



**February 2015**

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## Capitol Consulting Day: We Need You!

With the 2015 legislative session in full swing, your input is needed at the Capitol! **Please consider joining us on February 17, 2015 to represent your profession and your association.** We can all make a larger impact if we come together. Numbers matter!

Actions at the legislature significantly affect the consulting engineering community. Together, we educate our legislators on why issues affecting our profession are important and matter not just to consulting engineers, but to Minnesota.

Visit our website to register and to access tools to set up your appointments, and we'll prepare you at the event for your meetings with your legislators. If you're interested in the legislative process, but are not ready to meet with your legislators, you can still participate in the orientation session and tour the capitol and state office building to gain a level of familiarity with the process.

This event is free for all members. Download materials and register today by [clicking here](#). For questions please contact Kristine at [Kristine@acecmn.org](mailto:Kristine@acecmn.org). **Help us make our mark at the Capitol!**

## Engineering Excellence Award Winners Honored

The 48th annual ACEC/MN Engineering Excellence Awards Banquet drew over 250 attendees to the Commons Hotel in Minneapolis on January 30, 2015. The Engineering Excellence Awards competition recognizes engineering achievements that exhibit the highest degree of merit and ingenuity. The evening began with Master of Ceremonies Bret Weiss of WSB & Associates, Inc. welcoming members, clients, and guests to the event, followed by the President's address from John Dillingham of Alliant Engineering, Inc.

This year 26 projects were submitted into the completion by 23 firms. The 2nd annual Grand Conceptor Award, designed to recognize the highest scoring project based on raw scores, was awarded to **Meyer Borgman Johnson** for their **Northrop Memorial Auditorium Revitalization project**.

For the fourth year a People's Choice prize was awarded to the firm that received the highest number of votes by those who attended the awards banquet. The 2015 People's Choice Winner was **Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.** for their **I-494/34th Avenue Diverging Diamond Interchange project**.

The evening also recognized the 2015 ACEC/MN scholarship recipients, presented by committee chair David

Knaeble of the Civil Site Group. The Scholarship Committee distributed ten scholarships totaling \$24,000.

The ACEC/MN 2015-16 scholarship recipients are:

**University of Minnesota, Duluth**

April Boehne: Civil Engineering (HIWAY Federal Credit Union Golf Scholarship)  
Brittany Fossell: Civil Engineering (Bob Rosene Scholarship)  
Dane Jensen: Chemical Engineering (Earl Oxley Scholarship)  
Brett Hansen: Civil Engineering (Don Stormoe Scholarship)  
Laura Hart: Civil Engineering, Hispanic Studies & Math  
Corey Schlosser: Civil Engineering

**University of Minnesota, Twin Cities**

Chad Booth: Civil Engineering  
Kristin Carlson: Civil Engineering  
Ryan Conway: Geology & GeoEngineering  
Eric Hauser: Civil Engineering

If your firm has an internship program and is looking for candidates, ACEC/MN would be happy to send you the resumes of scholarship applicants and winners. Contact Melissa Langowski at [Melissa@acecmn.org](mailto:Melissa@acecmn.org) for more information.

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## Thank You Sponsors of the 2015 Engineering Excellence Awards

ACEC/MN would like to thank all of the banquet sponsors for their generous contributions to the event:

**ELITE**

American Engineering Testing, Inc.  
BOULAY CPAs & Advisors  
Chartwell Capital Solutions  
Heley, Duncan & Melander, PLLP  
HDR  
HIWAY Federal Credit Union  
Meagher & Geer, PLLP  
Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc. (SEH)  
The Coleman Law Firm, LLC

**PLATINUM**

ACEC Life/Health Trust Insurance

**GOLD**

Bolton & Menk, Inc.  
Dennis J. Linder & Associates  
DeWit Mackall Crouse & Moore S.C.  
SRF Consulting Group  
WSB & Associates, Inc.

**SILVER**

Cobb, Strecker, Dunphy, & Zimmerman, Inc.  
Concrete Paving Association of Minnesota  
HR Green, Inc.  
Marriott Minneapolis West  
Minnesota Asphalt Pavement Association  
Oak Marsh Golf Course  
Stanley Consultants, Inc.

**SPECIAL THANKS**

ARC Document Solutions - Signage  
Derek Dixon - Writing and Design  
The First Impression Group – Printing

A full listing of all winners can be found at [www.acecmn.org](http://www.acecmn.org), or in the awards issue of the *Framework* newsletter

that was distributed to banquet attendees and mailed to members and clients. If you did not receive a copy of the newsletter or you would like additional copies, please contact the ACEC/MN office at 953-593-5533.

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## Solicitations for Firm of the Year, Emerging Leader and President's Awards

ACEC/MN members are invited to submit nominees for the President's Award and Firm of the Year Award. These awards are designed to recognize individuals and firms that have made significant contributions to ACEC/MN and the engineering profession over the past year.

Nomination forms can be received by contacting the ACEC/MN office. The deadline for nominations is **April 1, 2015**. Please send your completed forms to Kristine Cassidy at [Kristine@acecmn.org](mailto:Kristine@acecmn.org) or fax them to 952-593-5552. It is perfectly acceptable to nominate yourself and/or your firm.

**The President's Award** is presented to an individual employed at an ACEC/MN member firm that has made a significant contribution to ACEC/MN and has been a valuable asset to the consulting engineering profession over the past year. This could include regular or ad hoc committee activity; attendance at the awards banquet, monthly meetings and seminars; promoting ACEC/MN to the public and/or acting in the interests of ACEC/MN; or other activities. Current members of the ACEC/MN Board of Directors are not eligible for this award.

**The Firm of the Year Award** is presented to an ACEC/MN member firm that, through their activities, has made a significant contribution to the advancement of ACEC/MN and the consulting engineering profession. The selection for this award will be based on activities or involvement of firm employees that have benefited the association and the profession. When selecting the recipient, consideration will be given to the size of the firm and availability of time and resources.

**The Emerging Leader Award** was developed to recognize an ACEC/MN member still in the early stages of their career who has already contributed significantly to the association.

**The ACEC/MN Board of Directors will select the recipients of these awards by secret ballot at the April board meeting. The awards will be announced at the ACEC/MN Annual Meeting in May.**

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## Board of Directors Positions Available 2015-2016

ACEC/MN is currently seeking candidates for the 2015-16 Board of Directors. Four director positions are available, as well as the young P.E. position. Participation on the board exposes you to a variety of activities and issues affecting the engineering profession. It is a great opportunity to expand your base of knowledge while giving something back to the profession.

Directors of the board serve two-year terms after which they have the opportunity to move in to an officer position. The young P.E. position is a one-year term for a younger P.E. who is interested in learning how the ACEC/MN board functions. This is an opportunity for an individual to preview future leadership opportunities in the association.

Board members are expected to attend monthly board meetings at the ACEC/MN office (typically the second Thursday of each month from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.), attend an annual planning meeting and serve as director to at least one ACEC/MN committee. Board members are also encouraged to attend events including seminars, monthly meetings, the annual meeting, and the awards banquet.

**The list of potential candidates will be reviewed by the ACEC/MN Nominating Committee in March. The Nominating Committee will recommend a group of candidates that will be forwarded to the membership for approval at the annual meeting held in late May. If any of these positions sound appealing to you, contact David Oxley at 952-593-5533 or [doxley@acecmn.org](mailto:doxley@acecmn.org) by Monday, March 2 in order to be considered.**

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## Your Firm is an ACEC/MN Member – So Are You!

ACEC/MN is a statewide organization dedicated to enhancing the consulting engineering profession. If your firm is a member, then so are you! As a member, you become part of a long-standing professional organization that is

recognized and respected by your clients, peers, and other design professionals.

As a member, you can register yourself and colleagues for events on our website. You can even update employee contact/company information, add job postings, and share links, videos, and photos with other members via the online Member Information Center. Login today to update your information and start using these features!

Login at [http://\[AName\]/login](http://[AName]/login) to gain access to all of these features, update your information and more.

Don't know your login? Enter your email address to be sent a reminder at [http://\[AName\]/login/forgotpwd](http://[AName]/login/forgotpwd)

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## The Benefits and Uniqueness of Design-Build – March 2

The design-build project delivery method has grown in popularity and use over the past couple of decades. The process, which brings designers and contractors together early in the detail design portion of a project, has created both challenges and opportunities for member firms. Our accomplished, qualified panel will discuss the key features of a design-build, the advantages and disadvantages of the process, and what it feels like to experience a design-build project first hand.

Highlights of the presentation include:

- An overview of how the process works
- Benefits and uniqueness of projects
- Case studies
- Legal concerns

We'll end this session with time for Q&A from the audience.

Panel:

(Moderator) John Dillingham, P.E., President and CEO of Alliant Engineering, Current President of ACEC/MN  
Ann M. Johnson P.E., Professional Engineering Services, LTD, Past President, DBIA  
Mark Dierling, P.E., SEH, Past President of DBIA  
Doug Wild, AIA, BWBR, President DBIA

[Register](#) on our website today!

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## 2015 Minnesota's Transportation Conference – March 3-5

Registration is now open for the 2015 Minnesota's Transportation Conference, the largest transportation event in the state. Join us at this dynamic, engaging event to learn about the latest transportation innovations and network with fellow professionals. Last year's conference drew just under 1,500 industry professionals. Don't miss out this year!

The conference will kick off with an opening reception at 4 p.m. on March 3, followed by two full days of sessions on March 4 and 5. The full conference program and registration materials are available at [www.mntransportationconference.org](http://www.mntransportationconference.org).

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## Summary of the Energy Seminar Panel Discussion January 22

Over 50 attendees attended the January 22, 2015 seminar, "Powering the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Energy Supply, Demand and Infrastructure." ACEC/MN invited key energy representatives to discuss the future of energy demand, supply, infrastructure, and regulations.

**Gene Sieve** of Burns & McDonnell Consulting Company was the moderator of this panel discussion. He was joined by **Bill Grant**, Deputy Commissioner of Energy and Telecommunications for the Minnesota Department of Commerce, **Dan Kline**, Director of Strategic Transmission Initiatives at Xcel Energy, **Herb Minke**, Director of Regulatory Affairs for Minnesota Power, and **Phyllis Reha**, Energy Policy and Regulatory Consultant at PAR Energy Solutions, LLC.

Discussions included defining energy needs based on regulations and laws and that we have more energy needs now than ever. According to Phyllis Reha, at least \$5 billion will be needed by 2050 to improve the electrical grid. The group discussed what this means for homeowners and businesses.

A common theme throughout the seminar discussion was future reliance on renewable energy. Its use will grow by 15% in the next 15 years, according to Bill Grant. Renewable energy begins with a reliable, integrated energy grid – one with broad, dispersed energy resources, instead of relying on one major source, like coal. All experts agreed that the use of coal for power is diminishing rapidly in the United States and will continue into the future. Herb Minke shared with the group that since 2005, the use of coal for energy has notably decreased from 95% to 65% today. He added that in 2015 our energy usage will be split into thirds between coal (with no new plants), renewables, and hydro-power.

Phyllis Reha noted that half of all world solar installations have been developed in the last three years and they continue to increase in popularity and usage. There is now increasing appeal for community solar gardens with the opportunity to purchase, but not have to manage, your share of energy. This is a new concept and could be successful in the future. Concerns include energy storage and long term environmental issues, such as the manufacturing of batteries for large solar gardens and the disposal of those batteries.

Dan Kline of Xcel Energy stressed the need for engineers in the energy discussion. Although Xcel employs 1,300 engineers, there is a need for consultants with various expertise to bring that number to as much as 3,000.

Energy issues are important to professionals in Minnesota. ACEC/MN has an Energy Initiatives Committee, and if you don't currently serve on the committee, you should join! If you or someone in your firm is interested in participating on the committee, please contact Melissa Langowski at [melissa@acecmn.org](mailto:melissa@acecmn.org) or 952/593-5533 to sign up.

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## New FE Exam Prep Courses Open

Are you or someone you know planning to take the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam soon? MnSPE has brand new FE exam prep courses designed around the new computer-based test. Choose from FE civil, mechanical or other disciplines. Classes start mid-February and include 12 weeks of self-guided, unlimited online materials access plus live office hours with instructors. Open to MnSPE members and non-members located anywhere in the world. Pass your exam or retake the course for free. [Follow this link](#) for more information or to register.

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## Become a Fan of ACEC/MN's Social Media!

Keep you and your colleagues posted on industry information and ACEC/MN activities *as they happen*. If you're not following us, please click on the links below and become a fan!

\*[ACEC/MN on Facebook](#)

\*[ACEC/MN on Twitter](#)

\*[ACEC/MN on LinkedIn](#)

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## Save the Date! Upcoming ACEC/MN Events

- February 12 – March 12, 2015 – [Consulting Engineering Fundamentals Workshop](#)
- February 13 – [Industrial Stormwater and The Use of the Up-Flo Pilot Unit: Lessons Learned](#)
- February 17 – [ACEC/MN Capitol Consulting Day](#)
- March 2 – [The Benefits and Uniqueness of Design-Build](#)
- March 3-5 – [Minnesota's Transportation Conference](#)
- April 19–22 – [National ACEC Conference - Washington DC](#)
- June 15, 2015 – ACEC/MN Partnered With VAA, LLC Scholarship Golf Tournament – June 15, 2015



2015 Title Sponsor

Thank you for the generosity of [Abdo, Eick & Meyers, LLP](#) for hosting the 2015 Consulting Engineering Fundamentals Workshop series again this year!

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## News From Around the Membership

**Clark Engineering Corporation** is pleased to announce the addition of **Terri Erickson, PE** as Senior Structural Engineer/Senior Project Manager in its Minneapolis office.

**Hammel, Green and Abrahamson, Inc.** has acquired a San Jose-based architecture firm that has designed many of Silicon Valley's high-tech interiors, ReelGrobman.

**Hammel, Green and Abrahamson, Inc.** is pleased to announce that **Jake Turgeon** recently achieved the designation of Professional Engineer (PE) in Minnesota.

**HR Green, Inc.** is pleased to announce that **Bridget Osborn** recently achieved the designation of Professional Engineer (PE) in Minnesota.

**LKPB Engineers, Inc.** is pleased to announce the recent merger with Allman & Associates, Inc., a mechanical and electrical engineering firm in Rochester, MN.

**TKDA** hired **Joel Hinnekamp** as a graduate engineer in its surface transportation division, and **Jim Nania** and **Steven Fluger** as mechanical engineering designers. **Will DeRocher** joined the municipal services division as a graduate engineer in the firm's Duluth office, and **Dennis Postler PE**, has been named Vice President of the Municipal Services Division.

**Westwood Professional Services, Inc.'s** new office in Dickinson, North Dakota opened for business on Monday, January 26th.

**WSB & Associates, Inc.** is pleased to announce that **Dean Chamberlain** recently achieved the designation of Professional Engineer (PE) in Minnesota.

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If you have an announcement you'd like to see included in the next Parameters newsletter, please contact Kristine Cassidy at [Kristine@acecmn.org](mailto:Kristine@acecmn.org).