

## THE FIRST WORD

June, 2018

### Legislature Goes Home Early; Partnering Conference Hugh Success; Annual Meeting A Few Days Away

Whew.....It's been a busy Spring!!! With what was (or at least seemed to be) a never-ending Legislative Session; a successful "Leadership For Engineers" class; a record-setting attendance at the annual ODOT/ACEC OKLAHOMA Partnering Conference; two-days on "The Hill" during that ACEC Annual Convention; along with countless other meetings, the 2017-18 year will draw to a close with the ACEC OKLAHOMA Annual Meeting with ACEC/Kansas and ACEC/Missouri next week in Branson.

ACEC OKLAHOMA had an interesting Legislative Session ranging stopping legislation which would have excluded counties from using Qualifications-Based Selection to procure A/E/LS services and thereby allowing them to price bid professional services, to keeping the state and school districts from being able to avoid additional architecture and engineering services on "pre-engineered" metal buildings. We were also involved in legislation regarding the state's trespassing laws and were able to protect an exemption from the trespassing laws for engineers and land surveyors which ACEC OKLAHOMA had championed several years ago.

Regarding the state budget, for the first time in several years, state agencies didn't take a reduction from their previous year budget. And, in most cases, agencies received a slight increase in the budget over the previous year.

Seems like a good thing, but, of course, it all depends on how one looks at it or how someone else "spins" it. For example, ODOT's appropriation from the motor fuel tax for the coming year increased some \$11 million to \$165 million, up from the previous \$154 million. Good, right? However, ODOT "should" have received all \$205 million in motor fuel taxes, but the Legislature re-directed \$40 million in motor fuel tax to be used for other state appropriations. So, while legislative leaders will say that they increased ODOT funding by \$11 million, in reality they took \$40 million of dedicated funding away.

Moving on, now it's election season, and this year will be VERY interesting. There are more "contested" races for legislative seats this year than have been seen for many years. Some of it is due to legislators being term-limited, so due to a few legislators who are simply giving-up their seats, and some due to fallout from the teacher walk-out which has generated a number of candidate filings by first-timers who are running on the "throw the bums out" platform.

Add into that a 6 way race for the Republican nominating for Governor, a heated race for the Republican nomination for Attorney General, and the medical marijuana statewide ballot issue, and Tuesday, June 26th will be a very interesting day. That is, of course, the date of the first Primary election. Runoff elections will be in late August for those races in which no one candidate received more than 50% of the June Primary vote.

Turning to our "Leadership For Engineers" class, 15 individuals graduated in Class #9 in early April (pictures on following page). It was a great group this year, and plans are already being made for Class #10 in early 2019. If your firm hasn't sent someone to the "Leadership for Engineers" class, you're really missing out, and we encourage you to strongly consider sending one of your "up-and-comers" to the 2019 class.

In mid-April, an ACEC OKLAHOMA delegation of Keith Angier, Jim Hemphill, Tom Hendrick, Brandon Claborn, and Miro Kurka, along with Jim Sullins spent two days on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC visiting with the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation and their staff about issues important to the business of consulting engineering.



During our discussions with the delegation, we reviewed our positions regarding Infrastructure Financing, including highway finance, water and wastewater funding through the state revolving funds, airport funding, and, tax reform issues.

Lastly, we had a record crowd of just under 500 at the 17th Annual ODOT/ACEC OKLAHOMA Partnering Conference. Thanks to those attending, and SPECIAL THANKS to those who presented the informative and educational programs!

## ACEC OKLAHOMA Graduates 9th “Leadership For Engineers” Class

Brandon Claborn, ACEC OKLAHOMA Chairman of the Board and graduate of Leadership For Engineers Class #2, presented Class #9 with their graduation plaques at the conclusion of the 2018 program.



**Kevin Bishop**  
Utley & Associates



**Anthony Cabrera**  
Tetra Tech



**Billy Cox**  
Guy Engineering



**Justin Cox**  
Terracon



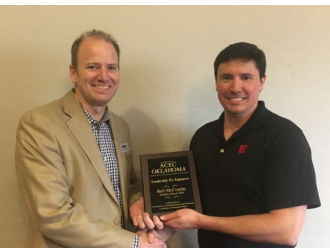
**Brandon Huxford**  
Freese and Nichols



**Michael Lettner**  
Poe and Associates



**Jacob Lingo**  
ZFI Engineering



**Bob McCombs**  
Guernsey



**Shannon McGarrah**  
Garver



**Daniel Polasek**  
BKL, Inc.



**Kensey Russell**  
HNTB Corporation



**Chris Snider**  
CEC Corporation



**Scott Stegman**  
C P & Y, Inc.



**Jason Watkins**  
Benham Design



**Gus Wuertz**  
White Engineering Associates

# President's Monthly Update

## June, 2018

### David Raymond, President & CEO

Hope you had a great Memorial Day weekend. Last week's *New York Times* highlighted the Council's advocacy for the Section 179D energy-efficiency tax deduction. This is but the latest recognition for the Council on tax issues, following the *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal* and other major coverage of ACEC's "big win for engineers" in the tax reform law. ACEC's education programs are also firing on all cylinders; our new, online Project Management course is a big hit, with 24 attendees giving it thumbs-up reviews.

#### General

- ACEC/PAC crossed the \$500,000 fundraising mark in May, the earliest we have reached that threshold; and we are running ahead of last year's record tally at this time.
- ACEC CFO Kim Pham will retire on June 8 after 40 years of exemplary financial leadership, and her able deputy Barry Doyle is stepping up to the plate.
- ACEC/PAC hosted fundraising events for Senators Deb Fischer (R-NE) and Tom Carper (D-DE) and U.S. Representatives Cathy McMorris-Rodgers (R-WA), James Sensenbrenner (R-WI), and Steve Womack (R-AR).
- ACEC/PAC supported two open seat candidates who won their congressional primaries: Russ Fulcher (R-ID) and Anthony Gonzales (R-OH).

#### Government Advocacy

- The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee reported out the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) with ACEC's language to expand the application of QBS in federally-funded drinking water projects.
- Joined several other infrastructure groups in asking Treasury to issue guidance that will protect P3 projects from an unintended consequence of tax reform.
- Teamed with major business and labor organizations on ads and media events supporting infrastructure investment during Infrastructure Week 2018.
- ACEC's advocacy on the Section 179D energy-efficiency tax deduction was highlighted in a [May 25th New York Times](#) article.
- Helped sponsor the U.S. Department of Commerce's *Discover Global Markets: Design + Construct* event in Kansas City, Missouri, which included ACEC Chairman Manish Kothari as a panelist on international opportunities.
- Submitted recommendations to the Department of Defense Section 809 Panel to improve DOD use of Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS).
- Joined in a coalition letter to Congress in support of sufficient funding for the 2020 Census, data from which is important for infrastructure investment planning.
- Joined AASHTO, Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) and other transportation groups in calling on U.S. DOT to update its Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

#### Business Resources

- 24 attendees participated in ACEC's new nine-week online course *Laying the Foundation for Superior Project Managers: Practices, Principles, and Fundamentals*, which used pre-recorded presentations, live discussions, and group case studies to develop skills for successful project management.
- With 40 registered sites, May's most popular online class, *Succession: Developing New Owners*, prepared member firms to start planning for smooth ownership transitions.
- ACEC's online continuing education management system RCEP added a new approved provider, the International Erosion Control Association (IECA), bringing the total to 162, with 106,222 subscribers.
- Coalitions' best sellers for May included CASE's *Milestone Checklist for Young Engineers* and COPS' *Job Descriptions for a Land Surveying Firm*, both available at [www.acec.org/bookstore](http://www.acec.org/bookstore).
- June webinars will include: *Meetings that Matter*; *The True Secrets of AEC High Growth Firms*; *Growing Profits Through Employee Retention*; *Taking your Board to the Next Level*; *Fast Future Rx: A Seven Step Prescription for Breakthrough 21st Century Business Success*; *Neuroselling: Engage the Brain to Trigger the Buy*; *How to Lead Without Authority (Even When You're Boss)*; *Identifying and Developing Your Future Business Development Leaders*; *"Spearin" and the Standard of Care: How Good Does a Design Have to Be?*; *Public Outreach and Communications – A True Value-Added Service For Your Clients*.