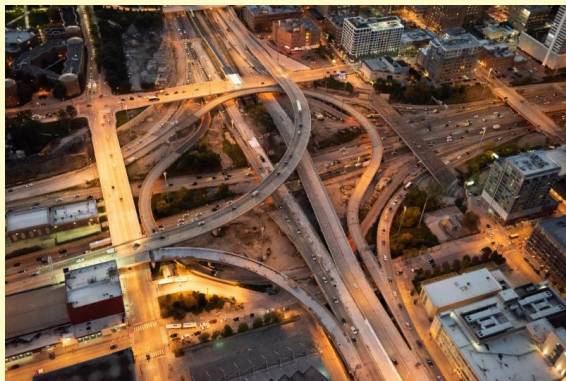




AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Illinois

2019 April NEWSLETTER: THE CONNECTOR



Circle Interchange: Critical Improvements to a Vital Junction

The I-90/94 at I-290 Circle Interchange, also known as the Jane Byrne Interchange, is a major freeway interchange in the heart of downtown Chicago. It's a critical connection for the Dan Ryan Expressway (I-90/94), the Kennedy Expressway (I-90/94), the Eisenhower Expressway (I-290), and Congress Parkway.

According to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Jane Byrne Interchange is the slowest and most congested highway freight bottleneck in the nation. More than 400,000 vehicles travel through the interchange daily, and on average, more than 1,100 crashes are reported per year. It's a notorious traffic jam, and according to the US Department of Transportation, it accounts for approximately 25 million lost hours each year.

[CONTINUE READING HERE](#)

RECAP PHOTOS:
TFIC LOBBY DAY

Bender Joins ACEC as Engineers Double Down on Advocacy

Washington, DC – Doubling down on its recent wins in tax reform, the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) – the business association of the nation's engineering industry – recently announced the hire of veteran lobbyist and association leader Dave Bender to its DC advocacy team. Bender, who most recently served as President of ACEC-IL (the federation's Illinois branch,) has been brought on as the organization works to leverage the strength of its growing PAC and experienced policy shop in support of their 5,600 member engineering firms.

According to **ACEC President & CEO, Linda Bauer Darr**, engineers face a dynamic policy environment, which include both the threats of commoditization of their profession, challenges to licensure standards, and qualifications-based selection (versus price selection) as well as significant opportunities to press for greater infrastructure investment and private market growth.

During consideration of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, ACEC pulled out a last-minute win with passage of language that secured access to the new 20 percent tax deduction for passthrough firms, which represent the majority of ACEC's membership. This victory saved engineering firms millions and raised the profile of the 100+ year old organization.

"Dave is a known quantity in our industry. He's part of the ACEC family with a track record of success in Illinois," said **ACEC Chair, Manish Kothari**. "Dave served the state of Illinois in cabinet agencies and in the Governor's office for years and has 20 years of association management experience, so he understands our



firms, the industry and government. He will use those strengths to hit the ground running. Our members are fortunate to have him on the team.”

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MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOLIET, ILLINOIS, Strand Associates, Inc.® (Strand), one of Midwest's largest engineering firms, is pleased to announce the election of Darcie W. Gabrisko, P.E., to the Board of Directors, effective April 1, 2019.

[CONTINUE READING HERE](#)



Champaign, Ill. (April 11, 2019) –The University of Illinois' Prairie Research Institute (PRI) has selected Rosemont-based engineer Kay Whitlock, PE, D.WRE and Vice President at Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. (CBBEL) as the recipient of the 2019 Friends of PRI Award. The award recognizes service and commitment from friends of



the Prairie Research Institute in helping the organization meet its mission of being the trusted science authority in service to the state of Illinois.

[CONTINUE READING HERE](#)

Chicago, Ill. (April 15, 2019) – TranSystems Corp., a national transportation consulting firm that provides engineering, architectural, planning and construction solutions, welcomes Anna Dukes, PE, SE, as Senior Structural Engineer. She will work out of the company’s Chicago office.



[CONTINUE READING HERE](#)



Springfield, Ill. (April 24, 2019) - WHKS & Co. is pleased to announce the addition of Mark Leighton, P.E., P.L.S. as a Transportation Project Manager in the Springfield, Illinois office. His responsibilities will include the design and management of civil and transportation projects in Illinois.

[CONTINUE READING HERE](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, May 13, 2019 9am-3pm
The Need for Sustainable Funding

Elected officials are the ones that determine funding levels for all public infrastructure. Yet we seem to not understand who they are, what they do, how they do it and why is it so important to be engaged in the legislative process.

Learn about the political and governmental process, from the local city council, the state General Assembly and Congress. You will gain the knowledge on how to be an effective citizen lobbyist and why this is important to your firm --- and your career.

*Eligible for 6 PDH's

Presented by: Dave Bender, ACEC Illinois President/CEO

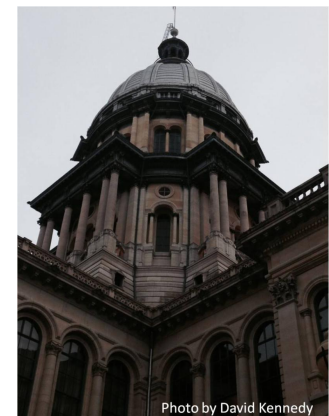


Photo by David Kennedy

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WEBINAR SUGGESTIONS:

ACEC-IL is proud to announce we have expanded our educational outreach to include Webinars.

This affords our membership greater flexibility in participation of sessions which aim at enhancing business productivity. If there is a topic that you would like to see presented, please contact us at bethany@acecil.org

SUBMIT AN ARTICLE:

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