



KEVIN ARTL
PRESIDENT & CEO

LEADERSHIP & POLICY BRIEFING



Congress Readies a Move on R&D Tax Credit

House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Smith and Senate Finance Committee Wyden have announced the framework of their [business and family tax package](#). In great news for ACEC members, the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024 would delay the R&D amortization requirement until 2026 – and is retroactive to the 2022 tax year.

The package also delays until 2026 the limits on interest deductibility and full expensing for capital investments. On the family side, the framework makes improvements to the child tax credit and adds incentives for affordable housing. It also includes bipartisan disaster tax relief provisions and U.S.-Taiwan tax provisions. The cost of the agreement would be offset with enforcement related to the employee retention tax credit (ERTC) and a bar on new ERTC claims made after January 31, 2024.

The Ways and Means Committee could mark up the package, possibly as soon as later this week, in preparation for potential floor consideration. The legislative path forward for this tax agreement is not yet clear but ACEC will advocate for swift passage.



Cong. Budzinski, Secretary Osman Join ACEC IL Members for Infrastructure Roundtable

With issues like Research and Development Tax Credit, protecting IIJA funding and Illinois' efforts to secure federal funds all on the table for 2024, Cong. Budzinski joined with ACEC IL leadership for a

roundtable discussion. Cong. Budzinski is a strong advocate for infrastructure in Congress and is a co-sponsor of the legislation to fix the R&D Tax Credit.

ACEC IL Board Chair Linda Moen, Secretary Osman, ACEC IL President and CEO Kevin Artl along with members of ACEC IL Leadership joined for the discussion.

View the [WICD TV Story here.](#)



ACEC IL Joins Tollway, Cong. Krishnamoorthi for I-490 Briefing

Illinois Tollway Officials predict a year of big progress for the I-490 project, connecting with I-390 and providing Western Access into O'Hare Airport. ACEC IL President and CEO Kevin Artl joined with Tollway Officials for a project briefing for Cong. Krishnamoorthi.

The project is slated to complete in 2027, but 2024 is expected to see major construction efforts advancing, including extensive bridgework.

For a deeper dive, [click here.](#)



Carney Named IDOT Commissioner, Conner Returns to Lead Water Management

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson announced the appointment of Tom Carney as commissioner of the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) and "Randy" Conner Jr. as commissioner of the Department of Water Management.

Alfonzo "Randy" Conner Jr. has been appointed to serve as the Commissioner of the Department of Water Management. This marks a return for Conner, who had previously served as the Commissioner of Water Management for the City of Chicago from July 2017 through December 2020.

ACEC Illinois has long relationships with both Commissioner Carney and Commissioner Conner and looks forward to engaging with both very soon. ACEC Illinois wants to also thank former Commissioners Gia Biagi and Andrea Cheng for their engagement with ACEC Illinois and public service.

Former ACEC IL Board Chair Orhan Ilgaz Ulger Named to National Committee on Workforce



Past ACEC Illinois Board Chair Orhan Ilgaz Ulger has been appointed as Vice Chair of the Workforce Committee by ACEC National. The goal of this newly created committee is to develop and drive ACEC's overall workforce agenda, including policy initiatives to increase the talent pipeline, education outreach, coordination the state leadership, licensure, and other priorities to address the industry's workforce needs.

ACEC Illinois Quick Hits

Army Corps Fee Hike: President Biden, right before the holidays, signed the FY'24 National Defense Authorization Act into law. The new law includes ACEC-backed language that raises the existing 6% fee cap for work with the Corps of Engineers and other Defense Department agencies to 10%.

IDOT Materials: IDOT is rolling out a recertification program for selected courses on a five-year cycle. Recertification applies to all roles – consultants, contractors, materials suppliers, and agency staff. Lake Land College has posted registration links for the 2023-24 training season for individuals who completed training between 1992 and 1999, which will be this first year of phasing in the recertification program. In addition to this training season, they will have until December 31, 2024, to complete the recertification for whatever level/courses they need. For more details on the recertification program and phase-in, [visit here](#).

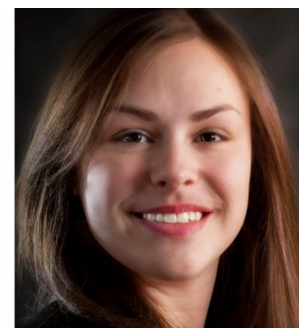
Davis Bacon Implementation: Make sure to register for the joint ACEC/ISPE Davis Bacon Implementation seminar on February 7th. [Click here to register](#).

Private Sector Economic Outlook: Join ACEC's Private Sector Economic analysts for a 2024 look ahead on economic trends and market performance outlook. [Click here to register](#).

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

"Engineering Works" Podcast

ACEC-IL's podcast "Engineering Works" interviews Rebecca Mason, managing director of the Transportation for Illinois Coalition. Rebecca talks about efforts to protect Rebuild Illinois funding, the projects IDOT has been able to complete this year, and what to look forward to in the spring session.



COMMITTEE CHAIR SPOTLIGHT



John O'Neill
Vice President
Senior Project Manager
BLA, Inc.

How long have you been a part of ACEC IL?

- Quite a long time. Somewhere in the early 2000's I joined my first committee, it has been over 20 years as an active participant in several committees and nearly 20 years in leadership roles throughout the organization.

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

- I have chaired several committees including the Government Affairs, Engineering Excellence Awards, Cook County Liaison and currently Business Development. I have also been a Director, Vice President, Board President and National Director.

Tell us a little bit about the committee you chair.

- The Business Development Committee serves as a repository of information for best practices, offers that information in educational sessions for our members and serves in a supporting/collaborative capacity to the agency liaison committees.

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

- We try to keep our fingers on the pulse of changes and trends in procurement processes and occasionally have the opportunity to advise some of our agency partners on practices that may be of benefit to them. We are also the mouthpiece through which our agency partners can communicate changes in their processes. We also plan and organize meetings between our members and the agency selection personnel.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

- I spend as much time as I can with Elisa, my wife of 34 years, I play some very bad golf from time to time and I drink a little bit of bourbon on occasion.

Tell us one fun fact about yourself.

- When my daughter, Melissa was younger and active in Girl Scouts, I volunteered to help her troop with the annual cookie sale. That evolved over the years into a role that saw me consolidating all of the orders for several regional troops and organizing the delivery and distribution of full semi-trailers of cookies. Due to the nature of that job, I had to actually enroll with the

MEMBER FIRM SPOTLIGHT



How long have you been in the engineering industry?

- Founded in 1998, WBK Engineering has been providing civil engineering and related services to public and private sector clients for more than 25 years. Our staff includes an experienced team of experts, and our practice areas include Transportation & Roadways, Bridges & Structures, Municipal & Civil Engineering, Planning & Development, and Water & Environmental Resources. WBK is tribally owned and a federally certified 8(a) Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB). WBK is also a recently certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), listed in the Illinois UCP Directory and recognized by Illinois DOT, Illinois Tollway, Metra, Chicago DOT, and Chicago Transit Authority.

What projects are you currently working on?

- WBK has deep roots in Illinois, having strategically created our headquarters in St. Charles, IL to complete project work across the collar counties of Chicago. Today, we have more than 100 active clients including repeat clients from municipalities, counties, townships, Forest Preserve Districts, the Illinois Tollway, and the Illinois Department of Transportation to name a few. Being tribally owned by the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, we have the privilege of working with many tribal clients as well. We also work with many Federal clients including the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Health Service, the US Army Corps of Engineers, US Department of Veteran's Affairs, National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and others.

What project are you most proud of?

- As a full-service engineering firm dedicated to enhancing communities through our diverse civil practices, we find pride in each project we undertake. Our mission revolves around leveraging our expertise to address engineering challenges while aligning with our clients' objectives within both the built and natural environments. One project that holds a special place in our accomplishments is our ongoing involvement in the final phase of the Tollway Systemwide Design Upon Request (DUR) contract. This endeavor marks a significant milestone as our first prime contract, overseeing the successful management of seven (7) subconsultants.
- Within this contract, our scope encompassed a spectrum of tasks vital to the Tollway system's integrity and enhancement. We've been entrusted with

structural rehabilitation assignments along I-90, I-294, I-88, I-355, and I-94, addressing critical toll plaza repairs and effecting drainage improvements at Oases. Additionally, our involvement extends to overhead sign structure repairs and conducting feasibility studies aimed at enhancing access to maintenance facilities. While each project brings its unique challenges and achievements, our contribution to the Tollway Systemwide DUR contract represents not just a successful management feat but a commitment to improving critical infrastructure for the benefit of the community.

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

- WBK enjoys many benefits from our ACEC-IL membership. As a firm, we utilize many of the networking opportunities organized by ACEC to connect with other professionals in the transportation industry. Our project managers attend the ACEC meetings to learn about the issues that affect our industry and how the ACEC helps to promote safe and convenient transportation systems in Illinois. We benefit from learning opportunities the organization offers. We also enjoy the opportunity to showcase our work in the annual ACEC Excellence in Engineering Awards, and we appreciate the legislative representation and engineering advocacy.

Why do you feel firms should join ACEC-IL?

- We believe that membership in ACEC is a strategic investment for any company. We firmly believe that it provides firms with a comprehensive support system, fostering growth, knowledge exchange, advocacy, and visibility within the engineering community, thereby contributing to their overall success and advancement. On a personal level, the networking and professional growth opportunities are unmatched and cannot be overstated in terms of the benefit they provide for any individual.

AFFILIATE SPOTLIGHT



What does your business do?

- Ames & Gough is an industry-focused specialty insurance brokerage serving the design professional community. We currently serve A/E firms domiciled in 50 states and consult on risk and insurance issues around the world from our

offices in Boston, Charlotte, Philadelphia, Orlando, and Washington, D.C. Our exceptional client retention rate is a reflection of our commitment to service. Ames & Gough's "CLIENT FIRST" philosophy is founded on the following four principles: Industry Expertise, Service by Senior People, Strategic Risk Management Advice and Client Advocacy.

What is a benefit of doing business with you?

- As a specialty insurance brokerage firm, we are focused on providing a full range of brokerage and risk management services to the engineering community. Ames & Gough stays up to date with the latest changes and trends among insurers across engineering industry. In the first quarter of every year, we publish our annual professional liability survey of insurers that addresses rates for the new year, coverage enhancements and industry trends impacting A/E firms. Our number one focus is serving design consulting firms and our professionals are leaders in the field of design firm risk management. We are active in many industry-wide organizations, serve on committees, publish papers and speak at various engineering industry-related events.

Why are you a part of ACEC-IL?

- Being an affiliate member of ACEC-IL (as well as ACEC National) is extremely important for our organization as it allows us to better understand the challenges and issues facing engineering firms across the State and the country. While we have had the opportunity to sponsor, advertise and exhibit at various events, the greatest impact has been our ability to network with engineering firms/professionals with the common goal of advocating for their business interests.

What is your business's motto?

- The Ames & Gough motto has always been "CLIENT FIRST approach to service".



The banner features a yellow background on the left with the text "UPCOMING EVENTS..." in large, bold, red letters. On the right, there is a dark blue arched graphic containing the ACEC logo. The logo includes the text "ACEC" in large white letters, "AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES" in smaller white letters below it, and "of Illinois" in a smaller, italicized white font. At the bottom of the arch, the text "VISIT: acecil.org/events" is written in yellow.



Webinar Series

Presented by: ACEC IL
Emerging Professional Committee



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST | NOON-1PM
ESG OR SOCIAL VALUE EQUITY AND INCLUSION, SAFETY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20TH | NOON-1PM
DEVELOPING QAQC SKILLS / PEER REVIEW SKILLS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17TH | NOON-1PM
NETWORKING - BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15TH | NOON-1PM
BEST PRACTICES OF INTEGRATING 3-D MODEL INTO THE WORK FLOW

[WEBINAR HERE](#)



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 ILLINOIS WEBINAR: PRIVATE SECTOR FORUM

Private Markets & Economic Outlook Briefing

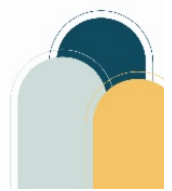
JANUARY 25, 2024
10-11AM CENTRAL



In this session, Diana Alexander, Director of Private Market Resources at ACEC National will present a deep dive into commercial and residential real estate markets with a regional focus on Illinois.



Thomas Grogan, Senior Director of Economics and Private Markets at ACEC National will review general economic indicators and national trends for ACEC employment, revenues, and values-of-construction put in place.



REGISTER HERE

REGIONAL LUNCHEON: ILLINOIS TOLLWAY

Wednesday, January 31 11:30am - 1:30pm

Join us for an ACEC Illinois Regional Luncheon. This luncheon will host an update from Manar Nashif - Chief Engineering Officer and Karyn Robles - Chief of Planning with the Illinois Tollway.

11:30am Networking
Noon Lunch
12:45pm IL Tollway
1:30pm Conclusion

Harry Caray's
70 YORKTOWN CENTER,
LOMBARD, IL. 60148

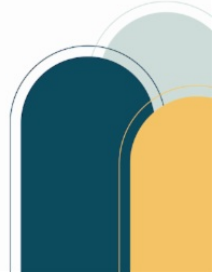
REGISTRATION FEES:
Member \$85
Non-Member \$160

SPONSORSHIP:

Silver: \$250
1 Ticket
VIP Seating
Recognition at event and on social media

Gold: \$500
2 Tickets
2 VIP Seating
Recognition at event and on social media

Hosted by:



REGISTER HERE

IMPLEMENTING DAVIS-BACON REQUIREMENTS IN YOUR FIRM

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM CST

Join us for a deep dive into preparing your surveying or engineering firm to comply with new Davis-Bacon regulations. Learn about best practices from our legal experts, and hear from firms who have already implemented these changes.

Designed for: Firm representatives responsible for ensuring compliance with Davis-Bacon Regulations.

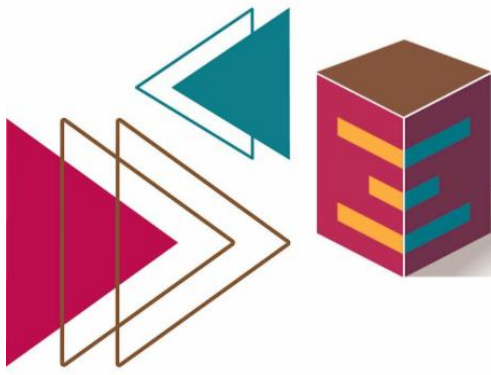
REGISTRATION FEES:
Member \$150
Non-Member \$250

Crowne Plaza
3000 South Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, IL 62703

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



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ENGINEERING
EXCELLENCE
AWARDS **2024**
DESIGNING THE FUTURE



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2024

 **HYATT REGENCY O'HARE CHICAGO**

9300 Bryn Mawr Ave.
Rosemont, IL 60018

[REGISTER HERE](#)

*save the
date*

Illinois Tollway Design & Construction Practices Workshop

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024

8:00AM - 5:00PM



save the
date

Saturday, March 9, 2024

10:00am Registration

11am Start Time

**BERTO CENTER
550 LAKE COOK RD
DEERFIELD, IL 60015**



PSMJ A/E/C PRINCIPALS BOOTCAMP

March 19-20, 2024

Awareness of the need to maintain a healthy backlog, sustain profitability, and keep top talent engaged is the first step towards becoming an invaluable A/E/C firm principal. Executing these and other mission-critical tasks separates real-deal principals advancing their careers and driving firm success from those who struggle to move beyond project management roles. The best principals aren't born knowing what do to. They learn from highly successful leaders eager to share their hard-won knowledge at A/E/C Principals Bootcamp.

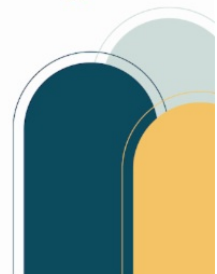
Northern Illinois University -
Naperville Campus

REGISTRATION FEES:
Member \$1800
Non-Member \$3600

March 19th
8am Registration & Breakfast
8:30am - Program begins
12:30pm - Buffet lunch set and ready
5:00pm - First day concludes

March 20th
7:30am - Breakfast
8:00am - Program begins
12:00pm - Buffet lunch set and ready
3:30pm - Program concludes

Hosted by:



REGISTER HERE

save the date

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF ILLINOIS

MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024 | GENEVA, IL



Eagle Brook Country Club

save the
date



JUNE 4 | LOMBARD, IL

HARRY CARAY'S - BALLROOM
70 YORKTOWN SHOPPING CENTER
LOMBARD, IL

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

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 MEMBERS



Giffin Reese Engineering, Inc.

326 Edward Street
Henry, Illinois 61537
(309) 356-5393
www.giffinengineer.com



ENGINEERS

HKM Engineers, LLC

2304 West Estes Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60645
(630) 673-5547
www.hkmengineers.com



Illinois Construction & Environmental Consulting, Inc.

2399 Foster Avenue
Wheeling, Illinois 60090
(847) 542-7500
www.iceillinois.com



InNova Consulting, Inc.

6609 N. Leroy
Lincolnwood, Illinois 60712
(773) 314-3092
www.innovaconsultinginc.com



Sheppard, Morgan & Schwaab, Inc.

215 Market Street
Alton, Illinois 62002
(618) 462-9755
www.smsengineers.com

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES



CBBEL Promotes Four Long-Standing Employees to Vice President



Rosemont, Ill. (Jan. 5, 2024) - Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. (CBBEL) has announced the promotion of four long-standing employees to Vice President of the 200-plus employee firm.

Julie Gangloff, Dan Lynch, Jonathan O'Connell and Jerry Robinson have a combined 115 years of experience at CBBEL and are the heads of their respective departments.

"Julie, Dan, Jonathan and Jerry are each regarded as experts in their field and have not only shown their dedication to the work, but to the growth of our firm," said CBBEL President Mike Kerr. "We are incredibly fortunate and proud to have them on our team."

- Julie Gangloff, CWS is Head of the Environmental Resources Department and has been at CBBEL 23 years. Julie is a Certified Wetland Specialist in Lake and McHenry Counties and a Qualified Wetland Review Specialist in Kane County. Since 2005, she has managed the contract of one of the largest utility providers in Northern Illinois, while also providing environmental consulting services to numerous private and municipal clients. She has extensive experience coordinating with regulatory agencies including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and many county stormwater departments.
- Dan Lynch, PE, CFM has been at CBBEL for 34 years and is Head of the Municipal Engineering Department. A Purdue graduate, Dan is the Village Engineer for the Village of Wayne and the Cities of Darien and Oakbrook Terrace; he also provides development review and general consulting services for more than a dozen communities throughout Chicagoland. His primary duties include reviewing development plans and ensuring compliance with

local and state regulations, designing infrastructure projects, and general municipal consulting services. During his tenure at CBBEL, he has reviewed thousands of projects from single family houses to shopping centers, office buildings, hospitals, and sports complexes.

- Jonathan O'Connell, PE has been at CBBEL for nearly 25 years and is Head of the Drainage Department. In addition to spearheading CBBEL's growth into the renewable energy market, Jonathan provides technical direction, supervision and coordination of projects, with an emphasis on highway hydraulics and hydrology. He has worked with a wide range of CBBEL clients, including the Illinois Tollway, IDOT and a host of counties and communities.
- Jerry Robinson, PE, CFM is Director of Information Technology and one of CBBEL's longest-serving employees, at 36 years. A Professional Engineer with decades of experience in civil and water resources engineering project analysis and design, Jerry now leads CBBEL's IT team and remains actively engaged in water resources projects.

About Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. (CBBEL)

Founded in 1986, CBBEL is a full-service consulting engineering and surveying firm committed to delivering accurate, timely and cost-effective solutions to a wide range of engineering and environmental challenges. Our Illinois-based staff is comprised of more than 200 experienced and expert professionals who provide engineering, surveying and environmental services. Learn more at CBBEL.com.

Tobin Bonnell Joins Horner & Shifrin as Senior Principal Engineer – Transportation



Tobin Bonnell, PE, PTOE has joined Horner & Shifrin as Senior Principal Engineer in Transportation. Tobin has more than 23 years of experience in transportation engineering, traffic design, and project management. He has spent most of his professional career living and working in the St. Louis area.

Tobin is a Professional Traffic Operations Engineer and a Professional Engineer registered in Missouri, Illinois, California and Colorado. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Purdue University. He is a member of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), Gateway ITE (GSITE), and American Public Works Association (APWA). Tobin has varied transportation infrastructure experience including traffic impact studies, traffic signal design, pedestrian/bicycle facility design, roadway and intersection design, and maintenance of traffic.

“We are excited to have Tobin join our Transportation team at Horner & Shifrin,” said Jarrett Jasper, Senior Vice President, Business Unit Leader – Transportation. “Tobin’s expertise in traffic operations and signal design expand our in-house roadway capabilities, allowing us to better serve our clients and teammates. I look forward to Tobin providing experienced leadership in our traffic engineering practice.”



ACEC Business Insurance Trust Webinars

Artificial Intelligence in Design & Construction



[Webinar Here](#)

Progressive Design Build



[Webinar Here](#)

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protecting all
you've built.

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holmesmurphy.com
(800) 247.7756



CONSTRUCTION
BUILD MOMENTUM

Exploring ACEC's New Technology Committee

[LISTEN HERE](#)



ACEC-IL's podcast "Engineering Works" interviews ACEC-IL board members and 2023-2024 PAC Champions Stacie Dovalovsky and Tom Hein. Tom and Stacie discuss the influence of the PAC, the issues the PAC supports nationally and locally, and the

importance of consistent advocacy.

LISTEN HERE



Full Magazine
Here



 **PHOTO GALLERY**

[HERE](#)



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ACEC  [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

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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