

New year brings a fresh perspective on ACEC Indiana initiatives

It is exciting and humbling to serve as your ACEC Indiana President and I thank you for that opportunity. A look in the rear view mirror shows the excellent leadership of ACEC Indiana in the past. I have had the good fortune to serve on the ACEC Indiana Board under the presidencies of John Kupke, Ross Snider, Abe Swidan, and Roland Salman. Leadership and guidance provided by each of these individuals has been invaluable to our organization. Looking forward, Bill Hall and Mak Knowles are “waiting in the wings” as executive committee officers who will fill the President’s chair in the future and provide a steady hand at the helm.

Working with current ACEC Indiana Board members is a pleasure as we tackle the important issues for our industry. Each Board member brings unique abilities and perspective to our Board. It was very apparent after joining the Board, that our ACEC Indiana staff is very competent, easy to work with, and well connected to the key players in our industry, both nationally and within Indiana. Stephanie, Beth, and Colleen do a wonderful job in guiding and supporting ACEC Indiana.

Lastly, I encourage all member firms to be engaged in ACEC Indiana efforts. Member firms, and individuals of our member firms who are active in ACEC Indiana, are the lifeblood of our organization. In 2011, we

will need to be more engaged than ever and also encourage others to join in. Important initiatives for ACEC Indiana in 2011 are summarized below.

Voice of the Industry

Visibility and influence at National and Statewide levels will always be essential for our industry. ACEC PAC efforts at the national and state level were very effective in the recent election and will pay dividends in the future. National ACEC PAC efforts will target stable federal funding for transportation and water, promote QBS for federally funded programs, and oppose any proposed legislation that counter our business interests. National ACEC PAC contributions were brought back to Indiana for Sen.-elect Coats and Rep.-elect Rokita among others.

ACEC will continue to be “the voice” of our industry to members of the Indiana legislature. Thanks to Phil Beer, our National PAC Champion, who also leads our state PAC efforts as we continue to meet and exceed our annual PAC goals.

We will continue to deliver the message with key industry partners to develop the need for long-term funding for transportation after Major Moves. Additionally, options for local units of government for infrastructure funding shortfalls should continue to be discussed and explored. Our annual Engineering Excellence Awards and student outreach and scholarship programs will continue to increase our visibility.



John Brand, P.E.
ACEC Indiana President

Business Advocacy

In these difficult economic times, we must continue to promote the value we deliver to our clients on their projects. Negating any efforts to commoditize our industry will be important over the coming months. Working with the Indiana legislature, we hope to ensure that proposed P3 legislation is favorable to our industry. QBS as the selection method for P3 projects is important to all of our businesses and will be a point of emphasis in our advocacy efforts.

Continuing Education and Leadership Development

Now that continuing education is a reality for Indiana Professional Engineers, ACEC Indiana intends to be the preferred provider for continuing education related to Indiana Rules & Statutes as well as Ethics. ACEC Indiana will roll out this program in January, 2011. Please encourage individuals in your firm to take advantage of the ACEC Indiana continuing education program. It is also encouraging for the future of our organization to have the largest Engineering Leadership class in our history! It is likely that future leaders of ACEC Indiana are currently enrolled in this leadership class.

With your help, we can make 2011 a success for ACEC Indiana. Please contact me at any time with any questions or ideas you have related to ACEC Indiana.



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Register for the Legislative Luncheon

Thursday Jan. 20, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Indianapolis

Sen. Luke Kenley (R- Noblesville) and Rep. Ed Soliday (R- Valparaiso) will discuss issues facing the 2011 Indiana General Assembly.

For more information and a registration form, click here.

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