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AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
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## NEWS RELEASE

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**Photo cutline:** Sondra Donnel, executive director of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Colorado, retires after 25 years of service.



### **ACEC/CO Executive Director Retires Following 25 Years of Service**

DENVER, CO – Sondra Donnel, executive director of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Colorado (ACEC/CO), will retire December 31, 2006 following 25 years of service to the Council and the engineering community.

Under her leadership, ACEC/CO aligned its programs and activities to address industry issues. The Council advanced communication on legislative issues, infrastructure funding, procurement of professional services and developed guidelines for executing successful contracts and relationships. Programs were created for schools to bolster student interest in the study of engineering, and the Council contributed to a preservation effort by recently raising nearly \$40,000 at its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala to support the restoration of one of a uniquely engineered area landmark – the Boettcher Tropical Conservatory at Denver Botanic Gardens.

(more)

“We have had many accomplishments, but one of our major successes was in the 1984 – 1986 legislative arena, where the industry teamed together to pass one of the first major tort reform legislative packages in the country. This joint effort with our industry and our clients made it possible to provide insurable contracts to protect our clients,” said Donnel.

Donnel has witnessed many changes through the years: Qualifications Based Selection (QBS), a major increase in the number of women entering the field, outsourcing, off shoring, the advent of sustainable design and building information modeling (BIM). As the industry adapts to global competition, technological advances, societal demands and the rebuilding of transportation and water infrastructure, she emphasized that it will be critical for the profession to attract and retain the next generation of engineering professionals to be able to meet ongoing and future challenges.

“This is a very interesting and dynamic industry and I am confident ACEC/CO will continue to provide the education, networking and advocacy to assist in meeting the challenges ahead,” she added.

“Sandy has been an exemplary leader and a wonderful asset for our organization, not only at the state level, but at the national level as well,” said Stu Monical, president of ACEC/CO. “On behalf of the Council I wish to extend our thanks and gratitude for her vision and leadership. We have greatly benefited from her time with us and on behalf of the staff and the 25 presidents that she has served, I wish her the best of everything as she retires,” he added.

Donnel and her husband Jim reside in Lakewood and plan to travel and enjoy time with their family.

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Colorado (ACEC/CO) is the business association of 251 member firms employing more than 8,890 employees in the independent private practice of consulting engineering. ACEC/CO is founder of the national organization, American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), headquartered in Washington, D.C. ACEC has 5,500 member firms employing 300,000.

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