

THE FIRST WORD

October, 2009

Leadership For Engineers

**6 Half-Day Sessions, 26 Hours of Learning Covering 10 Topics
Designed to Prepare Your Firm's Future Leaders, Principals, and Owners.**

Registration is now open to ACEC OKLAHOMA's *Leadership for Engineers*..... our new program **targeted to all rising industry professionals** who are committed to developing their leadership and management skills and abilities, and identified by your firm as a "future leader" of your business.



The program was created to provide professional and personal leadership development for Oklahoma's most promising professionals in the design community. The program launches up-and-coming professionals on a development track leading to successful general management, project management, and principal positions within design firms.

A distinguished faculty of professionals from both inside and outside the engineering profession has been put together to address a variety of management topics including: **Leadership; Human Resources/Managing People; Ethics; Strategic Planning; Government Affairs; Economics of Private Practice; Business Development; Risk Management/Contract Language; and, Communications/Public Relations/Community Involvement.**

Firms nominating an individual will be making a commitment of that person's time to attend ALL sessions regardless of work conflicts. For that reason, the application **MUST BE SIGNED** by a firm Principal to verify the firm's commitment to the individual as well as the *Leadership for Engineers* program.

Registration information has been sent to principals at all member firms. The **Registration Deadline will be December 15, 2009** and only one individual from a member firm will be allowed. Tuition will include all meeting materials, professional development hours, and meals/breaks as appropriate. **Tuition does not include lodging or travel expenses.**

Registrations are already being received, and **SPACE WILL BE LIMITED TO THE FIRST 15 REGISTRANTS ON A FIRST COME/FIRST SERVED BASIS!** Don't miss this opportunity. Register your future leader today!

Leadership for Engineers -- ACEC OKLAHOMA helping your firm prepare for the future!!!!

Annual Salary Survey Coming Soon

ACEC OKLAHOMA, in partnership with **ZweigWhite**, will be conducting the annual Salary Survey of Oklahoma firms.

The 2010 Salary Survey of South Central Engineering Firms will be the most up-to-date and comprehensive compensation survey for engineering firms operating in Oklahoma and states in the south-central region. Based on data from a broad sampling of engineering firms reporting salaries for all positions, this report will be the new standard for firm leaders and human resources directors looking to benchmark their staff's compensation against their peers.

Your firm will be receiving the survey in the mail within the next couple of weeks.

For the survey to be comprehensive, YOUR ASSISTANCE is needed. Regardless of the size of your firm, the data provided will be invaluable.

When the survey arrives, PLEASE COMPLETE THE SURVEY and return it to ZweigWhite.

Thanks in advance for your participation!

Welcome New Member

ACEC OKLAHOMA is excited to welcome out newest member firm, **Elite Engineering Services**.

Elite Engineering Services is located in Oklahoma City. Elijah Knight is the principal of the firm which offers mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineering design and consulting.

We welcome Elijah and Elite Engineering Services to ACEC OKLAHOMA and ACEC, and look forward to having the firm as an active member!!!!

**Next ACEC OKLAHOMA
General Membership Meeting
Thursday, November 19, 2009
11:45am
Tulsa
Details Coming Soon!**

Oklahoma Engineering Foundation Gears Up

The Oklahoma Engineering Foundation's student programs are underway for the 2009-2010 year. Students are introduced to engineering through the Future City Competition, MATHCOUNTS, and the Engineering Fair.

If you know of a school that may be interested in participating or if you would like to volunteer with one of the programs please contact the OEF office at 405.528.1435 or by email at OEFInfo@ospe.org.

Competitions/Events will be held during January, February and March of 2010. Competition dates can be found online at www.ospe.org online calendar. To learn more about the student programs OEF sponsors visit: www.ospe.org/oklahomaengineeringfoundation.

Stimulus Funds Report Confirms Need For Multi-Year Bill To Advance Major Projects

Most state departments of transportation are using the majority of their stimulus funds for simple repaving and other basic maintenance needs, reports the Government Accountability Office (GAO).

According to the GAO, \$16.8 billion—or 49 percent—of stimulus highway funds, has been directed to pavement reconstruction and another \$2.8 billion—or 17 percent—has been committed for pavement widening. Only \$1.1 billion—about 6 percent—is going to new road construction and only 3 percent for new bridge construction.

ACEC President Dave Raymond said the report confirms the need for a multi-year authorization bill with funding guarantees for states. "Without the certainty of a six-year bill in place, states will be mired in the underinvestment of the status quo and unable to pursue the complex projects that are going to put our members to work," Raymond explained.

The current highway and transit program expires on September 30. The House Transportation Committee is moving forward with a \$450 billion six-year bill. The Obama Administration and Senate leaders have pushed for an 18-month extension of current law.

ACEC encourages members to continue to press their Congressional delegation on the need for a multi-year surface transportation bill with adequate and stable financing to address the current infrastructure funding gap.

Do you have a Voice in Congress?

Congress is now debating several measures that will dramatically affect the profitability of engineering firms: transportation funding to state DOTs, funding for infrastructure projects (including water and aviation), changes to the federal tax code, and of, course, health care reform. Each of these federal issues has far-reaching consequences for us here in Oklahoma, as well as the entire industry.



That's the bad news. The good news is that ACEC members have a way to make sure their voice is heard on Capitol Hill: the **ACEC Political Action Committee**. ACEC/PAC is the primary weapon in our industry's political arsenal to help elect candidates to office who support pro-business, pro-engineering positions. ACEC/PAC is bipartisan and operates out in the open in full compliance with the Federal Election Campaign Act and applicable state laws. Each state is represented by PAC Champions to help meet its state's annual PAC goal.

ACEC certainly is interested in your support of this critical political program, but federal law first requires ACEC/PAC to seek your approval before soliciting you on behalf of ACEC/PAC. To see if your firm has given approval for the current year, Click Here: <http://www.acec.org/advocacy/committees/pac.cfm>

If your firm is not on the list, then download the "Prior Approval Form" ...http://www.acec.org/advocacy/committees/pdf/pac_approval_form.pdf...and return it to ACEC.

If your firm is on this list, you can then go to the ACEC/PAC online contribution center to make your contribution: http://www.acec.org/pacmembers/av_login.cfm Or, call ACEC OKLAHOMA and we will provide you with the forms with which you can make your contribution via mail.

Supporting political programs like ACEC/PAC is the best thing we can do to make sure engineering firms have a voice at the table when key decisions are made affecting our future. If you have questions about ACEC/PAC, please give ACEC OKLAHOMA a call.

So, to answer the question in the headline: (a qualified) YES. The consulting engineering business does have a voice in Congress. **But that voice is only effective if you participate through your contributions to ACEC PAC.**

Don't delay!!!! Take a few moments today to make your contribution to ACEC PAC.

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!!!! And make that "qualified" YES a "resounding" YES!!!!

Engineering Excellence Awards Entry Deadline November 6th

Just a reminder that the ACEC OKLAHOMA **2009 Engineering Excellence Awards** entry information is now available.

The 2009 Entry form has been sent to all member firms, and is also available for download on the ACEC OKLAHOMA website at www.acecok.org.

All member firms are encouraged to enter the competition which is a prelude to the ACEC National Engineering Excellence competition.

This is a great way for ACEC OKLAHOMA member firms to showcase their top projects, and we hope that everyone will seriously consider submitting an entry.



ACEC Life/Health Trust

**Affordable, High Quality Benefits Plans
Designed by Engineers For Engineers**

ACEC and its 51 state and regional Member Organizations (including ACEC OKLAHOMA) represent America's private practice engineering firms. Collectively, ACEC member-firms employ more than 400,000 engineers, architects, land surveyors, scientists, and other specialists, responsible for more than \$100 billion of private and public works annually.

As a member firm of ACEC and ACEC OKLAHOMA, you have access to employee benefit programs available through the "members only" **ACEC Life/Health Trust**. For more than 40 years, the ACEC Life/Health Trust has been dedicated to the life and health insurance needs of engineering firms.

The Trust plan is insured and serviced by United HealthCare Insurance Company, one of the largest health and well-being services companies in the country. Together, the **ACEC Life/Health Trust** and UnitedHealthcare are committed to enhancing the lives of those who are safeguarding America's quality of life through engineering projects across the country.

As a member of the **ACEC Life/Health Trust**, you can enjoy the convenience of "one-stop-shopping" for plans, including:

**Health Insurance
Dental Insurance
Vision Insurance
Disability Insurance
Life Insurance
and more.**

ACEC Life/Health Trust insureds enjoy dedicated service teams that provide consistent, reliable service performance. Our benefits specialists can help you through complex areas, and optimize your benefit designs and programs.

The **ACEC Life/Health Trust** makes it easier to offer affordable, high-quality benefit plans to your employees. You'll be able to choose a plan that fits your needs and your budget from a broad portfolio of innovative products and services. Currently, more than 1,400 ACEC member companies representing 44,000 employees and their dependents are taking advantage of an enhanced health care experience, provided by UnitedHealthcare.

Health benefits through the ACEC Life/Health Trust

UnitedHealthcare is known for its ability to leverage leading-edge health care technology to deliver quality, affordable health care solutions.

Traditional plans and CDH plans

Different firms have different needs: Some employers and their employees prefer the predictable costs and rich benefits of UnitedHealthcare's HMO and PPO plans. More and more companies are embracing consumer-driven health (CDH) plans. As the industry leader in CDH plans, UnitedHealthcare CDH plans give your employees a sense of ownership in their health care benefits and help them learn how to be more engaged in managing their overall health. When your employees take care of their health, they're likely to become more productive and make an even greater contribution to your business.

A strong nationwide network

All UnitedHealthcare plans offered through the **ACEC Life/Health Trust** give your employees access to a national network of 537,000 physicians and health care professionals and 4,700 hospitals.

UnitedHealthcare makes it easier for members to access facilities and practitioners who have agreed to deliver care at a discount. That means lower out-of-pocket costs for members, and a better overall use of health care dollars.

Wellness and other clinical programs included at no additional cost

UnitedHealth Wellness® is included with every standard UnitedHealthcare medical benefit plan and offers programs specifically designed to address preventable health care costs. A unique combination of proactive clinical outreach, educational support, decision-making tools and coordination of care helps healthy members stay healthy and provides support to members who need additional care or treatment.

Need More Information?

If your firm is not already using the programs through the **ACEC Life/Health Trust** and you want more information, visit the Trust website at <http://www.uhctoday.com/acec/>

Or, locally, call David Bartee at Diversified Benefits Inc. in Tulsa. Phone: (918) 742-2565

The **ACEC Life/Health Trust** is YOUR program....designed by engineers, or engineers. And, is another benefit of membership in ACEC OKLAHOMA and ACEC.