community, engineers and scientists serving the mining industry, regulatory groups, and other interest groups concerned with environmental issues related to tailings and mine waste management. The conference will be **October 17-20, 2010** at Vail Cascade Resort Hotel in Vail. There is also a call for papers for the conference. [Click here for more information.](#)

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