



2021 March NEWSLETTER: THE CONNECTOR



LEADERSHIP & POLICY BRIEFING

ACEC Illinois President & CEO – Kevin Artl

Friends First

Before we dive into the policy update, I wanted to take a moment to recognize some of our industry friends and the milestones and accomplishments they reached in February.

Acting Secretary of Transportation Omer Osman was awarded the “Ray LaHood Man of the Year” Award by the Chicago Chapter of WTS for his efforts to advance and advocate for women and minorities in both IDOT and the transportation field.

Pamela Simon, Director, Office of Business and Workforce Diversity Illinois Department of Transportation, was awarded 2021 Woman of the Year by the Chicago Chapter of WTS for her work toward the advancement of women and minorities through programs or opportunities in the transportation field.

Illinois Tollway Chief Engineering Officer Paul Kovacs announced his retirement effective March 19th. Paul was a great friend to ACEC Illinois and the transportation industry overall. In just the last 15 years, Paul led the Tollway’s effort to rebuild and modernize the system, including moving to electronic tolling, reconstruction and the implementation of smart road technology on I-90 and the reconstruction and expansion of the Central Tri-State. We wish Paul the very best on his retirement and future endeavors, including the triathlon circuit this summer.

ACEC Illinois Legislative Agenda Secures Bi-Partisan Leadership Support

Leaders in the Illinois General Assembly has signed on to sponsor key ACEC Illinois legislative initiatives, including the following:

- **Mandate Electronic Signatures.** HB 2499 (Moylan) and SB 2459 (Villivalam). Legislation mandating IDOT, the Tollway, and CDB use electronic signatures. Sponsored by House Transportation Committee Chairman Representative Marty Moylan and Senate Transportation Committee Chairman Senator Ram Villivalam.

- **Tax Credit for Hiring New Graduates.** HB 2498 (Moylan) and SB 2477 (Villivalam). The Retain Illinois Students of Engineering (RISE) tax credit bill provides for a tax credit of 10% of the salary paid to recent graduates of Illinois engineering schools and 5% of the salary paid to recent graduates of engineering schools outside of Illinois. Sponsored by House Transportation Committee Chairman Representative Marty Moylan and Senate Transportation Committee Chairman Senator Ram Villivalam.
- **State Innovation Tax Credit.** HB 392 (Moylan). This legislation creates a State of Illinois innovation tax credit that would be administered by the Department of Revenue, rather than the IRS. Sponsored by House Transportation Committee Chairman Representative Marty Moylan.
- **Certificate of Merit for Civil Suits.** HB 701 (Mazzochi) and SB 1815 (DeWitte). The goal of this bill is to reduce the cost of frivolous litigation by requiring a civil engineer to sign an affidavit certifying malpractice may have taken place in his or her professional opinion before a suit can be filed against an engineer or firm. Sponsored by Assistant Republican Leader Senator Don DeWitte and Assistant Republican Leader Representative Deanne Mazzochi and House Transportation Committee Minority Spokesperson Representative Michael Marron.
- **Paycheck Protection Program Overhead Calculation.** SB 2469 (Villivalam). Prohibits IDOT from using Paycheck Protection Program Loans in their overhead calculation for engineering firms. Sponsored by Senate Transportation Committee Chairman Senator Ram Villivalam.

- **Engineers Week Shout Out from the Governor**

Governor Pritzker honored engineers during Engineer Week with a proclamation recognizing the work of the engineering community, specifically for its work on Rebuild Illinois. [View the proclamation here.](#)



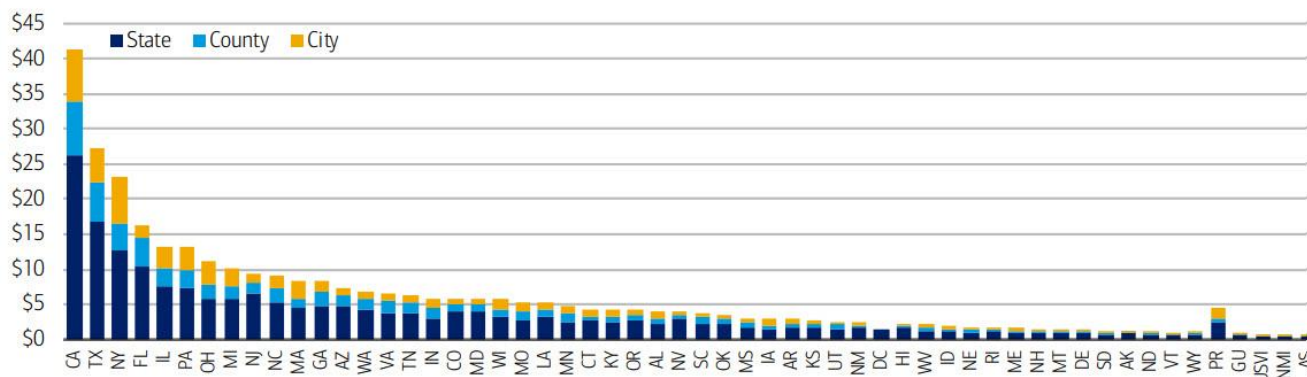
PPP Update

ACEC Illinois continued to brief members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation on the need for clarifying legislative language so that PPP loan forgiveness remains true to its intent and does not impact the industry, specifically on overhead rates. As you saw from our legislative update, we have begun briefing state lawmakers on the issue as well and have introduced state legislation.

Federal COVID Relief Bill Passes House

Early Saturday Morning, the House approved the Administration’s \$1.9 trillion COVID Relief Package. The bill now heads to the Senate for consideration. If approved, Illinois could see upwards of \$13 billion in state and local government relief. See the chart below on what states may receive if approved.

Exhibit 5: How the \$350bn of state and local aid would be distributed among, and within, the states (\$bn)



Source: Approximate funding estimates released by the House Committee on Oversight and Reform. PR refers to Puerto Rico; GU refers to Guam; USVI refers to the US Virgin Islands; NMI refers to the Northern Mariana Islands; and, AS refers to American Samoa.

Lake County Advancing Capital Plan

Following the successful efforts to increase infrastructure investment in the City of Chicago, DuPage County and Will County, Lake County is now advancing a plan to increase their own investment in infrastructure. Lake County officials are considering an 8-cent fuel tax to help pay for some \$1.7 billion in road and transportation projects laid out in the county's 2040 Transportation Plan. The plan could raise an additional \$22 million annually for transportation projects according to the [Daily Herald](#). The measure could go to a vote at the March 9 county board meeting and if approved, the increase would take effect on July 1.

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



BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Tanya Adams
Vice President
WSP USA

How long have you been in the Engineering industry?
Over 30 years

What position(s) have you held within the ACEC-IL organization?

I started out as an honorary member of the Students Engaged in Engineering Program when it was created back in the early 90's. (I was working for IDOT at that time), member of the SEE committee, Chairperson of SEE, Director and Vice Board Chair

What's the number one reason firms should become an ACEC-IL member?

ACEC is a true advocate for small, medium and large size firms. ACEC is the voice of the industry.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

Prior to COVID, I loved hanging out with my family & friends in Peoria. Currently, I'm addicted to watching Going RV and Living Alaska!

Tell us one fun fact about yourself

I really don't know a stranger, I have my own American Girl Doll and I am an adopted mommy to triplets!

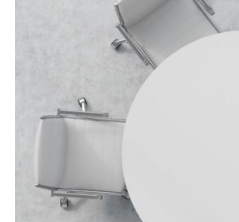
save the date
UPCOMING EVENTS



ADVOCACY



EDUCATIONAL



BUSINESS



Virtual March Conference

March 10, 2021

8:00am-4:00pm

What to Expect: - 9 Sessions - 2 Days - \$100 registration, includes all sessions - Sessions you cannot attend will be recorded and emailed to all registrants

Details & Registration [Here](#)



Life on the other Side, A public Agency Perspective

March 10, 2021

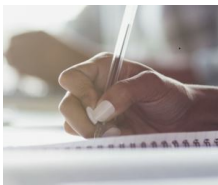
Noon-1:00pm

-1 PDH

-Complimentary to ACEC Illinois members

-Hosted by the ACEC IL, Emerging Professionals Committee

Details & Registration [Here](#)



March: Coffee with Colleagues

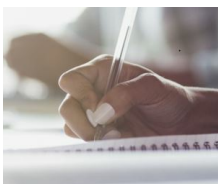
Tuesday, March 16, 2021

9:00 AM - 9:45 AM CDT

Register [Here](#)

About: Join ACEC Illinois members the third Tuesday of every month for networking. Grab your cup of coffee, join the meeting, and then be ready for a 30-45min breakout group.

*Conversation topic this month: Covid-19 Survey Results



Webinar: Risk Management Essentials of the New Normal

April 5, 2021

12:00-1:00pm

- Standard of Care – fulfilling professional obligations under changing circumstances
- Schedule of performance of services – contract clauses, obligations, rights and responsibilities
- Post-COVID design considerations, potential changes
- Performing services outside of the office - remote teams, WFH, technology, employee issues
- Quality management - coordination, start/stop risks
- Construction phase services – access, safety of employees on site, field observation, contractor payment certification

Details & Registration [HERE](#)

2021 Virtual Awards: Engineering Excellence Awards

April 8, 2021



2:00pm-3:30pm
SPONSORSHIP, Details & Registration [Here](#)

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

Please contact Amanda Johnson, Director of Membership, for committee meeting details: amanda@acecil.org



Firm Principals,
Be on the lookout for your firm certification email!

Questions: Amanda@acecil.org

MEMBER UPDATES:



The WTS Greater Chicago Chapter Recognizes 2021 Award Winners



Pamela Simon
2021 Women of the Year



Omer Osman
2021 Honorable Ray Lahood Award



Mary Lou Kutska
2021 Member of the Year



2021 Employer of the Year



2021 Innovative Transportation Solutions



Duana Love
2021 Rosa Parks Diversity
Award

Clark Dietz, Inc. Announces Leadership Changes

KENOSHA, WI, February 2, 2021 - Clark Dietz, Inc. has elected Charles Craddock, PE, FACEC, as Chairman, President and CEO. John I. Boldt, PE, FACEC, who previously held the title of Chairman will retire on March 1, 2021. Jerry Payonk, PE was re-elected Executive Vice President. Wesley Christmas, PE was elected Executive Vice President. Mustafa Emir, PE, PhD was re-elected Secretary, and Sean Widener, PE was elected Treasurer.

Other members elected to the board include Jon Howaniec, PHR (Vice President); Tonia Westphal, PE, LEED AP; Kevin Hetrick, PE, and Emily Basalla, PE, CFM.

Clark Dietz, Inc. is a recognized leader in transportation, civil, environmental, mechanical, electrical, and structural engineering with over 110 professional staff in regional offices in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Wisconsin.

Clark Dietz Announces New Shareholders

KENOSHA, WI, February 2, 2021 - Clark Dietz, Inc., one of the Midwest's leading professional consulting engineering firms, has announced the election of three new shareholders: Andrew Ashley, PE, Seth Swartz, CPA, and Heath Titzer, PE, PLS. These additions reflect the firm's commitment to recognizing the contributions of staff who demonstrate a strong work ethic, a commitment to clients, and a dedication to the betterment of the firm.

"Every year, we are proud to welcome exceptional members of our staff to our shareholder group," said Charles Craddock, Chairman of the Board. "These new shareholders exemplify the dedication, professionalism, and commitment to serving our clients that form the cornerstones of our business. It is a great privilege to have these new shareholders vested in the success of our firm."

Clark Dietz, Inc. is a recognized leader in transportation, civil, environmental, mechanical, electrical, and structural engineering with over 110 professional staff in regional offices in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Wisconsin.

John Boldt to retire at Clark Dietz, Inc.

KENOSHA, WI, February 2, 2021 - John I. Boldt, PE, FACEC, is stepping down as Chairman of the Board at Clark Dietz, Inc. and plans to retire on March 1, 2021. Boldt has spent 44 years in the engineering consulting industry, with the last 27 years at Clark Dietz. Charles Craddock, PE, FACEC, President and CEO will assume the role of Chairman of the Board.

Clark Dietz, Inc. is a recognized leader in transportation, civil, environmental, mechanical, electrical, and structural engineering with over 110 professional staff in regional offices in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Wisconsin.

Benton & Associates, Inc. Announces New Principal Positions

Benton & Associates, Inc. (B&A) is pleased to announce the following people have attained the position of Principal of the firm in recognition of their years of service, contributions to our client's projects and their commitment to the future of Benton & Associates, Inc.

For full article, click [Here](#)



Doug Erickson



Ken Sturgeon



Matthew Hardy



Adam Dorrel



Benjamin Spreen



Strand Associates Celebrates 75 Years

Founded in 1946, we are proud to celebrate our 75th continuous year of providing professional consulting engineering services to the public and private sectors. Since then, we have expanded from one office to ten locations across seven states with 445 employees.

For full article, click [Here](#)

Dr. Christopher Burke Elected to National Academy of Engineering

Rosemont, Ill. (Feb. 12, 2021) - Dr. Christopher B. Burke, PhD, PE, D.WRE, Dist.M.ASCE, NAC has been elected to the National Academy of Engineering (NAE), the premier engineering organization in the country and part of The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Election to the NAE is highly selective and is commonly regarded as one of the highest professional honors an engineer can achieve.

For full article, click [Here](#)



Nobel Laureate Dr. John Goodenough to Receive Washington Award from Western Society of Engineers

Rosemont, Ill. (Feb. 18, 2021) - The Western Society of Engineers will celebrate Engineers Week 2021 (Feb. 21-27) by honoring Nobel Laureate Dr. John B. Goodenough as the 103rd recipient of the Washington Award. The prestigious award is conferred upon an engineer whose professional accomplishments have preeminently advanced the welfare of humankind. Past recipients of the award include Henry Ford, Orville Wright and Neil Armstrong.

For full article, click [Here](#)

Tollway Adds Team Members

Mr. Michael Wicks has been promoted to the position of **Deputy Chief of Program Implementation**. Mr. Wicks has had an extensive engineering career and has for the last eight he has been an Executive Project Engineer at the Tollway. In this role he served as a Deputy Program Manager (DPM) overseeing the design effort for the rebuilding and widening of the 17 mile east end of I-90, and has most recently been serving as the DPM on our 25 mile Central Tri-State corridor, the Systemwide ITS Program, and as the project manager for the CTS Design Corridor Manager (DCM) contract and the CTS Owners Representative/ Corridor Construction Manager contract (OR/CCM).

Ms. Sarah Kukadia has accepted the position of **Deputy Chief of Program Implementation**. Ms. Kukadia has over 20 years of experience in engineering with expertise in utility coordination, design corridor management and transportation design. She currently serves in the role of DCM Project Manager for the Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project Corridor.

On behalf of ACEC Illinois, congratulations to both Mike and Sarah they are both consummate professionals and we look forward to continuing to work with them in their new roles.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER:

Brown and Caldwell
141 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 300A
Chicago, IL 60604
773-943-7673
www.browncaldwell.com



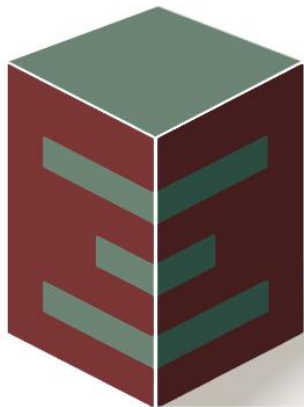
Arcadis, NA
200 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 2000
Chicago, IL 60604
312-917-1000
Arcadis.com



WELCOME NEW AFFILIATE MEMBER:



Axion RMS, LTD
2561 Warrenville Rd.
Downers Grove, IL 60515
630-366-9508
AxionRMS.com



ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS **2021**


The Engineering Excellence Awards recognize the year's most outstanding engineering achievements. ACEC Illinois uses the Engineering Excellence Awards Program to celebrate the amazing work provided to member clients, recognize the accomplishments of our emerging professionals, applaud the contributions made to the engineering profession, and highlight the impact made to society.

2021 Project Highlights: [HERE](#)

2021 Engineering Excellence Awards Winner List: [HERE](#)

2021 Emerging Professional of the Year Nominations: [HERE](#)


Please join us in our virtual celebration this year!
REGISTRATION & SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES: [HERE](#)
**All registrants will be mailed a Wine & Dine Box!*



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Illinois

2021 ACEC PAC Fundraiser

- \$100 per ticket
- Each ticket purchase gets an ACEC Illinois Fleece Vest
- 1 entry will be drawn for \$100 gift card to Cooper's Hawk



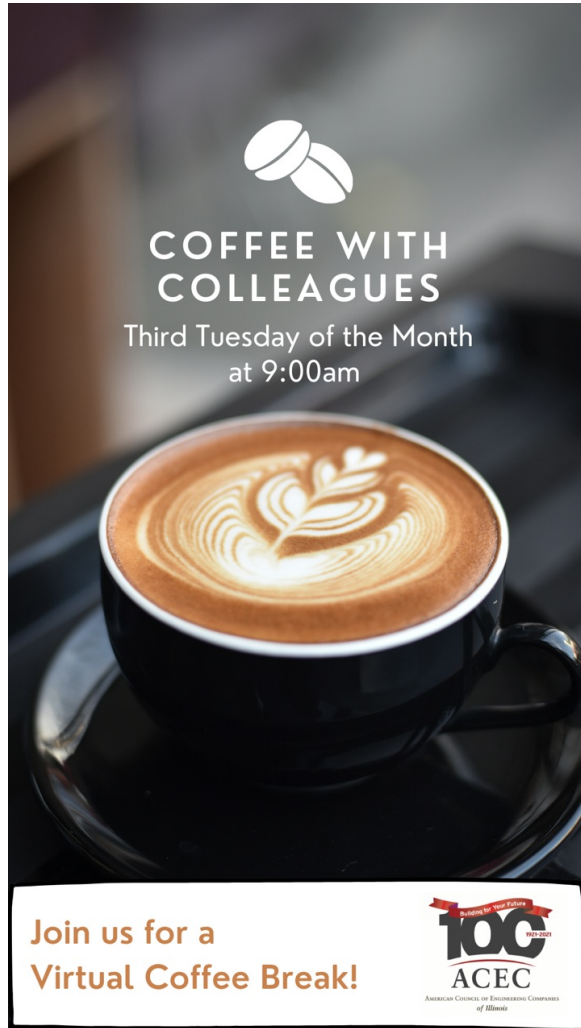
Drawing to be held March 5th
Upon purchase, you will receive an email for vest size and preferred delivery address.

[Make Your PAC Contribution](#)



Have You Checked Your Retirement Plan Lately?

It's generally a good idea to review your employer-sponsored retirement savings plan at least once each year, and when major life changes occur. If you haven't given your plan a thorough review within the past 12 months, now may be a good time to do so. ([Download the article](#))

A graphic for a virtual coffee break event. It features a background image of a cup of coffee with latte art. At the top, there is a white icon of two coffee beans. Below the icon, the text reads "COFFEE WITH COLLEAGUES" in a bold, sans-serif font. Underneath that, it says "Third Tuesday of the Month at 9:00am". At the bottom of the graphic, there is a white banner with the text "Join us for a Virtual Coffee Break!" and the ACEC logo, which includes the number "100" and the text "ACEC AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES of Illinois".

COFFEE WITH COLLEAGUES

Third Tuesday of the Month
at 9:00am

Join us for a
Virtual Coffee Break!

100
ACEC
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Illinois

Join ACEC Illinois members the third Tuesday of every month for networking. Grab your cup of coffee, join the meeting, and then be ready for a 30-45min breakout group.

*Conversation topic this month: Covid-19 Survey Results

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Blues OR Bliss??

Did your health insurance renewal give you the blues?
Were you presented:

- alternate carriers or alternate networks within the same carrier for savings opportunities?
- a reduction in medical spend by bundling other lines of coverage?
- alternate funding solutions

Far too often, brokers wait until the renewal to analyze these items and the result is that it doesn't leave a whole lot of time to actually make changes. If you are looking for a partner the entire year and not just at renewal, please give us a call.

Dan Daley:
630.737.9358 | ddaley@GoCGO.com



Does your retirement plan suffer from faulty construction?

FIND OUT

ACEC **RT**[®]
A RETIREMENT PLAN FOR ENGINEERS. BY ENGINEERS

Contact Lydia Zabrycki at (559) 284.0370 lydia.zabrycki@captrust.com www.acecrt.com



We would love to see your
furry coworkers!

Tag us in your posts:

#ACECILPETS

FURRY FRIENDS

#ACECILPETS

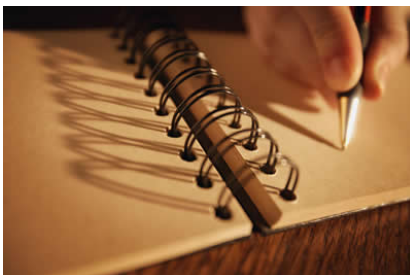


2021 Celebrates ACEC Illinois' 100th Anniversary

Be on the lookout for some exciting announcements and reflections throughout the year.



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