



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Colorado

THE VOICE

OF COLORADO'S ENGINEERING INDUSTRY

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

Vol. 11 Issue 6
June 2011

[Printable Version](#)

Features

[Membership Notices](#)

[Engineers in The News](#)

Programs

[Risk Management](#)

Thurs., June 16th - 2 educational courses. Take one or both! Lunch included

[Annual Golf Tournament](#)

August 8, 2011.

Proceeds go toward the ACEC/CO scholarship fund. Come out and have some competitive fun - all for a great cause!

Resources

[Job Center](#)

ACEC/CO 2011 Final Legislative Updates

The 2011 legislative session has ended. View our final legislative update of bills that passed or were defeated [Here](#).

Hickenlooper Signs Public Works Job Creation Act

Governor Hickenlooper signed the HB11-1115 Public Works Job Creation Act on May 26, 2011. The bipartisan legislative effort, supported by the Building Jobs4Colorado Coalition which includes ACEC/CO and many others, lowers the amount of retainage that can be withheld in public projects from 10% to 5% and requires final release of retainage 60 days after a project's final acceptance. [Read More..](#)

On the same day, Governor Hickenlooper signed HB11-1288 -- Unemployment Insurance Solvency Reform -- into law. This law reforms the premium tables for businesses paying into Colorado's insolvent Unemployment Insurance trust fund. While the bill will likely result in higher UI premiums for businesses, it will lessen the rate shock scheduled to occur under the old formula as Colorado tries to rebuild its trust fund and repay federal loans that have kept our UI system afloat.

Summer Legislative Breakfasts

This summer ACEC/CO will be scheduling legislative breakfasts and lunches where you will have the opportunity to sit down and talk with your legislators. During the off-session season is a great time to get to know your legislators! Specific details will be available soon.

May General Meeting in Review:

We were happy to see so many of you at the May General Meeting. We had a great speaker - Frederick Bush, Director of Planning at DIA who gave us an update of the latest information on current development activities at Denver International Airport - and we also recognized engineering students for their excellent projects in the University of Colorado Senior Design Competition. [Read More..](#)

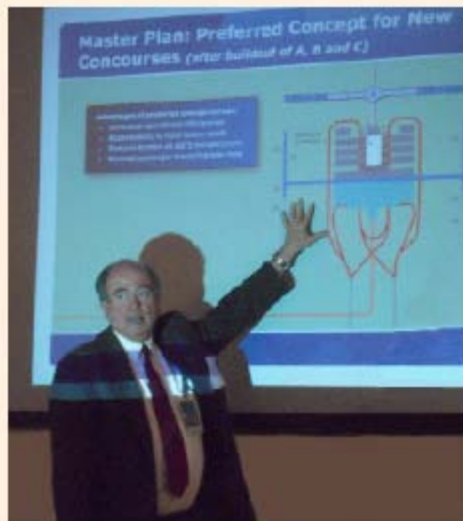
[Legislative Updates](#)

[Podcast Center](#)

**NEW 2011 Wake-up Call
Breakfast Series podcasts
available**

[Contact Us](#)

Follow us on Facebook!



Frederick Bush, Director of Planning at DIA, spoke to ACEC/CO members on the latest developments from DIA at the May General Meeting



UCD students accept the team plaque for their senior design project "Ready O2." Nili Krausz (left) and Damon Fleming

In the News

EEA Program on Horizon - Showcase your Innovations to the World

The kickoff for the 2012 Engineering Excellence Awards program will be with the annual Awards Workshop on Friday, June 17 at 7:30 a.m. at Merrick & Company in Aurora. This workshop is essential to gaining all of the information that a firm needs to enter the awards competition, and provides insiders' perspectives on how to successfully package your entry submittal, what the judges are looking for, and the short- and long-term benefits of entering the competition. This year, first-time entrants (and firms who have not entered the competition in the past seven years) will receive more than 50% off their entry fee.

So what are the benefits to entering the EEA competition? For one, the opportunity to showcase your engineering innovations your firm has been working hard on. Also, huge exposure within the industry including:

[Read More..](#)

Catch up on the 2010-11 Wake-Up Call Breakfast Series

Our Wake-up Call Breakfast Series is over for the summer. But if you missed out on any of the programs, we got you covered! You can now catch up on all of the 2010 and 2011 Wake-up Call presentations by purchasing the podcast recordings through ACEC/CO.

[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.

News from National

ACEC Retirement Trust Newsletter

Check out the Spring 2011 Newsletter [here..](#)

ACEC - EJCDC Contracts on Sale through July

Save 10% off the regular price of all Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee (EJCDC) documents until July 31, 2011. The discount has already been applied through the ACEC national website. [Click here](#) for more information.

President's Report

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

ACEC/CO Events Calendar

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

- Engineering Excellence Awards Workshop
Friday, June 17, 7:30 a.m. at Merrick & Company in Aurora. This workshop is essential for gaining all of the information your firm needs to enter the Engineering Excellence Awards. [Read More..](#)
- ACEC/CO Annual Golf Tournament
What's better than joining your colleagues on a Monday morning at a beautiful golf course for a little friendly competition and fun? Doing it for a good cause! The Annual Golf Tournament is set for Monday, August 8, 2011 at the Golf Club at Bear Dance in Larkspur, Colorado and proceeds from the tournament go toward the ACEC/CO scholarship fund. [Read More..](#)
- SAVE THE DATE - ACEC Regional Conference
Save the date for the ACEC/CO, NM, UT, NV and AZ Regional Conference on September 22 - 24, 2011, to be held at La Fonda on the Plaza in Santa Fe, NM.



ACEC/CO Career Training Center

- Risk Management Training
National speaker Tim Corbett will be presenting two educational sessions on Thursday, June 16. Attend one or both of these programs and come away with strategies to reduce your firm's risk. Many of our members have requested this kind of training.
[Read More..](#)

Additional Professional Development Opportunities and Events

- Rocky Mountain Energy Epicenter
The 23rd Annual Natural Gas Strategy and Investment Forum will be held August 1-4, 2011 at the Colorado Convention Center. Sessions explore the most interesting and difficult elements of the highly interconnected and quickly evolving Rocky Mountain energy conversation. [Read More..](#)

Hickenlooper Signs Public Works Job Creation Act

Governor Hickenlooper signed the HB11-1115 Public Works Job Creation Act on May 26, 2011. This bill is a bipartisan legislative effort supported by the Building Jobs4Colorado Coalition (BJ4C) and ACEC/CO amongst others.

The Public Works Job Creation Act is a pro-small business bill that will improve cash flow to private businesses in public projects, and save jobs in Colorado. Every \$1 million spent in construction creates an estimated 22 jobs. The bill will ensure that contractors are paid retainage for projects in a fair and timely manner.

“Retainage” is the amount withheld from contractors' monthly payments to ensure work is completed satisfactorily. Current statute allows public entities to withhold up to 10% in retainage (which can be more than a contractor's profit on a job) and gives the public entity an unlimited amount of time to release the retainage at the completion of a project. HB11-1115 allows public entities to withhold a maximum of 5% retainage and requires public entities to release retainage within 60 days after the contract is complete (final acceptance). This law goes into affect on contracts signed after August 10, 2011.

On the same day, Governor Hickenlooper signed HB11-1288 -- Unemployment Insurance Solvency Reform -- into law. This law reforms the premium tables for businesses paying in to Colorado's insolvent Unemployment Insurance trust fund. While the bill will likely result in higher UI premiums for businesses, it will lessen the rate shock scheduled to occur under the old formula as Colorado tries to rebuild its trust fund and repay federal loans that have keep our UI system afloat.

May General Meeting in Review:



Frederick Bush, Director of Planning at DIA, spoke to ACEC/CO members on the latest developments from DIA at the May General Meeting

We were happy to see so many of you at the May General Meeting. We had a great speaker - Frederick Bush, Director of Planning at DIA who gave us an update of the latest information on current development activities at Denver International Airport - and we also recognized engineering students for their excellent projects in the University of Colorado Senior Design Competition.

Every year the education committee is asked to judge the UCD College of Engineering's senior design competition where teams of students work all semester long building their projects. At the May General Meeting, ACEC/CO awarded two UCD teams plaques of excellence for their exceptional projects.

The "Ready O2" project took first place in the mechanical engineering category and consisted of an electrically actuated robotic arm designed to assist wheelchair users with limited upper body strength in lifting and securing an oxygen cylinder to their electric wheelchair.

Congratulations to the team: Lillian Chatham, Damon

Fleming, Jacob Gelfand, Nili Krausz, and Paul Sukow.

The "Snow Bike" project took second place in the mechanical engineering category. This team designed a Snow Bike conversion kit that will transform a two-wheeled street motorcycle into a track driven, ski steered motorcycle capable of being ridden on snow covered roads for the winter season. Congratulations David Baptiste, Jr.; Nikolas Lenski; Ovidio Perez, II; Nicholas Williams and Aaron Yi.



UCD students accept the team plaque for their senior design project "Ready O2."

Nili Krausz (left) and Damon Fleming

In The News

EEA Program on Horizon - Showcase your Innovations to the World

The kickoff for the 2012 Engineering Excellence Awards program will be with the annual [Awards Workshop](#) on Friday, June 17 at 7:30 a.m. at Merrick & Company in Aurora. This workshop is essential to gaining all of the information that a firm needs to enter the awards competition, and provides insiders' perspectives on how to successfully package your entry submittal, what the judges are looking for, and the short- and long-term benefits of entering the competition. This year, first-time entrants (and firms who have not entered the competition in the past seven years) will receive more than 50% off their entry fee.

So what are the benefits to entering the EEA competition? For one, the opportunity to showcase your engineering innovations that your firm has been working on. Also, huge exposure within the industry including:

- Recognition is given to your firm for its accomplishments and shared with your clients
- EEA winners are featured on *Colorado Engineers*, an annual television program aired by Comcast and municipal access channels
- Entry boards are displayed at the State Capitol Building during Engineers Week
- Press releases are distributed announcing winners to all Colorado media
- National exposure is given for "Excellence" category winners

The EEA program offers an annual opportunity for its members to share their innovations in engineering. Firms of any size may participate by submitting projects of any size or scope. These projects are evaluated by an unbiased panel of judges within and outside of the A-E industry. Every firm has something to gain from participating in this program.

Now is the time, more than ever, to get your firm's name out there. Now is the time to sign up for the awards workshop on June 17. Now is the time to evaluate your projects for entry into the competition.

Now is the time to showcase your innovations to the world.

To sign up for the EEA workshop, please contact Jennifer at jennifer@acec-co.org or 303-832-2200.

- By Mary Beth Sepper, Awards Committee Chair

News From National



ACEC President
Dave Raymond

President's Report

General

- ACEC joined key business associations and Members of Congress in a “Rally for Roads” on Capitol Hill urging Congress to pass a new six-year federal highway bill.
- Opposed draft proposal under consideration by Obama Administration to require government contractors to reveal political contributions in advance of being considered for project awards.

Government Affairs

- Testified in support of 3% withholding repeal at House Small Business Committee hearing; Ian Frost of EEE Consulting presented ACEC’s position.
- Testified on small business size standard at House Small Business Committee hearing; secured extension for deadline on comments in order to develop unified industry position; John Woods of Woods Peacock Engineering Consultants represented ACEC.
- Introduced legislation to remove the state volume cap on Private Activity Bonds for water and wastewater financing, allowing municipalities easier access to capital for water infrastructure projects.
- Met with senior officials from the Departments of State and Commerce on how to increase overseas infrastructure work for U.S. firms; 14 member firms participated.
- Hosted industry roundtable with Congressman Bill Shuster (R-PA), of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, on surface transportation program and pending FAA and water legislation.
- Hosted industry “meet and greet” at ACEC headquarters for freshmen Congressmen David McKinley (WV) and Pat Meehan (PA).
- Hosted congressional fundraising events for Reps. Sam Graves (MO) Devin Nunes (CA) and Bill Pascrell (NJ).

Institute for Business Management

- ACEC’s *Business of Design Consulting* “fundamentals of business” course received top marks from attendees.
- Launched *Ten Top Legal Issues Facing Engineers*, a program featuring general counsels of ACEC firms discussing legal issues critical to engineering business, including insurance, non-standard contracts and healthcare requirements.

By Dave Raymond, ACEC President

Membership Notices

Prospective Individual Members:

Frank Kohl, Lamp, Rynearson & Associates, Inc.

Prospective Sustaining Members:

Barbara Wells, Minor & Brown PC

Welcome Individual Members:

Ryan Arni, Caveo Consulting Engineers, 6143 S. Willow Drive, Suite 405, Englewood, CO 80111, 720-200-5955

rarni@caveoeng.com Ryan is a graduate of University of Colorado-Boulder with a B.S. degree in Architectural Engineering.

Recommendations came from Jeff Schwiethale, Stu Monical, and Norm Almquist.



Engineers in the News

Two former leaders of ACEC received honorary doctorates in May. Structural engineer Richard G. Weingardt, former national ACEC President, received an honorary doctor of science degree from the University of Colorado (CU) on May 6, while water engineer and former national director Kenneth Wright and his wife Ruth were awarded a joint honorary doctor of science degree from the University of Wisconsin (UW) on May 13. The trio has been friends and colleagues for many years.



(L-R): Richard Weingardt, Ruth Wright and Ken Wright



Blake Calvert

Nolte Vertical Five (NV5) announced the promotion of Blake R Calvert, P.E., to Engineering Group Director for the Denver office.

Tom Walsh, P.E. recently joined David Evans and Associates, Inc. as the Transportation Business Unit Business Development Leader.

Beaudin Ganze Consulting Engineers has announced these additions to its staff: Morgan Royce as Project Manager in the New Mexico office and Zach Wurth, Mechanical Engineering in the Vail, Colorado office.

Alfred Benesch & Company was one of only 48 firms recently named to the 2011 Circle of Excellence by PSMJ Resources, Inc. for its strong business performance.

Terracon has added several new team members to its Wheat Ridge office: Bill Rethamel, P.E., project engineer; Sean Costello, staff geotechnical engineer; Ben Murphy, staff environmental engineer; Ashleigh Kayne, staff environmental scientist; Stewart Ward, P.E., senior project engineer; Thomas Wall, CWI, senior inspector and field project manager.



Ashleigh Kayne



Bill Rethamel



Sean Costello



Morgan Royce



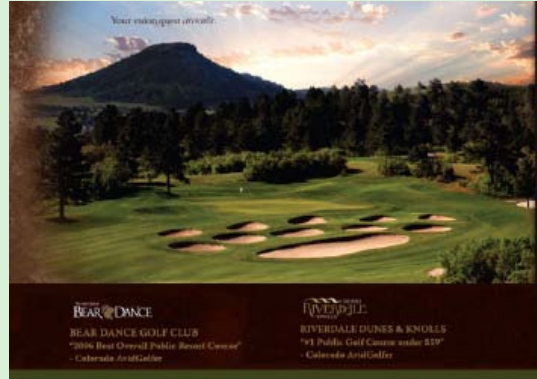
Zach Wurth

ACEC/CO Events

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

ACEC/CO Annual Golf Tournament

What's better than joining your colleagues on a Monday morning at a beautiful golf course for a little friendly competition and fun? Doing it for a good cause! The Annual Golf Tournament is set for Monday, August 8, 2011 at the Golf Club at Bear Dance in Larkspur, Colorado. This tournament supports the ACEC/CO scholarship fund. This is the 9th year we've been holding this tournament and every year proves to be a good time while also beneficial to our scholarship efforts. So get your team rounded up and register today by contacting Jennifer at 303-832-2200 or jennifer@acec-co.org.



Being a sponsor of the tournament is fun too! We have several sponsorship opportunities [here](#).

ACEC/CO Career Training Center

[Risk Management Training](#)

Many of our members have asked for risk management and economic-related programs. And ACEC/CO listened!

We are proud to present national speaker Tim Corbett with SmartRisk who will give two sessions: "Characteristics of Higher Performing A/E Firms" and "Economics Conditions and A/E's Risk." Tim will provide information to help you assess your firm's ability to respond to the market conditions while limiting your risk. Join us for one or both of these excellent training sessions on Thursday, June 16, at The RMH Group, 12600 W. Colfax Ave., Lakewood.

Please follow the link above for more information on the sessions and the speaker. To register, contact Julie Ann Dill at julieann@acec-co.org or 303-832-2200.

Breakfast Series Podcasts For Sale

Missed a Wake-up Call Breakfast program? 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 2010 and 2011 programs are now available:



- May 4, 2011: "Hoarding or Careful? Document Retention Tips for Engineers" by Buck Beltzer of Holland & Hart.
- April 6, 2011: "Update on Fastracks" By Bill James, Regional Transportation District (RTD) Board of Directors
- March 2, 2011: "LEED Updates that Impact Engineers" By Deb Kleinman, US Green Building Council

- January 12, 2011: "Current Issues in the Natural Gas Industry" by Chris Briggs, Anadarko Petroleum Corporation
- December 1, 2010: "Tax Credits & Deductions - How They Apply to Engineers" By Dennis Buelow of Clifton Gunderson.
- November 3, 2010: "Integrated Project Delivery - What is it? How Does it Affect Engineers?" By Brant Lahnert of KL&A, Inc.
- October 6, 2010: "Smart Grid: Fact, Fiction and the Future" By Mark Gabriel of Halcrow, Inc.
- September 1, 2010: Bob Arentz of Ball Aerospace and Technologies Corp. discusses near-earth objects.
- June 2, 2010: "Climate Change - How Real is it, and Will CO2 Reduction Work" By Steven E. Sondergard.

800 Grant St Suite 100
Denver CO 80203
303-832-2200; Fax 303-832-0400
www.acec-co.org
acec@acec-co.org