

ACEC Indiana

Short List

PUBLISHED FOR ACEC INDIANA MEMBERS

Upcoming Event
Wednesday, Dec. 10th
ACEC Indiana Luncheon
featuring
Mayor Tom Henry,
City of Ft. Wayne
Hilton-Grand Wayne
Convention Center
Reservations required

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Interstates as “Assets” Underscore Indiana’s Economic Development

Indiana’s Secretary of State and CEO of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, Nate Feltman, addressed ACEC Indiana members at a recent luncheon.

In his presentation, he highlighted the myriad of successes in improving the business climate of the state and attracting jobs in recent years, despite the increasing competition not only from other states, but from other countries as far flung as China, India and the Soviet Union.

Feltman explained that Indiana has some natural assets, such as its central location, and some other ones such as a low cost of living, great research universities and good transportation/interstates. Em-

phasizing the importance of transportation, he noted that many of the “wins” scored for new jobs were located close to the interstates, and cited the Honda plant as tangible proof.

However, this short list of assets was not enough to set Indiana apart from the rest of the world in fostering greater economic development. According to Feltman, it required “transformational initiatives,” such as Major Moves, telecommunications reform, elimination of the tax penalty associated with companies adding jobs and investing in new capital equipment in Indiana, a “Patent Income” exemption, a tax credit for Research & Development, the “Buy Indiana” program, and more.

The combination of these efforts has resulted in some recent recognition, cited by the following rankings according to Feltman:

- *Best in the Midwest (6th nationally) for doing business by Forbes Magazine.*
- *Best in the Midwest for low taxes (12th nationally) by the Tax Foundation.*
- *Most improved state for doing business by CNBC.*
- *Best credit rating in history by Standard & Poor’s.*

In closing, Feltman acknowledged the importance of professional consulting engineering firms as part of the overall economic development picture with its vital role in infrastructure and the built environment.

Membership Survey Shows High Satisfaction by ACEC Indiana Firms

ACEC Indiana recently conducted a membership survey, yielding an excellent rate of return by member firms. The last survey was conducted three years ago using the same template to provide a pertinent comparison of results.

25% of the member firms responded, and of that, 62% were members for more than 10 years. Almost all respondents rated the value of membership between “good” and “excellent.”

Member firms were asked to rank “benefits” on a scale of

1 to 5, with 1 being “very important” and 5 being “not important at all.”

These benefits all received a #1 ranking and ACEC Indiana was considered “good” to “excellent” delivering them:

- *Committees (Liaison and internal)*
- *Legislative representation of business interests*
- *Communications & Newsbriefs*

They were followed by:

- *Luncheons & Special Events (Ranked #2)*

- *Educational Opportunities (Ranked between 2-3)*
- *Website (Ranked #3)*
- *Members-only Discounts (Ranked #5)*

Only one benefit changed in its ranking compared to 2005 and that was Communications & Newsbriefs; it moved up in importance. Last time, it ranked between 2-3, compared to being one of the top items now. Importantly, almost all respondents marked that ACEC Indiana did a “good” to “excellent” job in delivering information.

One other item of interest was under “Educational Opportunities”; it was the only one with a handful of ratings that were “fair” so we encourage member firms to share your ideas of seminar and training topics or speakers to help us plan for future offerings. You can email them to staff@acecindiana.org.

Thank you to all the member firms that responded to the survey. We appreciate your feedback and use it to continually try to improve our service to all ACEC Indiana members.