



2019 DECEMBER NEWSLETTER: THE CONNECTOR



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Illinois



Leadership and Policy Briefing

ACEC Illinois President & CEO - Kevin Artl

As the year winds down and we all prepare for an incredibly busy 2020, there was some news to report:

Will County Approves Gas Tax: The Will County Board approved a 4 cent per gallon gas tax that would raise an estimated \$12 million annually for infrastructure improvements in the County. The measure was approved by a single vote with County Executive Larry Walsh breaking a tie vote in the County Board. I have met with the sponsor of the measure, County Board member Joe VanDuyne, and ACEC has been supportive of his efforts for this critical infrastructure funding.

New Chicago Department of Transportation Commissioner: Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot has named Gia Biagi as the new CDOT Commissioner. Biagi, pending City Council confirmation, will take over for Acting Commissioner Tom Carney.

A University of Michigan graduate with a master's in urban planning from UIC, Gia Biagi got her start in the late 1990s as a policy associate under former Mayor Richard M. Daley. Biagi then spent 11 years with the Chicago Park District, culminating in her role as chief of staff. Five years ago she joined Studio Gang, the firm run by famed Chicago architect Jeanne Gang. There, Biagi led Gang's Urbanism and Civic Impact practice that specializes in urban design, planning and strategy.

Federal Tax Relief Advances: Ways and Means Committee Approves SALT Cap Relief

The House Ways and Means Committee passed legislation to provide relief from the \$10,000 cap on the deductibility of state and local taxes (SALT) that was established in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Under the legislation, married couples filing jointly would receive relief from the SALT cap in 2019, and the cap would be eliminated for 2020 and 2021 before returning in 2022. The tax relief would be offset by raising the top individual tax rate from 37 percent to 39.6 percent and applying that top rate to more taxpayers.

ACEC joined with business allies in supporting the relief. Owners of passthrough firms—including S corporations, partnerships, and sole proprietorships—pay their business taxes on their individual tax returns.

Leadership Briefings:

This month I met with Senate Majority Leader Kim Lightford, Assistant Majority Leader Tony Munoz and Minority Chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee Sen. Don DeWitte to outline ACEC concerns of workforce challenges and our support for efforts to ensure IDOT has the resources needed to implement the capital bill. ACEC IL Leadership also met with House Republican Leader Jim Durkin and his top staff to thank him for his support of the capital bill and outline ACEC legislative priorities.

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AWARDS **2020**

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EEA Gala Registration is Coming Soon!

save the date
UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 22
Union League Club
Tollway Regional Luncheon
[REGISTER](#)

JANUARY 28-30
Crowne Plaza Springfield, IL
FHWA Seismic Bridge Analysis and Design Workshop

FEBRUARY 20
Chicago, IL
2020 Engineering Excellence Awards Gala

MARCH 19
Chicago, IL
Winter Conference & Board Meeting

JUNE 11
Bloomington, IL
ACEC Illinois Spring Meeting & Board Meeting

JUNE 12
Bloomington, IL
Spring Golf Outing



CBBEL Promotes Darren Olson to Vice President

Assistant Head of Water Resources Department has vast experience in water resources engineering

Rosemont, IL (Dec. 19, 2019) - Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. (CBBEL) has promoted Darren Olson, PE, D.WRE, CFM to Vice President of the Rosemont-based consulting engineering and surveying firm. Earlier this year Olson was made Assistant Head of the firm's Water Resources Department, where he expanded his client relations and business development role. (Continue Reading [Here](#))

Local Designer Earns Engineer Intern Registration

QUINCY, IL, DECEMBER 9, 2019 – Matthew Wendler of Klingner &



Associates, P.C.'s Quincy Branch has become a registered Engineer Intern with the Illinois Department of Financial & Professional Regulation. (Continue Reading [HERE](#))

ACEC/PAC
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS
FINANCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Enter by December 31!

Last Chance Contest

1st Prize	\$2,000
2nd Prize	\$1,000
3rd Prize	\$500

\$100/Ticket

ACEC/PAC Contributions are due by 12/31/2019!
Florida and **Illinois** are locked in a battle for 3rd place -- with 2nd place up for grabs!
Make your contribution today by clicking: [HERE](#)
Submit your forms/contributions to:
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