

The logo for ACEC (American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois) features the acronym "ACEC" in a large, serif font, with a red curved line above it.

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Illinois

THE CONNECTOR

FEBRUARY 2023



LEADERSHIP & POLICY BRIEFING

ACEC ILLINOIS PRESIDENT & CEO - KEVIN ARTL

American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois Launches “Engineering Excellence” Competition to Select the Best Infrastructure Project in Illinois

Voting by Illinois residents to determine winner is now open

To recognize the most outstanding engineering achievements and celebrate the exceptional work engineers provided to their clients in the past year, the American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois (ACEC Illinois) launched its 2023 Engineering Excellence Awards competition titled “Engineering Works.” The award is designed to honor the best infrastructure projects in Illinois and the engineering companies behind their design and construction. The competitive process to select a winner is now open to the public to learn about the projects and vote to pick a winner to be honored at the ACEC Illinois Awards gala in February.

“Infrastructural development has always been vital for job creation and transportation of goods and people and crucial to improving the quality of life of residents and boosting our state’s economy,” said **Kevin Artl, President and CEO of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois**. “Our intention is to use this contest to promote a competitive spirit among our members so they continue to put in their best as they work with our public and private partners

on transformative projects such as roads, bridges, railroads, universities and other critical infrastructure across the state.”

Eleven projects spread across the state have been nominated for the award and the public will have the opportunity to vote for their favorites after considering their aesthetics, design, construction excellence and the social and economic impact on their day-to-day lives. The nominated projects are in the categories of transportation, structural systems, water resources, industrial and manufacturing processes and facilities, studies and research consulting and special projects.

“The scope and variety of projects nominated for this award demonstrates the extraordinary commitment by state agencies and local engineers to the development and modernization of our state’s most important road and transportation infrastructure,” said **Omer Osman, Secretary of the Illinois Department of Transportation**.

“Illinois engineers contribute immensely to our efforts to ensure road safety and efficiency because they help maintain and upgrade over 294 miles of roadways we operate in 12 counties across Northern Illinois,” said **Cassandra Rouse, Executive Director, Illinois Tollway**. “We are excited that the selection process for this award allows the public to pick the best infrastructure projects and give recognition to the contribution of the engineering and construction teams.”

“ACEC Illinois engineers are committed to putting their skills to work designing and rebuilding a better Illinois,” said **P.J. Fitzpatrick, chair of the Board of Directors of ACEC Illinois**. “We hope this competition will help showcase the work they do every day to build and improve our state’s infrastructure network.

Voting begins on January 26 and ends on February 16 when a winner will be selected after counting of votes cast by the public. To see photographs and vote for any of the projects, please go the dedicated voting website by [clicking here](#).

Projects and Voting

ACEC Illinois “Engineering Works” Award in the news:

Politico: “*You pick: The American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois has launched its 2023 Engineering Excellence Awards to honor the best infrastructure projects in Illinois and the engineering companies behind their design and construction.*”

Capitol Fax: “*To recognize the most outstanding engineering achievements and celebrate the exceptional work engineers provided to their clients in the past year, the American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois (ACEC Illinois) today launched its 2023 Engineering Excellence Awards competition titled “Engineering Works.” The award is designed to honor the best infrastructure projects in Illinois and the engineering companies behind their design and construction. The competitive process to select a winner is now open to the public to learn about the projects and vote to pick a winner to be honored at the ACEC Illinois Awards gala in February.*”

Illinois Business Journal: “*We commend ACEC Illinois for this initiative to promote excellence in the engineering community and look forward to seeing the projects and teams that will emerge as winners to be celebrated at the awards gala,*” said **Omer Osman, Secretary of the Illinois Department of Transportation**.”

IDOT Raises Salary Cap

With substantial inflationary pressures being placed on Illinois’ engineering sector, ACEC IL has been working with IDOT to update its salary cap. We appreciate Secretary Osman and his team

for engaging with ACEC IL on this critical topic and working towards a fair solution.

In case you missed it:

Effective February 2, 2023, the salary cap for projects on PTB 185 and after has been increased to \$86/hr for the purpose of estimating fee. This new salary cap can be utilized on any Prime or Supplement, PTB 185 and after, proposal package submitted to the Department on or after this date.

Any proposal package submitted before this date will utilize the \$78/hr cap and cannot be resubmitted.

IDPFR Sets New Requirements for PE License Renewal

Beginning with the November 30, 2023, renewal and every renewal thereafter, a minimum of 1 hour of Illinois Statutes and Rules for Professional Engineering and a minimum of 1 hour of professional conduct and/or ethics are required.

ACEC Illinois will be developing curriculum and hosting seminars to meet both requirements.

Committee Chairs Announced for Transportation Committee

Continuity continues on the Transportation Committee as both previous committee chairs and minority spokespersons are returning.



Illinois House Transportation Committee

Chairman: Marty Moylan

Minority Spokesperson: Mike Marron



Illinois Senate Transportation Committee

Chairman: Ram Villivalam

Minority Spokesperson: Don DeWitte

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



COMMITTEE CHAIR SPOTLIGHT



Duana Love, P.E.
TranSmart, LLC

How long have you been a part of ACEC Illinois?

2 Years.

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

- Chair of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, established in 2021
- Member of the Public Transportation Committee

Tell us a little bit about the committee you chair?

The ACEC Illinois DEI Committee is comprised of a dynamic group of industry professionals, who are driven to educate, celebrate, and promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. Our mission is to cultivate a better understanding of DEI through education and communication to ultimately improve recruitment and retention of a diverse workforce in Illinois.

What's the number one reason people should join your committee?

Participation offers rewarding opportunities to network with industry peers who are passionate about DEI matters, and to motivate and influence the next generation of professionals who want to be "you" when they grow up!

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

In my spare time, I enjoy spending time outdoors with family and friends and solving 1000-piece jigsaw puzzles!

Tell us one fun fact about yourself.

Before deciding to pursue a degree in Civil Engineering, I dreamed of becoming a professional cheerleader after more than 10 years of dedication to the sport. And, I can still do a cartwheel!

UPCOMING EVENTS

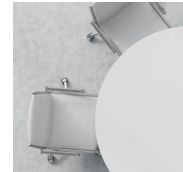
SAVE THE DATE



ADVOCACY



EDUCATIONAL



BUSINESS



Webinar: Lifelong Learning: how to engage, teach & be taught

February 15, 2023 | 12p.m.

Host: Eamon Homedi of Atlas Engineering

Register [Here](#)

*Complimentary for all ACEC Illinois Members



2023 Engineering Excellence Awards - Summer Soiree

February 16, 2023 | 6p.m. - 11p.m.

Location: Hyatt Regency O'Hare Chicago

9300 Bryn Mawr Avenue

Rosemont, IL 60018

Register [Here](#)

Master Class Series

February 22 | March 16 | May 3 | May 25

-28 Professional Development Hours awarded for attending all four sessions.

-PowerPoints and handouts will be shared with registered attendees.

-Registration Fee: \$2,100



Suggested Attendees: Prospective principals with substantial experience in the engineering field suggested.

Register [Here](#)



Two-Dimensional Hydraulic Modeling of Rivers Course

March 14, 2023 | 8a.m. - March 17, 2023 | 4p.m.

Join the waitlist [Here](#)

*The course is a 3-day course running from 8am to 4pm each day. Breakfast and Lunch will be provided each day for registrants.



Webinar: Designing to Standards - Where do they Come From

March 15, 2023 | 12p.m.

Host: Josh Starzyk of Gannett Fleming

Register [Here](#)

*Complimentary for all ACEC Illinois Members



Topgolf Networking Event

Hosted by: Emerging Professionals Committee

April 11, 2023 | 5:30p.m.-7:30p.m.

Location: Topgolf Naperville
3211 Odyssey Court
Naperville, IL 60563



Webinar: An Introduction to Project Management in Consulting

April 12, 2023 | 12p.m.

Host: Mohamad Alsharbini of Benesch

Register [Here](#)

*Complimentary for all ACEC Illinois Members

REQUEST VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS:

VIRTUAL: BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN TRAINING

HOSTED BY:
ACEC
Illinois

PRESENTER:



Carlos A. Feliciano, P.E.
In-House Studies Unit Head / ADA & Bicycle Coordinator

This presentation includes a summary of IDOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations policy. The training will go into detail on policies, warrants, design considerations and proper documentation practices for inclusion of active transportation facilities in State led roadway improvements in compliance with IDOT's Complete Streets policy.

PRESENTED BY:



Illinois Department
of Transportation

To request a recording of:

1. Email bethany@acecil.org
2. Be emailed an invoice for \$45.
3. Then, you will be emailed a video recording and PDH.

RECORDING OF: ENGINEERING WITH LAND ACQUISITION IN MIND

About:

This virtual seminar not a webinar to teach someone how to do land acquisition, but rather a tool for engineers that might have land acquisition on their projects.

PRESENTERS:

Jeni Lyon, President/CEO, HLR Inc.
Carlos Feliciano, IDOT Programming, In-House Studies Unit Head
Kari Smith, IDOT Design, Economic Analysis Coordinator
Brian Bottomley, Owner/Senior Engineering, Way Maker Transportation, Planning and Engineering
Chris Maloney, IDOT Land Acquisition, Area Relocation and Property Management Supervisor
Reid Magner, Vice President, Bravo Company Engineer

Agenda:

Guidelines
Overview of Process
Acquisition Timeline
Phase I - ROW Determination & Consideration
Phase II - Land Acquisition Process
Examples

1. Email bethany@acecil.org
2. Be emailed an invoice for \$150.
3. Be emailed a 3 hour video and PDH's



RECORDING OF: EMPLOYEE RETENTION - STAY INTERVIEWS GREAT RESIGNATION TO THE GREAT RETENTION

INTERACTIVE - INFORMATIVE - INSPIRING

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

Stay Interview - vs - Exit Interview
The Power of a Stay Interview
How to do a Stay Interview
What to Ask
Dry Run

PRESENTER:



JEFF GROSS
FOUNDER, CHIEF EMPOWERMENT OFFICER
AND LEADERSHIP CONSULTANT



HOSTED BY:
ACEC
Illinois

TO REQUEST A RECORDING OF:

- EMAIL BETHANY@ACECIL.ORG
- BE EMAILED AN INVOICE FOR \$75.
- THEN, YOU WILL BE EMAILED A VIDEO RECORDING AND PDH

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

NEW AFFILIATE MEMBER:



WTW A&E
233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 1800
Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 288-7342
www.wtwco.com

MEMBER UPDATES:

DBE TECHNICAL SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

FREE WORKSHOPS



FEBRUARY 8 | 10 AM

IDOT EPASS System -
Consultant Prequalification



FEBRUARY 10 | 10 AM

IDOT EPASS System - SOIs



RSVP Here

We are part of the CBIZ, Inc. family!

We are now
CBIZ SOMERSET!

(NYSE: CBZ)

Clark Dietz, Inc. Announces Leadership Changes

CHAMPAIGN, IL— January 27, 2023 – Clark Dietz, Inc. has elected Wes Christmas, PE, ENV SP as President and CEO, Jerry Payonk, PE as Chairman of the Board, Jon Howaniec, SHRM-CP as Secretary, and re-elected Mustafa Emir, PE, PhD as Executive Vice President, Seth Swartz, CPA as Chief Financial Officer, and Sean Widener, PE as Treasurer.

A new addition to the Board of Directors includes Nirav Patel, PE.

Leadership promotions include Sean Widener, PE who assumes the role of Senior Vice President and Illinois Regional Director, Kevin Hetrick, PE, who assumes the role of Senior Vice President and Indiana Regional Director, and Mustafa Emir, PE, PhD, who assumes the role of Executive Vice President, Wisconsin Regional Director, and Director of Business Development.

***Clark Dietz, Inc.** is a recognized leader in transportation, civil, environmental, mechanical, electrical, and structural engineering with over 130 professional staff in regional offices in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Wisconsin.*



**COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION AND
HIGHWAYS**

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES OPEN HOUSE AND NETWORKING EVENT

FEBRUARY 24, 2023

69 W. WASHINGTON ST.,
STE. 2200, CHICAGO, IL 60602



**Two sessions
available:**

- 10 a.m. - noon
- 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

**RSVP by Friday,
February 17, 2023**

[RSVP Here](#)

Clark Dietz Announces New Shareholders

CHAMPAIGN, IL, January 27, 2023 - Clark Dietz, Inc., one of the Midwest's leading professional consulting engineering firms, has announced the election of seven new shareholders: Scott Anstandig, Nathan Frey, PE, PMP, Benjamin Metzler, PE, Ana Niño Flores, PE, Greg Schanen, PE, Tania Tkachuk, and David Wichman, PE. 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.

“Again in 2023, we have welcomed additional members of our staff to our shareholder group,” said Jerry Payonk, PE, Chairman of the Board. “These shareholders embody the Clark Dietz values of commitment, flexibility, community, and trust that define the cornerstones of our business. Their willingness to prioritize service to our clients and communities through dedication and professionalism exemplifies why they have a vested interest in the success of our firm. It is with great pride that we have the privilege of welcoming these new shareholders.”

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Engineering Enterprises, Inc. Welcomes Veronica Hall as Project

Manager and Two New Construction Technicians



Veronica Hall, PE



Ethan Todd



Tom Soelke

Veronica Hall, PE has joined our Municipal Group as a Project Manager. She holds her MS in Environmental Engineering from Illinois Institute of Technology and a BS in Civil Engineering from Purdue University. In addition, she is licensed Professional Engineer and brings over 25 years of experience in various facets of water and wastewater engineering design and construction projects. She will primarily be working out of our Itasca office.

Thomas Soelke and Ethan Todd have joined our Construction Group as Technicians. Soelke brings over 20 years of Public Works related experience and Todd brings three years of related experience to their role at EEI. Both will be valuable in the field overseeing various types of infrastructure projects. Soelke and Todd will primarily be working out of our Sugar Grove office.

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 60 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.

Clark Dietz, Inc. CEO Chip Craddock Announces Retirement

CHAMPAIGN, IL – Charles ‘Chip’ Craddock, PE, CEO and President of Clark Dietz, Inc., will retire effective on January 27, 2023.

Craddock joined Clark Dietz in 1994, initially serving as staff electrical engineer and was subsequently named Chief Electrical Engineer. He served on the board of directors since 2001, as corporate treasurer from 2002 to 2006. In 2011, Craddock was named Executive Vice President/Director of Operations while also serving as Director of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering. In these roles he provided technical guidance and administrative leadership in the areas of project, business, and financial management of Clark Dietz. In 2017, Craddock was named Chief Operating Officer and in 2018, he also assumed the role of President.

“Chip joined Clark Dietz because he wanted to become part of an organization, he felt he could have an impact on regarding direction and success. I think he certainly achieved his goals and feels it was an honor growing and leading an employee-owned company,” said Executive Vice President, Jerry Payonk, PE.

Craddock earned his Bachelor and Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Oklahoma. He later earned his Master of Business Administration from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Craddock has been active in many civic and business

organizations at the local, state and national level. He is a former National Director for the Council of American Mechanical and Electrical Engineers, former National Director of American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), past Chairman of ACEC Illinois and member of the Capital Development Board Advisory Committee, a Member of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers, and a Member of the City of Champaign Code Review and Appeals Board. Craddock also serves on the Carle Foundation Audit Committee, the Board of Habitat for Humanity – Champaign County, Board of Directors of the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce, as well as an Elder in the First Presbyterian Church of Champaign and Joliet.

In 2020, Craddock assumed the role of Chief Executive Officer of Clark Dietz, and in the following year became Chairman of the Board, guiding the firm with financial resolve and human empathy during the tumultuous Covid-19 pandemic. His defining leadership style included ‘fairness,’ believing that staff must feel that they are being listened to, especially when viewpoints are not in alignment.

“Chip has always heard what I have to say. When I realized how much I treasured Chip’s listening skills, I changed my behavior both in work and life to emulate his style,” said Executive Vice President and Wisconsin Regional Director, Mustafa Emir, PhD, PE.

During Craddock’s tenure, Clark Dietz experienced some of the firm’s best years of financial performance. His focus on process, efficiencies, and accessibility at all levels of the organization improved project performance, client service, as well as the bottom-line.

Craddock adds, “I thought we could improve our financial and project management processes, and I’m delighted that people gave what I wanted to do a chance and supported it... I think people bought-in, and we have a strong improvement in our project performance in part because of those process changes.”

Craddock’s lasting impact on the firm will be felt in the maintenance of technical expertise while providing service to our clients, benefits to our staff, and improved performance for our shareholders. He has imbued a sense of ownership among staff while preparing the firm for the future.

Incoming CEO and President Wes Christmas, PE, ENV SP says, “Chip has regularly stated that his job as CEO is to properly balance the resources of Clark Dietz between shareholders, staff, and clients. As I look to the future and my time as CEO, I will strive to maintain the balance Chip as so often mentioned to the benefit of all company stakeholders. Chip’s influence and approach will stick with me for the rest of my career.”

The entire Clark Dietz community wishes Chip the best in retirement.

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CBBEL Recognized Nationally as 2023 Best Workplace for Commuters

Firm’s award-winning Bike to Work Program recognized for 6th straight year

Rosemont, Ill. (Jan. 27, 2023) – For the sixth year in a row, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. (CBBEL) has been named one of the nation’s Best Workplaces for Commuters, in recognition of the firm’s car-share program and award-winning **Bike-to-Work program**.

CBBEL is among **a select group of workplaces** in the United States that have achieved the Best Workplaces for Commuters National Standard of Excellence by providing exceptional commuter benefits.



“We want to make it as easy and painless as possible for employees to commute into the office without using their cars and are grateful Best Workplaces for Commuters has recognized our efforts,” said Mike Kerr, PE, CBEL President and founder of the Bike to Work Program. “Whether it’s our Bike to Work Program, participating in car-sharing or providing spaces for electric vehicles to re-charge, we’re looking toward the future of commuting.”

As part of the Bike-to-Work program, CBEL pays employees \$0.75/mile and provides additional assistance with routes, equipment and gear. Since the Program’s inception in 2006, more than 190 employees have biked over 440,000 miles, which equates to approximately 853,000 pounds of CO₂ eliminated, 20.6 million calories burned and more than \$96,000 in gas money saved.

CBEL has also adopted an Enterprise CarShare program, which gives employees access to shared vehicles, allowing them to commute to leave their personal cars at home.

Clark Dietz, Inc. Names Wes Christmas President and CEO

CHAMPAIGN, IL– On January 27th, 2023 the Board of Directors of Clark Dietz voted to confirm Wes Christmas, PE, ENV SP as its new Chief Executive Officer and President.

Christmas is an experienced engineer, completing his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering at Purdue University in 2000. He has dedicated his entire career to Clark Dietz, serving the firm for over 22 years, starting as a project engineer and resident project representative for the planning, design, and construction of roadway and trail improvements, enhancements, stormwater, water/wastewater collection, and distribution projects throughout the Midwest.

Subsequently, Christmas advanced to roles that included project manager, Area Manager, Regional Director, Regional Sales Manager, Corporate Director of Business Development, and Executive Vice President. Growing within the organization, he was entrusted as manager or client liaison for a variety of large and complex projects for Indiana and Kentucky communities, of which he maintains close working relationships. Christmas continues to identify infrastructure needs, solutions, and funding mechanisms while being engaged and active in the communities he serves.

Christmas has served on the Board of Directors of Clark Dietz since 2012, acting as Corporate Treasurer from 2018-2020. In 2018 he was named Regional Director for Indiana/Kentucky operations. In 2020, he was named Executive Vice President and in 2021 Corporate Director of Business Development, all while serving as a client liaison and trusted advisor for clients in the Indiana and Kentucky markets. His corporate and regional responsibilities included monitoring and managing regional workload, financial planning, and performance optimization in the areas of profitability, accounts receivable, staff utilization, contract development, and staff recruitment.

Retiring Chief Executive Chip Craddock offers his advice saying, "I would encourage Wes to have the courage of his convictions. He is incredibly bright and well-rounded, and Wes has the opportunity to take this firm to places it has never been. He is going to be a great leader."

“The opportunity to assume the role of President and CEO for the firm with which I have spent my entire career is exciting and humbling. I am grateful for the support and leadership of the people that make up this great organization. I want to specifically thank our outgoing President and CEO, Chip Craddock, for his focused mentorship and friendship over the past few years. He has put the firm in a wonderful position, and I look forward to building upon the great foundation and record of success he established to grow our firm, nurture our staff, and support our clients to create innovative solutions to their needs,” adds Christmas.

The Clark Dietz shareholders and staff have placed our trust and support in Wes, and we offer our congratulations to him on his new role!

Clark Dietz, Inc. is a recognized leader in transportation, civil, environmental, mechanical, electrical, and structural engineering with over 130 professional staff in regional offices in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Wisconsin.



Build momentum.

Talk to us about
protecting all
you've built.

See what we offer in full:
holmesmurphy.com
(800) 247.7756



CONSTRUCTION
BUILD MOMENTUM

An Interview with Incoming ACEC Vice Chair, Dan Meckes of Missouri



[LISTEN HERE](#)



Photo Gallery



Engineers do things differently.

We engineer better health insurance benefits.

ACEC
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

FURRY FRIENDS

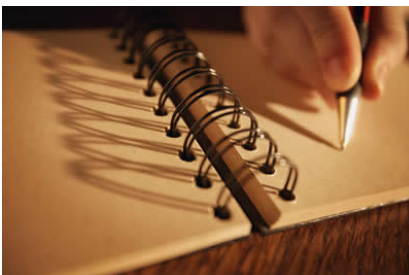
#ACECILPETS



We would love to see your
furry coworkers!

Tag us in your posts:

#ACECILPETS



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

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

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