



**KEVIN ARTL**  
PRESIDENT & CEO

## LEADERSHIP & POLICY BRIEFING



### Function...

#### ***House Avoids Government Shutdown***

Over the weekend, commonsense prevailed and the House and Senate passed a short-term stopgap funding measure to avert a partial government shutdown and keep federal agencies operating through November 17. President Biden signed the bill ([H.R. 5680](#)) into law minutes before the deadline last Saturday.

Importantly, the bill also extends Federal Aviation Administration programs through December 31, avoiding a lapse in FAA operations and giving lawmakers three more months to finish work on a long-term reauthorization.

We may be facing another shutdown crisis in six weeks, as the House and Senate appropriations bills for FY 2024 are still on wildly different tracks. ACEC will continue to make the case for maintaining critical infrastructure investments and other priorities as those bills move forward.



### ...Dysfunction

#### ***Small, Extreme faction of Republicans Initiate Vote That Ousts Speaker McCarthy***

Yesterday, the House of Representatives voted to oust Speaker Kevin McCarthy. The "motion to vacate" was initiated by an extreme faction within the Republican Conference and supported by House Democrats. Without a Speaker, legislative

action in the House of Representatives will be put on hold until an election of a new Speaker. House Rules do allow for a temporary speaker while Republicans and Democrats meet to discuss next steps. Congressman Patrick McHenry (R-NC) was designated to serve as Speaker Pro Tem.

At this time, the situation is very fluid, but Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-LA) has begun making calls to fellow caucus members to gauge support for a run. House Republicans plan to hold candidate forum next week on Tuesday October 11th, and will vote on a new Speaker the following day.



## **ACEC IL Hosts Event with Cong. Raja Krishnamoorthi**

ACEC Illinois members heard from Cong. Raja Krishnamoorthi at a recent fundraiser. Cong. Krishnamoorthi outlined his support for fixing R&D amortization in 2023. Cong. Krishnamoorthi is a sponsor of HR 2673, the bipartisan legislation to repeal the R&D amortization requirement.

He also outlined his efforts to double the amount of H1-B visas issues along with his continuous monitoring and support for the Tollway's Elgin-O'Hare Expressway project.



## **IL House Speaker Welch Visits with ACEC Illinois**

Speaker of the House Chris Welch met with the ACEC Illinois Board of Directors and then spoke before members at our September Regional Lunch.

Speaker Welch discussed his efforts to advocate for federal funding for the I-290/Blue Line Modernization Project as well as his support to protect Rebuild Illinois funding.



**Illinois Department  
of Transportation**

## **IDOT Launches Move Illinois: 2024 Long-Range Transportation Plan**

The Illinois Department of Transportation is introducing Move Illinois: the 2024 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

The LRTP will strategically outline goals, objectives and strategies for Illinois' diverse transportation network for the next 20 to 30 years.

As part of the initiative, IDOT has launched a project website at [www.moveillinois2024.com](http://www.moveillinois2024.com), which includes an online event and survey for the public to learn more and help identify the plan's goals and objectives. This website also lists the statewide events our team is attending in person.

The LRTP will take place through late 2024, with the final plan complete by the end of the year. Community input is critical for developing a well-rounded plan. IDOT's first online public event and survey are live now [Click here](#) to begin.



## **Tollway Announces New Chief of Planning, Prepares for Next Program**

Illinois Tollway announced Karen Robles as their new Chief of Planning. Karen previously served as Director of Transportation for the Village of Schaumburg and Transportation and Planning Leader for the City of

Naperville. In both of her previous roles, Robles engaged often with Tollway's planning team, providing her great experience for her new role.

Also, at ACEC Illinois' Tollway Lookahead luncheon, Tollway Executive Director Cassaundra Rouse announced that the Tollway would begin the initial steps of planning for its next program. For more info on Tollway next steps, click [here](#).

**WILL COUNTY  
ALTERNATIVE FUELS  
READINESS PLAN**  
*Fueling Our Future*



## ACEC Illinois Participates in Will County EV Planning

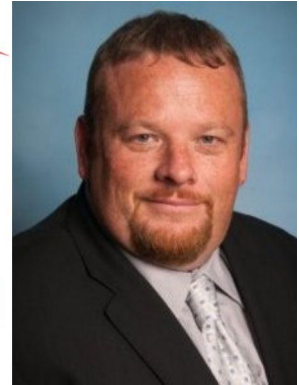
Will County is preparing the Alternative Fuels Readiness Plan to make sure the County is ready to meet the demand for sustainable transportation options. Over the last year and a half, the number of electric vehicles (EVs) in the County has more than doubled, and the number of other alternative fuel vehicles has steadily increased. Through this plan, the County will strive to ensure that the needs of drivers of these vehicles are met. ACEC Illinois has been invited to be a part of this planning task force.

Please visit [willcountyaltfuels.com](http://willcountyaltfuels.com) to find out more information about the project, view the [educational dashboard](#), and take their [public perceptions survey](#)

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

### *"Engineering Works" Podcast*

ACEC-IL's new podcast "Engineering Works" interviews Jim Shaw, Vice President, Illinois State Leader of RS & H. Jim discusses Innovative Project Delivery, how it is being used by IDOT, which projects are a good fit, and which aren't for alternative delivery methods.



[LISTEN HERE](#)

# UPCOMING EVENTS...





# 2-DAY WEBINAR: ROADSIDE SAFETY

October 18 & 19, 2023

9am - Noon

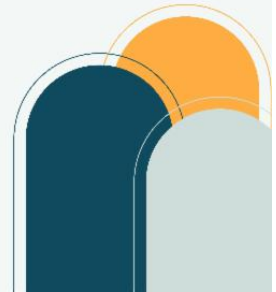
Presented via WebEx

## October 18:

- General Background
- Barriers
- Barrier Layout
- Workzone
- Q&A

## October 19th

- 3R
- Terminals and impact Attenuators
- Urban Settings
- Pay Items
- Q&A



[Register Here](#)



## ACEC ILLINOIS

# FALL *Conference*



**iHotel & Conference Center**  
1900 South First Street,  
Champaign, Illinois 61820

**OCT | 23 & 24<sup>th</sup> | 2023**

**MORE THAN 25 SPEAKERS.**  
*Over 20 Sessions*

[Register Here](#)

# VIRTUAL: LUMP SUM CONTRACTS FOR PHASE II/DESIGN PROJECTS

**Friday, October 27th, 2023**  
**10:30am - 11:30am**

The purpose of the webinar will be to discuss what a lump sum contract is and the advantages and disadvantages of lump sum contracts. It will provide both the owner's and consultant's perspectives on a recent lump sum design contract with the Illinois Tollway.



[Register Here](#)

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#### ABOUT:

ACEC Illinois Leadership Series was created to provide career development for future leaders of Illinois consulting engineering firms. It is designed to launch the industry's most promising up-and-coming professionals on a development track leading to successful general management, project management, and principal positions within Illinois firms.

#### WHAT TO EXPECT:

- 5 Sessions across the state of Illinois
- Printed material and binders
- Meals, Beverages, and Snacks provided
- PDH Certificates will be awarded
- Awarded a Completion Certificate



# 2024 LEADERSHIP SERIES

**ACEC**  
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
of Illinois

save the date



ENGINEERING  
EXCELLENCE  
AWARDS **2024**

*February 22, 2024*

Engineering Excellence Awards Gala  
in Rosemont, IL

**MISSING PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT HOURS FROM  
CLASSES YOU ALREADY TOOK?**

- EMAIL [BETHANY@ACECIL.ORG](mailto:BETHANY@ACECIL.ORG)
- INCLUDE: CLASS NAME, DATE OF CLASS, ATTENDEE EMAIL ADDRESS

[bethany@acecil.org](mailto:bethany@acecil.org)



# REMINDER

ACEC IL dues invoices have been sent out. If you need a new copy or would like to pay via credit card, please contact Emily Martinez at [emily@acecil.org](mailto:emily@acecil.org)

[emily@acecil.org](mailto:emily@acecil.org)

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## UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

Please contact Emily Martinez, Director of Membership, for committee meeting details: [emily@acecil.org](mailto:emily@acecil.org)

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## BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



George Ghareeb, P.E.  
Senior Vice President  
TERRA Engineering Ltd.

How long have you been in the Engineering industry?

- This year, TERRA celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the Engineering industry. My personal journey in this field began in 1985 when I obtained my master's degree in engineering from Bradley University. Subsequently, I dedicated nearly a decade to the Bureau of Bridges at IDOT, followed by six years with the DAR Group overseas. For the past 22 years, I've been contributing my expertise to the



growth and success of TERRA.

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

- Prior to my current role as Vice Chair within ACEC-IL, my involvement has been extensive. I served on the Board of Directors until my term concluded in 2017. My commitment extended to multiple committees, including the Government Affairs Committee, IDOT Committee, and their various sub-committees, along with the IDOT District One Committee. I also chaired the Program Committee, overseeing the transformation of the Future Leaders in Illinois leadership series. My active participation included attending numerous ACEC national events and unwavering support for the PAC, among a host of other invaluable ACEC activities.

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

- While the reasons to join ACEC-IL are as numerous as they are invaluable, professionals find a unique platform to collaborate with like-minded individuals who share an unwavering passion for the pivotal issues surrounding transportation and engineering. ACEC offers unparalleled networking opportunities and empowers industry stakeholders with a collective voice in shaping policies and regulations that wield a profound impact on our field.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

- Beyond my professional pursuits, my heart lies in community service. I am deeply committed to this endeavor, actively serving on various local boards and lending my time to nonprofit organizations. Currently, I serve on the St. Jude Board, lead as President of the Illinois Central College Foundation Board, and preside over the historic Creve Coeur Club, the nation's oldest private club. To keep my engineering acumen tuned, I contribute my expertise to Peoria's Transportation Commission and Planning and Zoning Commission. During my precious moments of relaxation, I savor the pleasures of a fine bourbon and a carefully chosen cigar.

Tell us one fun fact about yourself.

- In 2006, I embarked on an unforgettable journey, being airlifted from Lebanon by the Marines aboard a Sea Stallion Helicopter. What began as an exhilarating and utterly unique experience quickly evolved into a captivating adventure. Along the way, I had the privilege of crossing paths with renowned news personality, Anderson Cooper. However, the real twist came midair, midway between Beirut and Cyprus when the Marines chose to discharge their live ammunition. Having grown up in a war-torn country during the tumultuous 70s and 80s, the sound of ammunition wasn't foreign to me, but experiencing it mid-flight was an adrenaline-pumping, mentally demanding experience unlike any other.

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## MEMBER FIRM SPOTLIGHT



How long have you been in the engineering industry?

- Brenda Garza Karhoff, SE, PE founded GKE in 2008 providing structural design services. We have expanded our services to include civil engineering, construction management and project management. We now have 20 employees strong and are currently celebrating our 15-year anniversary!

What projects are you currently working on?

- We are proud to be part of some exciting and historic projects around Chicagoland providing services in a diverse field of engineering.
- Our vertical construction group is currently providing structural services on the monumental CDOT State/Lake CTA Station Reconstruction located in the heart of the Loop, Chicago Department of Aviation O'Hare Global Terminal 2 reconstruction and we recently completed the O'Hare Terminal 5 Expansion. We are also working on the reconstruction of Rogers Park METRA Station and METRA's MED 5 Stations rehabilitation.
- Our transportation group is providing civil and structural services multiple projects including the Illinois Tollway EOWA Bridge Construction at I-90 Jane Addams Interchange Phase 2, I-80 Corridor Chicago Street to US Route 30 Phase 2 Engineering Services and as a Prime Consultant for a District 1 Phase 2 Various-Variou contract.
- We are also providing construction inspection services for CDOT Jackson Park Mobility Improvement project and project management services for the Illinois Tollway PMO.

What project are you most proud of?

- We are most proud of the first time we were selected as the Prime Consultant on a project. IDOT selected us as a Prime for a Phase 2 project for Improvements and Overlay of IL-50 Cicero Ave dual bridges over the BRC Railroad. It involved bridge inspection with a snooper truck and coordination with the BRC Railroad and PSE plan documents. We were able to showcase our expertise to successfully manage a team of consultants and deliver a quality set of construction documents. It was a huge milestone for us that has resulted in continued success with IDOT.

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

- Being able to maintain a pulse on the industry and staying informed of the issues that directly impact us as a small firm.

Why do you feel firms should join ACEC-IL?

- ACEC-IL is a great organization where firms can network with Agency leaders as well as develop relationships with fellow firms. The most fulfilling aspect is being directly involved with the committees and voicing suggestions to help improve and benefit business operations.

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# AFFILIATE SPOTLIGHT



What does your business do?

- We are a firm specializing in calculation, documentation, and substantiation of R&D tax credits and other specialty tax services including cost segregation, the Employee Retention Credit, renewable energy tax Incentives, energy-efficient 45L credit and section 179D Deduction. We work with companies to uncover the engineering, manufacturing and product development data needed to support claiming engineering-based tax incentives such as the R&D tax credit, and tax planning strategies such as cost segregation.

What is a benefit of doing business with you?

1. No-Cost Feasibility Analysis:

We gather data to examine your ability to capitalize on the credit and identify your tax

benefit before you commit to a full tax credit study.

2. Tax Credit Study:

We build out all the calculations and documentation to meet substantiation requirements, including preparing full engineering reports to support the claimed credits.

3. Audit Representation:

You can feel confident and prepared to defend your position should an audit occur. Tax audit defense is included with every Tri-Merit study.

Why are you a part of ACEC-IL?

- Tri-Merit has a great relationship with ACEC and we enjoy educating and helping it's member document and claim the research and development tax credit.

What is your business's motto?

- **MAKING THE SPECIALTY TAX WORLD BETTER** by providing specialty tax services with harmony and integrity.
-



# ACEC/PAC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

## **\$50 Contribution Receive ACEC PAC Socks in time for SOCK-TOBER**

Contributions:  
Monday, August 21 - Friday, October 20, 2023



[CONTRIBUTE HERE](#)

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## MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

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**ENGINEERING ENTERPRISES, INC. ADDS  
NEW ACCOUNTING/ADMINISTRATIVE  
ASSISTANT**



Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI) is proud to announce the hiring of a new Accounting/Administrative Assistant to the team.

Jennifer Houck has over 20 years of office management experience and we are confident that she will be a valuable addition to the company. She will be responsible for supporting the firm's Accounting and Administrative functions, ensuring that our company continues to run smoothly and efficiently.

Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI) is committed to providing a supportive and inclusive work environment for all employees. The firm offers competitive salaries, comprehensive benefits packages, and opportunities for professional growth and development.

Full Article [Here](#)

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H O L M E S  
M U R P H Y<sup>®</sup>

## Navigating a Hardening Insurance Market with Confidence

The insurance industry is constantly evolving, and our clients often find themselves in the midst of market fluctuations that can significantly impact their coverage and premiums.

In the U.S., the recent cycle of natural catastrophes has caused billions of dollars in damage, and insurers have been further challenged by high inflation, a historic supply chain crisis, and labor issues across key industries, all contributing to a hardening insurance market.

When the insurance market tightens, clients face increased premiums, stricter underwriting criteria, and diminished policy terms and conditions. So, what can you do?

First, it's critical that you reach out to an experienced broker, like Holmes Murphy, to help you in navigating the insurance market and ensuring you make informed decisions. Second, I've offered some tips below that can also help!



## FAR AUDITS SEMINAR

### FAR Audits - Current Updates and How Best to Prepare for Year-end

Join us for an update on the FAR, AASHTO and DOT landscape! Learn how to best prepare your firm for year-end to minimize your time and maximize your rate. We plan to cover:

- AASHTO Audit Guide proposed updates
- Proper expense documentation to maximize allowability
  - Timesheet reporting requirements
    - Compensation planning
  - Field rates and their applicability
    - Trends in overhead rates

**DATE:**

Thursday, October 26, 2023

**TIME:**

11:30 - 12:00 EST - Lunch

12:00-2:00 EST - Seminar

**WHERE:**

CBIZ Somerset

Mack Doyle Conference Center

3925 River Crossing Parkway

Indianapolis, IN 46240

[Register for In Person](#)

[Register for Virtual](#)



## MICHELE PIOTROWSKI, PE, LEED AP SELECTED FOR CRAIN'S CHICAGO NOTABLE WOMEN IN STEM LIST

Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI) is proud to announce that Michele Piotrowski, PE, LEED AP, Vice President, has been named to the 2023 Notable Women in STEM list. The list honors Chicago-area women for their work in the science, technology, engineering, and math fields. In selecting the honorees, Crain's sought to feature women who have used their skills to advance their organization and/or assumed a leadership position



outside her organization.

Michele has been dedicated to the engineering industry for nearly 25 years. She currently serves as a Vice President and group leader for EEI. In addition, she is a shareholder and member of the board of directors.

As a group leader, she is responsible for managing eight (8) direct reports. In addition to managing staff, she has direct project involvement and routinely manages complex infrastructure projects. Michele also manages EEI's Itasca office.

As a shareholder and member of the board, she is directly responsible for the overall direction of the firm. This includes assisting in setting strategic direction, establishing overall policies, defining goals, and managing personnel.

Michele is active in the Illinois Section American Water Works Association (ISAWWA) and is the current District 2B Trustee. In addition, she is the Chair of the Water Efficiency Committee, a Water Loss Trainer, coordinates the scholarship awards, and is involved in the Public Outreach Committee.

Since 2015, Michele has been able to train hundreds of utility personnel to help them gain a better understanding of how to conduct a water loss audit and the tools available for performing an audit. This is essential in the area of water sustainability.

Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI) is committed to providing a supportive and inclusive work environment for all employees. The firm offers competitive salaries, comprehensive benefits packages, and opportunities for professional growth and development.

Read more about the recognition

here: <https://www.chicagobusiness.com/notables/crains-notable-women-stem-2023>

#### About Engineering Enterprises, Inc.

Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI), founded in 1974, is an award-winning consulting engineering firm providing services to public agencies and private entities throughout northern Illinois. Over 65 experienced firm members including licensed professional civil engineers, land surveyors, and support team members provide a full range of services for planning, design, and construction of infrastructure projects, funding assistance, and municipal consulting. Our core values guide our staff on every project from initiation through completion keeping us committed to quality, service, and value for our clients. By offering outstanding service to every client every day we are able to assist with bettering the communities in which we serve. For additional information visit our website at [www.eeiweb.com](http://www.eeiweb.com).



**ENGINEERING ENTERPRISES, INC. RANKED  
#21 OF 100 IN CRAIN'S 2023 BEST  
PLACES TO WORK IN CHICAGO**

Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI) has been ranked #21 out of the top 100 companies

# Get On Board

## Business-to-Business Networking Event



**November 1, 2023**  
**8:30 am - 1:00 pm**

**Kennedy King College**  
**6301 Halsted Street, Chicago**

The CREATE Program's Get On Board events foster networking for certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and other MBE or WBE businesses with rail-industry contractors specializing in engineering, design and construction. At this half-day event, you will have the opportunity to:

- Learn about DBE success stories from business owners working on the CREATE Program.
- Connect your company with experienced business owners partnering with major rail industry firms and learn about bid opportunities.
- Attend a workshop on how to become a certified railroad contractor/consultant and how to become DBE certified.

Whether you're a long-term collaborator or new to working with the CREATE Program, you'll want to join us to see how CREATE can benefit you!



**Participants**  
Please click [here](#) or scan our QR code. The last day to register is October 30<sup>th</sup>.



**Exhibitors**  
Please click [here](#) or scan our QR code to register. Registration deadline is October 20<sup>th</sup>.

## ACEC Business Insurance Trust Webinars

Artificial Intelligence in Design & Construction



[Webinar Here](#)

Progressive Design Build



[Webinar Here](#)

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(800) 247.7756



**CONSTRUCTION**  
**BUILD MOMENTUM**

## The ACEC Research Institute's 2023 Q3 Sentiment Survey



[LISTEN HERE](#)

ISSUE TWO • 2023

# ENGINEERING INC.

www.acec.org

AWARD-WINNING BUSINESS MAGAZINE • PUBLISHED BY AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

## Powering the Future

The urgent need  
for EV infrastructure

Water Treatment Projects  
Make a Splash

Tribal Surveying System  
Sets New Standards

MO Profile: ACEC Kansas

C&S Companies  
Champions Staff's Causes

**ACEC**  
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

Full Magazine  
Here



Student &  
Teacher  
Resources

When students dream big about their careers, engineering may not be the first thing that pops to mind. But maybe it should be. The fact is, there is unlimited opportunity and variety within the engineering field itself, allowing students to follow their passions, land that dream job and make a difference in the world. And engineers are in demand, providing endless options to build their future.

This initiative was launched to help Illinois students see themselves in the engineering field. It is part of a larger effort by the Illinois Department of Transportation to educate and hire engineers in the face of a national shortage. From introducing individual disciplines, to discussing job satisfaction, opportunities and compensation, this web page is intended as a resource for students and educators to explore all that is possible with a career in engineering.

Engineering may not be the first job students think of, but a career in the field might just become a dream come true.



[HERE](#)

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Engineers do things differently.

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LIFE/HEALTH TRUST

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100% of members give  
ACEC Retirement Trust a

Find out why ACEC Retirement Trust gets a 100% satisfaction rating. It's an exclusive 401(k) program for ACEC members



**ACEC RT.** [SEE WHY](#)





Build a bright financial  
future for your team



## SUBMIT UPDATES & ARTICLES:

Please submit firm update & news articles by the 15th of each month to: [bethany@acecil.org](mailto: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](http://www.acecil.org)

ACEC-Illinois | 5221 S 6th Street Road, Suite 120, Springfield, IL 62703

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