



ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Illinois

2022 January NEWSLETTER: **THE CONNECTOR**



LEADERSHIP & POLICY BRIEFING

ACEC Illinois President & CEO – Kevin Artl



Happy New Year!

As the implementation of the Federal Infrastructure bill advances, here are a few key updates:

White House Seeks State Infrastructure Advisers

White House infrastructure coordinator Mitch Landrieu on Tuesday asked governors to appoint state-level point people to drive the implementation of the infrastructure law and promised to give them more guidance later this month. Landrieu told governors that this month his team, in coordination with the Office of Management and Budget, will be releasing formal guidance to agencies to "help set the policy parameters for much of the discretionary and remaining formula funding in 2022 and beyond." They are also preparing a guidebook for state and local governments that will include key dates related to programs coming this year. [Read the full story here.](#)

ACEC Research Institute released its 2021 Q4 Business Sentiment Report

Here are some of the key takeaways:

Business Conditions Compared to Three Months Ago

- Economic sentiment has improved for firms and the industry compared to three months ago. However,
- sentiment regarding the U.S. economy has taken a turn for the worse.
- Although sentiment in all sectors improved compared to three months ago, sentiment for the roads and bridges (+30 Net Rating) and water/wastewater (+34) sectors improved the most.
- 68% of respondents indicate their organization has added at least one full-time employee within the past three months. The median number of new hires is three.

- 52% indicate their backlog has increased in the past three months compared to 16% who say it has decreased.

Hot Button Issue - Workforce

- 87% of respondents indicate their organization has at least one current opening.
- The median number of open positions is five.
- 97% agree that there is a tight labor market in the industry.
- 70% indicate that the lack of qualified workers is the single largest barrier to growing their firm

To view the full report and all of its findings, [click here](#).

Engineering News-Record Editorial: Risk Variables Multiply in 2021 and 2022

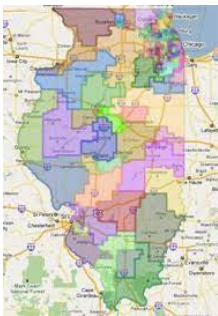
"The construction industry's kaleidoscopic risk picture approaching 2022 includes supply-chain volatility, potential new spikes in material costs, workforce shortages and the heightened focus on sustainability and equity. Cost-cutting strategies and implementation of new technologies and designs may further accelerate risks, says Yann Dreyer, a group practice lead for insurer Allianz, in a recent company report. Also add in volatility introduced by jittery financial markets and political conflict, and you have an unprecedented number of variables."



Legislative Update

Before the holidays, ACEC Illinois met with Speaker of the House Chris Welch and Senate President Don Harmon to update them on the industry perspective on implementation of Rebuild Illinois along with project priorities for utilization of incoming federal funds from the IIJA. ACEC Illinois again reinforced the need to ensure IDOT has the staff required to execute the program and that the engineering industry is ready to assist in any way possible to ensure on-time delivery of projects.

The General Assembly reconvenes this week. The schedule seems in flux right now, as two of the session days for this week have already been cancelled. The Speaker of the House and President of the Senate are targeting April 8th for an adjournment date, which is roughly 8 weeks earlier than traditional adjournment at the end of May.



Legislative Maps Finalized

***From the State Journal-Register:** A three-judge federal court panel has upheld the legislative redistricting plan that state lawmakers approved during a special session last summer, thus leaving in place the new maps that will govern state legislative elections for the next 10 years.*

In their 64-page opinion, released Dec. 30, the judges said the plaintiffs in the three separate lawsuits had failed to show that the redistricting plan violated federal law or the U.S. Constitution by diluting Latino voting power in Chicago and its surrounding suburbs or Black voting power in the Metro East region on the Illinois side of the St. Louis metropolitan area.

To view the new maps, [click here](#).

Political Update

Longtime ACEC Illinois friend and advocate, Cong. Rodney Davis will have a primary with freshman Cong. Mary Miller. Cong. Davis is a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and has been a leader in Congress to help resolve the PPP/FAR Credit



Clause issue impacting so many small and mid-size engineering firms. We will keep you posted on this race.

Thanks,
Kevin Artl
President and CEO
American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois



**Jennifer Morrison,
Transportation for Illinois
Coalition**

**Congratulations on your
retirement!**

In sincere appreciation for your many years of service and dedication to the transportation industry.



**Pamela Simon,
Director Office and Business
Workforce Diversity at IDOT**

**Congratulations on your
retirement!**

In sincere appreciation for a career that demonstrated extraordinary efforts to promote diversity, inclusion, and awareness for our industry.



MEMBER FIRM SPOTLIGHT

Patrick Engineering



How long have you been in the Engineering industry?

- Patrick Engineering opened its doors in 1979 by founder Daniel Patrick Dietzler. Dan started the company with two employees and has grown it to nearly 350 professionals today. Dan is currently Chairman of the Board and stays active in many of our firm's endeavors

What projects are you currently working on?

- Patrick is a diverse company with four very different Divisions. Our Utilities & Renewables Division is currently supporting People's Gas in their capital construction program, the Management Services Group is providing program management services for the CTA, and Industrial Infrastructure provides site civil, geotechnical, electrical and structural support for many production and manufacturing clients throughout the Midwest. Our Transportation Division provides highway, rail, bridge, and construction inspection work, across all phases. Some of our higher profile projects include the Phase I Study for I-55 at Lorenzo Road and IL 129, Phase II for IL 31 from IL 176 to IL 120 (both for IDOT) and we're wrapping up Phase III for the Windsor Drive bridge over the I-88/I-294 Connector Ramps M & N for the Illinois Tollway. Our Rail Team recently was part of the design team for the major CREATE P3/GS19 project which includes rail/rail and rail/roadway grade separations to improve rail and vehicular operations and safety on the southwest side of Chicago.

What project are you most proud of?

- Patrick was part of the Joint Venture Team that provided the Phase I and advance Phase II work for the I-80 Corridor from Ridge Road to US 30 for IDOT. This \$1.2B project has become a focal point of Governor Pritzker's Rebuild Illinois Program and we are very proud to have played a role to get this project up and running.

What has been the biggest benefit of you joining ACEC-IL?

- Staying connected. ASCE connects you in so many ways. It has connected us to our peer firms by way of events and programs. It connects us to our clients via the agency committees. We are connected to information through the publications and educational opportunities. And it connects us with powerful advocacy for our industry by way of leadership, political activity, and support for principles that benefit the engineering profession.

Why do you feel firms should join ACEC-IL?

- Firms need to be a part of ACEC because it's good for our industry, in terms of helping to effect change to advance our profession. It's good for your company, by improving the environment for engineering businesses in Illinois. And it's good for your employees, by giving them the opportunity to connect with their peers and clients and learn and grow individually and professionally, which is good for everyone.

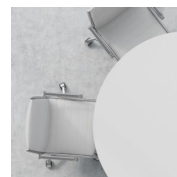
save the date UPCOMING EVENTS



ADVOCACY



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BUSINESS



2022 Virtual Legislative Lookahead

January 10, 2022 1pm-2pm

Please join ACEC Illinois for a virtual Legislative Lookahead with Senator Villivalam and Senator DeWitte.

SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE \$250:

- logo on welcome slide
- logo on emails
- logo on social thank you

Register [Here](#)



Webinar: Balancing it all - Mindfulness in consulting

January 12, 2022 12pm - 1pm

The old joke is that being an adult is continually telling yourself “It’ll be easier next week” until you eventually retire. Join Kaskaskia Engineering founder and manager Geri Boyer as she sits down with the Emerging Professionals committee to discuss what we can do starting early in their career to create the right boundaries that allow us to fulfill our professional potential while also balancing responsibilities out of work.

Register [Here](#)



Regional Luncheon with Illinois Tollway Executive Director Jose Alvarez

January 25, 2022 11am-1:30pm

Please join ACEC Illinois as we host a Luncheon with Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez

AGENDA:

11:00-Noon NETWORKING

Noon-12:45pm LUNCH

12:45-1:30pm Update from IL Tollway Executive Director Alvarez

REGISTRATION FEES:

In Person Member \$85

In Person Non-Member \$160

SPONSORSHIP:

\$250 SILVER SPONSOR

1 Ticket

VIP Seating

Recognition at event and on social media

\$500 GOLD SPONSORS

2 Tickets

VIP Seating at Headtable

Recognition at event and on social media

Register [Here](#)



PSMJ - Project Management Boot Camp

February 9, 2022 8:30 am to February 10, 2022 3:30 pm

The 2-day workshop guarantees to give proven skills to improve project delivery, financial performance & client satisfaction:
Master the 11 must-use parts of an ironclad project schedule
Avoid the 5 budget busters that put projects in a financial hole
Negotiate win-win subcontractor agreements
Seize opportunities for new revenue through upselling & cross-selling
Learn the PM “wow!” factors that turn clients into evangelists for your firm
Spot–& fix–issues before they become major problems

Register [Here](#)



Webinar: Working With Contractors - Bridging the Gap

February 9, 2022 12pm - 1pm

Host: Nick Fishburn, Kimley Horn

Register [Here](#)



2022 Engineering Excellence Awards Gala

February 17, 2021 6pm - 11:45pm

Engineering Excellence Awards Sponsorship
Engineering Excellence Awards Registration
Engineering Excellence Annual Magazine Ads

Register [Here](#)



SAVE THE DATE: Reverse Panel: See What's on Young Professionals' Minds

February 23, 2022 12pm - 1pm

The event will feature a panel of 4 ACEC Emerging Professional members who will respond to questions provided by more experienced and senior professionals in the civil engineering industry. The goal of this event is to provide insight into what young professionals in the industry feel is important to them and their opinions about various topics.

Webinar: Proposal Writing - How To and Lessons Learned

March 9, 2022 12pm - 1pm



Host: Kyle Duffy, Transystems

Register [Here](#)



Webinar: Choose Your Own Adventure - Internal and External Entrepreneurship
April 13, 2022 12pm - 1pm

Host: Meghan Milewski, Farnsworth Group LLC

Register [Here](#)

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Click Here: [Committee Meeting Schedule \(acecil.org\)](#)

Please contact Emily Martinez, Director of Membership, for committee meeting details: emily@acecil.org



ENGINEERING
EXCELLENCE
AWARDS **2022**

Read about our 2022 Engineering Excellence Award Nominees [Here](#)

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

CBBEL Promotes Two Long-Serving Employees to Vice President



Orion Galey, P.E.



Kevin Wilson, P.E.

Rosemont, IL (Jan. 4, 2022) - Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. (CBBEL) is announcing the promotion of two long-serving employees to Vice President of the 200-person firm: Senior Project Manager Orion Galey, PE and Assistant Construction Engineering Department Head Kevin Wilson, PE.

Full article [here](#).

ACEC Illinois Leads Statewide Effort to Build Interest in Engineering Careers

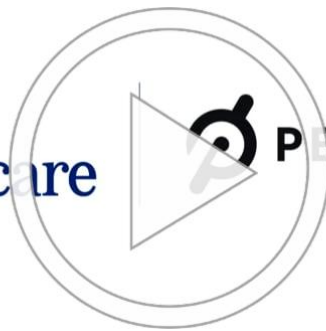


ACEC Illinois and our partners across the state's engineering industry have joined forces with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority (Illinois Tollway) to launch a campaign focused on building interest in careers in engineering among Illinois' students. With billions of dollars in investments from the State of Illinois' Rebuild Illinois Capital Plan and potentially billions more from a federal infrastructure bill, filling open engineering jobs with qualified workers is going to be vital to designing, engineering, and building the state's priority

infrastructure projects.

The industry partners and state agencies jointly produced an informational video which will be shown in classrooms around the state so students can better understand the opportunities available to them in the engineering field. The video, featuring occasional memorable clips from the TV comedy “The Office”, walks students through the different types of engineering fields that exist, from civil and mechanical to geotechnical and aeronautical, and explains that engineering jobs don’t only exist in big cities but are located in communities big and small across the state. The video also touches on the advantages of a career in an engineering field, highlighting that ten of the seventeen highest paying careers in the country are in engineering and that not all engineering jobs require advanced degrees, most only requiring a bachelor’s degree and some only an associate degree. ACEC Illinois has created a dedicated page on their website to provide resources for students, educators, and career day speakers. The video along with additional information can be found at <https://www.acecil.org/acec-students/>

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We would love to see your furry coworkers!

Tag us in your posts:

#ACECILPETS

CHECK OUT OUR NEW MEDIA PAGE

Follow the link: [Videos | ACEC-IL](#)



SUBMIT UPDATES & ARTICLES:

Please submit firm update & news articles by the 15th of each month to: bethany@acecil.org

Articles and updates will be included in the membership newsletter, posted on our website, and shared through our social media feeds.

Website: www.acecil.org