



2024 ENGINEERING  
EXCELLENCE AWARDS

# CALL FOR ENTRIES

BY THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF  
ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF MISSISSIPPI



# CALL FOR ENTRIES

2024 ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

## ACHIEVING RECOGNITION

ACEC/MS's 2024 Engineering Excellence Awards competition offers the opportunity to showcase the year's best engineering achievements to an audience of clients, peers, and decision-makers at all levels. The EEA Banquet celebrates, with pride and elegance, the outstanding achievements of the engineering profession.

## ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Mississippi's annual Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) competition recognizes engineering firms for projects that demonstrate a high degree of achievement, value, and ingenuity.

Again this year, engineering firms are entering their most innovative projects and studies for the state competition conducted by the American Council of Engineering Companies of Mississippi (ACEC/MS).

EEA entries are accepted into one of 12 project categories: Studies, Research, and Consulting Engineering Services; Building/Technology Systems; Structural Systems; Surveying and Mapping Technology; Environmental; Water and Wastewater; Water Resources; Transportation; Special Projects; Small Projects, Industrial and Manufacturing Processes and Facilities; and Energy.

Project entries must be designed by engineers located in Mississippi. A distinguished panel is convened to judge the projects. These professionals may have backgrounds in engineering, architecture, state and federal government, media, academe, and military. The panel evaluates projects for engineering excellence and then selects winners. One Grand Conceptor Award is chosen from among the other award winners.

All submitted projects are rated on the basis of uniqueness and originality; future value to the engineering profession; social, economic, and sustainable development considerations; complexity; and successful fulfillment of the client/owner's needs, including schedule and budget.

ACEC/MS's Engineering Excellence Awards provide firms an opportunity to obtain statewide recognition and to showcase their talent and expertise at a prestigious awards ceremony.

## PUBLICITY

The public relations and marketing value of participation in the state EEA program is considerable. All state winners are highlighted in the Mississippi Professional Engineer magazine. Each entry is recognized at the awards banquet. The ACEC/MS staff contacts the local media to announce winners and their awards. Winners are also published on the ACEC/MS website at [www.ACECMS.org](http://www.ACECMS.org).

## ELIGIBILITY

Any Mississippi engineering or surveying firm, or any firm joint venturing with an Mississippi firm, is eligible to enter the awards program, whether or not the firm is a member of ACEC/MS.

## CATEGORIES

There is a small and large project entry level for each category, except project Category A, which has no project size criteria. The small project subcategory is for projects with a construction costs below \$500,000.

\*Please note that these requirements are for the state competition, which closely reflect national requirements. If you choose to submit your project for national competition, there is a separate brochure and entry form.



## AWARDS

The panel of judges may grant up to 19 awards, two in each category (except in Category A), and one Grand Conceptor Award, at its discretion. The Grand Conceptor may come from any of the 12 categories and will be presented as the top state winner selected by the judges, whose decisions on all awards are final. Awards will be presented to the clients/owners and the firm submitting the winning entries.

## JUDGING

Entries are judged on the basis of overall engineering excellence in each category. Entries are judged on the basis of the work performed by the entering firm according to the rating guidelines listed. Winners are notified prior to the EEA Banquet, except for the Grand Conceptor Award, which will be announced at the banquet.

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2024 ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

RATING GUIDELINES FOR JUDGES	
25%	Original or innovative application of new or existing techniques
20%	Future value to the engineering profession and perception by the public
15%	Social, economic, and sustainable design considerations
20%	Complexity
20%	Exceeding client/owner needs
100%	Total

DEFINITIONS OF RATING GUIDELINES

1. Original or innovative application of new or existing techniques:	4. Complexity:
Does the entry demonstrate use of a new science or a breakthrough in the general knowledge of engineering?	Did the entry successfully address very complex criteria or unique problems?
Does the entry represent a unique application of new or existing technology, techniques, materials, or equipment?	Were extraordinary problems of site, location, hazardous conditions, project requirements, or similar elements present?
2. Future value to the engineering profession:	Did the entry require the use of out-of-ordinary technology or ingenuity for achievement of the project's goals?
Does the entry advance the state of the engineer's art?	5. Exceeding client/owner needs:
Does the entry advance a positive public image of engineering excellence?	Did the engineer or entrant successfully engage the client/owner in the overall project development process?
3. Social, economic, and sustainable design considerations:	Does the entry comply with and justify its original concept?
Do the solutions identified produce secondary benefits of value to the community environment?	Is it an economic and cost-effective solution?
Does the entrant's approach provide society with social, economic, or sustainable development benefits?	How did final cost relate to original budget estimate?
Does the entrant's contribution to the project improve the health, safety or welfare of the public or affected environment?	How closely does the entrant's solution meet the total goals of the client/owner?
	Did the entrant meet the client's time schedule?

<p>CATEGORY A</p>  <p>Studies, Research, and Consulting</p> <p>Non-design services including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New products, materials, and technologies</li><li>• Expert testimony</li><li>• Basic research and studies</li><li>• Computer/software technology</li><li>• Technical papers</li></ul> <p>None of the projects entered in Category A are involved with the preparation of construction documents.</p>	<p>CATEGORY B</p>  <p>Building/Technology Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mechanical/electrical</li><li>• Computer/technology</li><li>• Communications</li><li>• Acoustics</li><li>• Software systems</li></ul>	<p>CATEGORY C</p>  <p>Structural Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Foundations</li><li>• Tunnels</li><li>• Buildings</li><li>• Seismic design</li><li>• Towers</li><li>• Bridges</li><li>• Sports facilities</li></ul>	<p>CATEGORY D</p>  <p>Surveying and Mapping Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Geometrics, ALTA, land title, and rights surveys</li><li>• Control, GPS, monitoring, or construction surveying</li><li>• Survey mapping, GIS/LIS, and photogrammetry</li></ul>	<p>CATEGORY E</p>  <p>Environmental</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hazardous waste</li><li>• Solid waste</li><li>• Restoration/reclamation</li><li>• Air quality</li><li>• Noise</li></ul>	<p>CATEGORY F</p>  <p>Water and Wastewater</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Water supply/distribution/treatment</li><li>• Wastewater collection/treatment and disposal</li><li>• Industrial waste</li><li>• Residuals management</li></ul>
<p>CATEGORY G</p>  <p>Water Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hydraulics and hydrology</li><li>• Irrigation</li><li>• Storm water management</li><li>• Erosion control</li><li>• Recreational facilities</li><li>• Flood control and dams</li></ul>	<p>CATEGORY H</p>  <p>Transportation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Highways</li><li>• Railroads</li><li>• Airports</li><li>• Marine/ports</li><li>• Public transit</li><li>• Freight</li><li>• Intermodal facilities</li></ul>	<p>CATEGORY I</p>  <p>Special Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Safety and security</li><li>• Energy production/conservation</li><li>• Oil and gas</li><li>• Nuclear</li><li>• Industrial processes/materials handling</li><li>• Mining, metallurgy, and mineralogy</li><li>• Corrosion protection</li><li>• Program and construction management</li><li>• Land development</li></ul>	<p>CATEGORY J</p>  <p>Small Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Total project construction budget does not exceed \$2.5 million. At the entrant's discretion, except for entries in Category A, projects under \$2.5 million are not limited to this category.</li></ul>	<p>CATEGORY K</p>  <p>Energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transmission and distribution</li><li>• Power generation</li><li>• Renewable energy</li><li>• Cogeneration</li><li>• Energy storage technologies</li><li>• Energy efficiency – new and retrofit</li><li>• Energy usage reduction programs</li><li>• Demand side management</li></ul>	<p>CATEGORY L</p>  <p>Industrial and Manufacturing Processes and Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Petrochemical</li><li>• Biotech</li><li>• Manufacturing</li><li>• Heavy industry</li><li>• Industrial waste</li><li>• Materials handling</li><li>• Mining, metallurgy, and mineralogy</li></ul>

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

This section describes all required materials for entering the 2024 ACEC/MS Engineering Excellence Awards competition. Print and digital submissions are required for each entry, and all materials must be submitted as designated below.

Print Submissions

Send to: ACEC/MS, 825 N. President Street, Jackson, MS 39202

The following materials must be submitted in a black three-ring binder:

- Entry form
- Client/owner letter
- Executive summary
- Project description
- List of key participants
- Press release
- Project photos

Digital Submissions

The following information must be included on the flash drive:

- All photos (as JPEGs, 300 dpi, sized to 8.5" X 11")
- Photographic panel display
- Executive summary
- Project description
- Press release (must be a Word document)

Project Information Submittal

1. Official Entry: The engineer/surveyor and client/owner must all sign the entry form stating that the submitted project was substantially completed and ready for use between November 1, 2020 and October 31, 2022. The entry fee needs to be attached to the original Official Entry Form.
2. Client/Owner Letter: One-page letter signed by the client/owner, addressed to ACEC, describing the relationship the client/owner had with the entrant in the development of the project and how it exceeded the client/owner needs.
3. Executive Summary (8.5" x 11" with 1" side margins, double-spaced, minimum 12 pt. type): One-page document that describes the problem and solution. Project title and entry category must appear at the top of the page.
4. Project Description (8.5" x 11"): In five pages or less, this section addresses items a, b, c, and d as listed below. Project title, category and page number must appear at the top of each page. Entrants may use text (minimum 12 pt.), photos, graphs, etc.
  - a. Role of entrant's firm in the project.
  - b. Role of other consultants participating in the project.
  - c. Brief description of the entrant's contribution to the project addressing the following rating guidelines:
    - Original or innovative application of new or existing techniques.
    - Future value to the engineering profession.
    - Social, economic, and sustainable design considerations.
    - Complexity.
    - Exceeding client/owner needs. Include total project budgeted cost, total project actual cost, entrant's portion of the budgeted cost, entrant's portion of the actual cost, scheduled and actual date of completion information as indicated on the official entry form.
  - d. Describe in layman's terms why this project is worthy of special recognition (word count between 100 - 500 words). Explain all actors that comprise the project's uniqueness such as innovative engineering, challenges faced, and overall social impact. Note: This description will provide the basis for all ACEC publicity on the project.
5. Key participants: Provide firm name, address, phone number, website and email address of each participant. Key participants should include contractors, subcontractors, other engineers, architects, and designers involved in the project.
6. Press Release: A press release (up to 2 pages, double-spaced) clearly and concisely describing the project and the entrant's participation, reflecting on factors listed in point #4. In addition, indicate the value of the project to the community, identify the number of people served, cost savings, etc. No reference to other awards should be
7. Photos/Graphics: One copy each of six different photos or graphics (six total) of high quality 8.5" x 11" printed from digital files. Three of the photographs must be of the completed.
8. Entries in the category of Studies, Research and Consulting must be accompanied by a supplementary report containing findings with graphs, drawings, etc. inside the back cover of the black binder.

Officers 2023–2024

National Director David Bowman Neel-Schaffer, Inc. , Jackson, MS	Executive Director Craig Carter ACEC-MS Flowood, MS	Board Member Wayne Black Garver Ridgeland, MS
President Darrell Martinek W.L. Burle Engineers Gulfport, MS	PAC Chairman – South MS Kyle Wallace Shows, Dearman & Waits Hattiesburg, MS	Board Member Hayden Kaiser III Jordan, Kaiser & Sessions Natchez, MS
President Elect James Dickerson Buchart Horn, Inc. Batesville, MS	PAC Chairman – Central MS Hunter Arnold Waggoner Engineering Jackson, MS	Board Member Maddie Costelli Pettry Simpkins & Costelli, Inc. Gulfport, MS
Secretary/Treasurer Kent Geno Cook Coggin Engineers, Inc. Tupelo, MS	PAC Chairman – North MS Carey Hardin Clearwater Consultants Starkville, MS	Past President Dax Alexander Brown, Mitchell & Alexander Gulfport, MS

Photographic Display Panel

- Framed or mounted panels will NOT be accepted.
1. Each Entry should consist of one photographic panel, 30" x 30" square display material which has a matte finish and laminated over the front and back.
    - a. front lamination is 5 mil;
    - b. back lamination is 5 mil;
    - c. panel is no more than 5-6 mil for a total of 15-16 mil in thickness.
  2. Velcro strips must be attached to the back for display purposes. The panel should be prepared with quality photo and graphics, with minimal text (250 words max).
  3. A maximum of six photographic images and/or graphics may be used on the panel. Each photo or graphic should be a minimum of 7" x 5" or 35 sq. inches. A background photo is not considered a photo.
  4. Minimum 32 pt. type for text or descriptions and min. 28 pt. type for captions and graphics.
  5. ACEC logo, (download from the ACEC website) title and location of the study/project, client's name, and location, and entering firm's name and location (minimum 32 pt. type) should be shown on the front of the panel.
  6. The project title, category, firm name, and address should also be shown on the back of panel.
  7. Leave a 2" x 2" blank space in the upper right-hand corner of the panel that is free of text or images but carries the panel's background scheme through this space for ACEC's coding. Do not leave a blank white space.

PANEL SUGGESTIONS

ASAP David Langley 2801 Layfair Drive Flowood, MS 39232 601-932-4748 david@asapprinting.com	DIG Nina Strother 513 Liberty Road, Suite 4B Flowood, MS 39232 601-939-2008 www.dig.us.com	Central MS Specialties, LLC Don Vanlandingham 601 Falon Way Brandon, MS 39047 601-624-9091 donvan@photoimages.com	Micro Printing & Blueprint Scott Lasley 225 East Pearl Street Jackson, MS 39201 601-355-9543 sales@microblueprint.com
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Furnish all information requested below. Firm, project, and client names should be typed or printed as they are to appear on the award. A fee of \$550 per entry for ACEC/MS members (\$1,000 for non-ACEC/MS members) must accompany this form. Make checks payable to ACEC/MS.

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

Project Name (Limit: 35 Characters) \_\_\_\_\_

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A. Studies, Research, and Consulting Engineering Services | <input type="checkbox"/> E. Environmental        | <input type="checkbox"/> I. Special Projects                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B. Building/Technology Systems                            | <input type="checkbox"/> F. Water and Wastewater | <input type="checkbox"/> J. Small Projects  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C. Structural Systems                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> G. Water Resources      | <input type="checkbox"/> K. Energy  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D. Surveying and Mapping Technology                       | <input type="checkbox"/> H. Transportation       | <input type="checkbox"/> L. Industrial and Manufacturing Processes and Facilities |

Project Location: Address (no P.O. Boxes) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Complete Relative to the Entrant's Portion of the Project: (Budgeted and/or actual costs may not apply to some studies in Category A)

Completion/Use Dates: Scheduled \_\_\_\_\_ Actual \_\_\_\_\_

Category A Costs: Budgeted \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Actual \_\_\_\_\_

Construction Costs: Budgeted \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Actual \_\_\_\_\_

## ABOUT THE FIRM(S) SUBMITTING THE PROJECT

Entering Firm(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Firm Representative \_\_\_\_\_ Title of Representative \_\_\_\_\_

Address (no P.O. Boxes) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby authorize submission of this project in the 2024 ACEC/MS Engineering Excellence Awards competition.

Senior Executive/Principal \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address (no P.O. Boxes) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## ABOUT THE CLIENT/OWNER(S) SUBMITTING THE PROJECT

Client/Owner(s) \_\_\_\_\_

I currently believe the work of the engineer meets the intended uses and expectations for the project and hereby grant permission to enter this project in the ACEC/MS 2024 Engineering Excellence Awards competition, and authorize publication of its outstanding features, unique aspects, or innovations. I confirm that the project was substantially completed and ready for use between November 1, 2021 and October 31, 2023.

Client Owner/Representative \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address (no P.O. Boxes) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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flash drive:

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- Project description
- Press release (must be a Word document)

### Important Dates to Remember:

October 31, 2023  
Intent to Enter Due

December 21, 2023  
Print and Digital Submissions Due

**ACEC** Mississippi