



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
*of Illinois*

## 2020 January NEWSLETTER: THE CONNECTOR



### Leadership and Policy Briefing

ACEC Illinois President & CEO - Kevin Artl

We've had a robust and exciting beginning to the new year, here's a brief update some of the main events of January.

#### SPRINGFIELD UPDATE

**Illinois State Senate Elects New President:** State Senator Don Harmon was elected Senate President following the resignation of former Senate President John Cullerton. Harmon, of Oak Park, has been a strong advocate of ACEC and the industry overall. Many may remember last year that he even helped at our EEA—by playing guitar with the band.

**Senate Gets New Transportation Committee Chair:** Senator Ram Villivalam was named Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee. Villivalam replaces Sen. Mattie Hunter, Hunter took over the Chair role of the Senate Executive Committee. Many ACEC members had an opportunity to meet with Sen. Villivalam in October when he was the guest speaker at our Dinner. Senator Villivalam will undoubtedly bring a new style of leadership to this committee and he has already reached out to ACEC to express his interest in continuing to work together.

**ACEC Legislative Agenda:** We are currently in the final stages of drafting a multi-piece legislative package designed to address workforce issues, improve the business climate in our industry and provide targeted tax relief for Illinois companies in the engineering field. Details will be released soon.

#### WASHINGTON UPDATE

**Congresswoman Bustos:** *Infrastructure remains a priority.* On a recent call with ACEC members, Cong. Bustos said infrastructure funding remains a top priority of the Democrat-led House and she said she is optimistic that there may be action taken on it following the impeachment process.

**House Committee Chairs Release Infrastructure Framework:** The House committee chairs of Transportation and Infrastructure, Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means released **the framework** of a 5-year, \$760 billion infrastructure funding program to address the nation's most urgent infrastructure needs.

#### INDUSTRY UPDATE

**Tollway:** At January's sold-out Regional Luncheon featuring Tollway Executive Director Jose'

Alvarez, Director Alvarez assured ACEC members that the Tollway will continue publishing selection results. In addition, the Tollway released a PSB Look Ahead of 11 items, [click here to view](#).

**IDOT:** ACEC and IDOT representatives will be meeting in February to discuss ways to streamline the Local Roads Agreement process, updates to follow.

### **Look Ahead**

Washington Update with Congressman Dan Lipinski: ACEC IL will be scheduling a members call with Cong. Dan Lipinski in February to get the latest scoop on Congressional action.

ACEC Chicago Fundraiser for Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi on February 14<sup>th</sup> at 12pm in Chicago. For more information or to attend, contact me at [kevin@acecil.org](mailto:kevin@acecil.org)

EEA Tickets! Our last three events have sold-out, so make sure you order your EEA tickets today. This event will sell-out.

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### **State Journal-Register News:**

#### **ACEC Chairman Bruce Schopp: Rebuilding of Illinois Begins in 2020**

A new year brings new opportunity for Illinois to begin rebuilding, repairing and modernizing its transportation infrastructure. Illinois has not seen a real investment in infrastructure in decades — equating to nearly \$30 billion in deferred maintenance needs for Illinois roads. But that changes in 2020 with the most ambitious and historic rebuild plan in Illinois's history. Thanks to the courage and vision of Gov. J.B. Pritzker along with the support of legislative leaders and significant majorities in each chamber, Illinois is moving in the right direction in 2020 to improve the safety, efficiency and effectiveness of the state's transportation network.

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## **Celebrating Women Who Move the Nation**

COMTO's Celebrating Women Who Move the Nation (CWWMN) awards recognizes the outstanding contributions of women who are leading and advancing America's transportation industry.

Hosted annually in Washington, DC during the month of March, in observance of Women's History Month, this signature COMTO event celebrates women from all modes of transportation representing all sectors of the industry.

COMTO inaugurated the Celebrating Women Who Move the Nation awards in 2012, starting a new tradition of recognizing the accomplishments and influence of today's outstanding women in transportation. COMTO has honored over 75 women with this award to date.

Please click here for more information about the winners and to register: [HERE](#)

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### **IDOT Hosts : Today's Challenge Tomorrow's Reward Conference**

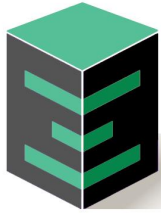
The Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) conference: Today's Challenge Tomorrow's Reward Conference (TCTR) focuses on providing educational and skill building workshops, best practices, and networking opportunities to statewide DBE firms and contractors wanting to do business with IDOT. The overall goal is to help advance the firm's skill set and knowledge to increase their competitiveness and opportunities for work on state and federally funded highway contracts. For thirty years, the TCTR Conference has provided subcontractors, DBE firms, and prime contractors with invaluable information and networking opportunities. Presentations and workshops will include estimating and bidding, project management, erosion control, advanced financing, social media

marketing, and much more. In addition, Supportive Services will be on site to assist certified DBE firms. The conference concludes with an awards luncheon recognizing outstanding firms throughout the state.

You can register at <http://idot.illinois.gov/tctr> and view our agenda, speakers, and exhibitors

**CLICK HERE** to book a discounted room at the Crowne Plaza under our block of rooms.

You can also call 1-800-227-6963. The name of the block is IDOT Today's Challenge, Tomorrow's Reward and the code is TT4.



ENGINEERING  
EXCELLENCE  
AWARDS 2020

**SPONSORSHIP IS AVAILABLE!**

**CLICK HERE**

**ONE WEEK LEFT TO REGISTER: HERE**

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save the date  
UPCOMING EVENTS

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FEBRUARY 20

Chicago, IL

2020 Engineering Excellence Awards Gala

**REGISTER**

MARCH 13

Webinar

Data & Analytics: How they Influence Marketing

**REGISTER**

MARCH 19

Chicago, IL

Winter Board Meeting

**REGISTER**

JUNE 11

Bloomington, IL

ACEC Illinois Spring Meeting & Board Meeting

JUNE 12

Bloomington, IL

Spring Golf Outing

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## Oates Associates Celebrates 40 Year

COLLINSVILLE (January 31, 2020) – This year is a momentous occasion for Oates Associates as we celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We have kicked off 2020 with a progressive outlook for the future while reflecting on our past. From 1980 to 2020 we have been shaped by our people and projects, clients and partners, and family and friends – and have highlighted some noteworthy accolades:

- What began as a small office in Glen Carbon, Illinois soon grew to a 45-person firm with offices across Illinois and Missouri. Founder David Oates is still a familiar face around the office.
- Our versatile staff continues to grow and includes licensed Professional Engineers, Structural Engineers, Professional Land Surveyors, Professional Traffic Operations Engineers, ADA Coordinators, Competent and Qualified Persons in Fall Protection, and LEED Accredited Professionals.
- We have designed projects that have shaped the landscape of our region, both transportation and building infrastructure. Our more historical projects include the design of new interstate, bridges, and interchanges along Interstate 255 totaling \$70 million in construction and the original design of over \$100 million of new campus buildings at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.
- Oates leaders have been the face of engineering associations that continue to build and advance the engineering profession, including Bruce Schopp as the Board Chair of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Illinois and Joseph Hagerty, who served as the Chairman of the Board of ACEC of Missouri last year.

Oates Associates' 40<sup>th</sup> year is in honor of our many dedicated employees and clients – and we look forward to celebrating throughout 2020.

Oates Associates, celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> year, is a multi-disciplined design firm with offices in Collinsville and Belleville, Illinois and St. Louis and St. Charles, Missouri. Oates provides engineering and surveying services for transportation and building projects. Specifically, this includes transportation planning, traffic engineering, highway and street design, building and bridge structural design and inspections, site design, stormwater management and survey services. For more information, visit [www.oatesassociates.com](http://www.oatesassociates.com) or call 618.345.2200.

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## Klingner & Associates, P.C. announces acquisition of Verbeke-Meyer Consulting Engineers

**QUINCY, IL, JANUARY 2, 2020** — Regional architecture, engineering, surveying, and geotechnical firm Klingner & Associates, P.C. (Klingner) has acquired Verbeke-Meyer Consulting Engineers (Verbeke-Meyer) of Davenport, IA. Joining a firm over 100 employees strong, Verbeke-Meyer

will provide expanded professional services to the Quad Cities as Klingner's Davenport location. Verbeke-Meyer was founded in 1976 to provide practical, cost-effective solutions by integrating creative concepts with traditional practices. In addition to residential, commercial, and institutional projects, the firm has left its mark by providing a number of street, wastewater, and water supply services to municipalities throughout the area. The office is run by co-founder David Meyer, PE, PLS, who will remain with the firm along with the rest of Verbeke-Meyer's professional staff.

"Following the initial meeting and carrying on through subsequent meetings with various staff members, it was apparent that the Klingner work philosophy of providing prompt professional service and personal attention to all clients meshed with the Verbeke-Meyer philosophy," said Meyer. "This merger will allow us to provide a more extensive scope of services to our current clients and to prospective clients."

Klingner will continue to assist Verbeke-Meyer's current clientele. The firm, which was founded in 1905 and is owned by the Klingner family and over 20 licensed professional associates, strives to provide excellent services which anticipate and meet the needs of their clients and benefit the community. Through proactive project management, a multidisciplinary approach, and regular communication, Klingner yields comprehensive design solutions clients can trust. Over 185 communities in the past 10 years alone have chosen Klingner's expertise in civil, transportation, structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, water distribution, wastewater, and water resources engineering, as well as their architecture, land surveying, and geotechnical investigation services.

Klingner's offices are located in Quincy, IL; Galesburg, IL; Burlington, IA; Pella, IA; Hannibal, MO; and Columbia, MO, and their work has been recognized by the American Consulting Engineers Council and the American Society of Civil Engineers, among others.

"Verbeke-Meyer matches well with our existing services," said CEO Mike Klingner, PE. "We are extremely pleased to have Dave Meyer, PE, PLS, and his outstanding staff join our team of professionals serving Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois."

For more information about Klingner or to begin an architecture, engineering, or land surveying project, please contact 563-359-1348 or visit [www.klingner.com](http://www.klingner.com).

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#### ABOUT KLINGNER & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Klingner & Associates, P.C. (Klingner) is a family-owned architecture and engineering firm focused on enhancing communities across the Midwest. Founded in 1905, Klingner features a staff of over 100 licensed engineers, architects, surveyors, and support personnel. This multidisciplinary team manages projects of all sizes and complexities from offices in Quincy, IL; Galesburg, IL; Hannibal, MO; Columbia, MO; Burlington, IA; and Pella, IA. [www.klingner.com](http://www.klingner.com)

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## Benton & Associates, Inc. is pleased to announce a new licensed Professional Engineer.

**Mr. Erick L. DeBolt** received his Professional Engineer (PE) license in the State of Illinois. Mr. DeBolt is a graduate from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a B.S. in Environmental Engineering as well as a B.S. in Physics from Illinois College at Jacksonville, Illinois. DeBolt serves as project engineer for water treatment and distribution systems, NPDES/IDNR/IEPA/SHPD permitting for water and sanitary sewer. He is also assisting with construction observation duties, and site surveying assignments. Mr. DeBolt resides in South Jacksonville with his wife Wendy and sons Everett and Arthur.

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Benton & Associates, Inc. is a Consulting Engineering Firm providing Civil Engineering and Land Surveying Services for both public and private clients in Illinois and Missouri. Services include: Environmental, Transportation, Land Development, and Structural Engineering.



## Messmore Celebrates 25 Years with Hanson

LISLE, Ill. — James Messmore, P.E., senior vice president and infrastructure market principal, recently celebrated 25 years of service at Hanson Professional Services Inc.

Messmore, who joined the company in 1995, develops and implements programs to achieve profitable growth, oversees staff and develops and maintains relationships with clients for the infrastructure market. He has been involved in a variety of transportation-related projects, including serving as principal-in-charge for the widening and reconstruction of a 22-mile section of Interstate 90 (Jane Addams Memorial Tollway) in Boone, Kane and McHenry counties and of a 3.6-mile section of the South Tri-State Tollway in Cook County, which involved the design of the Halsted Street interchange; and improvements for BNSF Railway Co. intermodal facilities in the Chicago area. Messmore received bachelor's degrees in biology in 1978 from Illinois Wesleyan University and in civil engineering in 1985 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is a licensed professional engineer in Illinois. He is a member of the American Council of Engineering Companies and its Risk Management Committee, American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois, American Society of Civil Engineers, National Society of Professional Engineers and the Chicago Maintenance of Way Club.

Hanson is a national, employee-owned consulting firm providing engineering, planning and allied services. The Chicago regional office is located at 750 Warrenville Road, Suite 200, Lisle, IL 60532. The office may be reached by phone at (630) 990-3800.

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## Transportation Engineer Joins Klingner's Quincy Team

QUINCY, IL, JANUARY 20, 2020 — Toshia Drebes, PE, has joined the Transportation Department of Klingner & Associates, P.C. (Klingner) as a Project Engineer. Based in Klingner's Quincy office, Drebes brings 15 years of design experience developing interchange, signal, lighting, roundabout, roadway, and bridge designs. She was previously a Transportation Project Designer with the Missouri Department of Transportation.

Drebes earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Iowa State University.

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[www.klingner.com](http://www.klingner.com)



Christopher Burke



Thomas Burke



Dan Crosson



Michael Kerr

## CBBEL Promotes Michael E. Kerr to President, Founder Christopher Burke Transitions to CEO

*Thomas Burke and Dan Crosson named Executive Vice Presidents*

Rosemont, Ill. (Jan. 30, 2020) – Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. (CBBEL) is announcing the promotion of Executive Vice President Michael E. Kerr, PE to President of the Rosemont-based firm. Christopher B. Burke, PhD, PE, D.WRE, Dist.M.ASCE will transition from President to Chief Executive Officer of the firm he founded in 1986.

"I love being a Civil Engineer, addressing the infrastructure challenges in our region, and have no plans to stop anytime soon," said Burke. "I plan to keep my work and teaching schedule at the University of Illinois at Chicago and continue working with our clients and the great team at CBBEL."

"Mike has been a proven leader at the firm for more than 25 years and I'm excited to promote him to serve as CBBEL's next president," Burke continued. "From the management and growth of our firm to the care and commitment he shows to our clients, Mike is the right choice to continue moving CBBEL forward."

Kerr joined CBBEL in 1993 and has served as Executive Vice President for 19 years. He served as Head of the Civil Engineering Department, in addition to overseeing CBBEL's Construction Engineering, Design Engineering, Drainage, Environmental, Municipal, Phase I, Structural and Survey Departments. A graduate of Southern Illinois University, he serves as Village Engineer for the Village of Algonquin and Assistant Village Engineer for the Village of Huntley.

"After nearly 30 years at CBBEL, I'm humbled to be taking over as President of the firm," said Kerr.

"I'm fortunate to have had Chris as a mentor and an inspiring example of leadership as he has guided this firm's continued growth since 1986."

The firm is also announcing the promotion of Thomas T. Burke, Jr., PhD, PE, D.WRE, CFM, CPESC, CPSWQ and W. Daniel Crosson, PE to Executive Vice Presidents of the firm.

Thomas Burke started as an intern at CBBEL in 1987 before becoming full time in 1996 after completing his PhD at Purdue University. He has served as Head of the Water Resources Department since 2008 and is responsible for water resources engineering projects, design, and reviews.

Dan Crosson, who started at CBBEL in 1992, is the Head of the Construction Engineering Department and has 35 years of experience. A graduate of the Illinois Institute of Technology, Crosson is the Project Manager for all construction observation and construction inspection projects and oversees CBBEL's Phase III contracts for CDOT, Illinois Tollway and IDOT.

**About CBBEL**

Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. (CBBEL) is a full-service consulting engineering and surveying firm that comprehensively meets the needs of both private and public sector clients. Founded in 1986 by CEO Christopher B. Burke, CBBEL's Illinois-based staff consists of experienced and responsive professionals who provide engineering, surveying, and environmental services on a personal level and are committed to delivering consistently accurate, timely and cost-effective solutions to a wide range of engineering and environmental challenges. Learn more at [CBBEL.com](http://CBBEL.com).

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## WELCOME NEW ACEC ILLINOIS MEMBERS

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