

# ACEC

American Council of Engineering Companies  
of Mississippi

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**“The Voice of Mississippi’s Engineering Companies”**

## *New 2020-2021 Executive Committee*



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**RONALD W. CASSADA**  
Gardner Engineering, P.A.  
P.O. Drawer A  
Indianola, MS 38751-2848



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Shows, Dearman & Waits, Inc.  
301 Second Avenue  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401



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Burns Cooley Dennis, Inc.  
551 Sunnybrook Road  
Ridgeland, MS 39157-1811



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401 Cowan Road, Suite A  
Gulfport, MS 39507



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W.L. Burle Engineers, P.A.  
111 South Walnut Street  
Greenville, MS 38701



Board Member  
**JAMES DICKERSON**  
Buchart Horn, Inc.  
103-4 Woodland Road  
Batesville, MS 38606



Board Member  
**KENT GENO**  
Cook Coggin Engineers, Inc.  
703 Crossover Road  
Tupelo, MS 38801



PAC Chairman  
**HUNTER ARNOLD**  
Waggoner Engineering, Inc.  
P.O. Box 12227  
Jackson, MS 39236



Past President  
**WAYNE MORRISON**  
Williams, Clark & Morrison, Inc.  
P.O. Box 567  
Yazoo City, MS 39134

**2020 ACEC/MS  
Scholarship  
Winner  
Anna Grace Norris  
Mississippi State  
University**



### **Dates to Remember:**

- Roosevelt Day—  
Virtual—Date Not Set
- Steel Bridge Forum—  
Virtual—Date Not Set
- Fall Meeting—TBD

# ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS

## Grand Conceptor Award Winner Cook Coggin Engineers, Inc.

Project: Corinth EDA  
Drainage Improvements  
Client: City of Corinth



Pictured from left: Matthew Estes, Cook Coggin Engineers, Inc. and Tommy Irwin, Mayor, City of Corinth

## Grand Award Winner Neel-Schaffer, Inc.

Project: Port of Gulfport Restoration  
Client: Mississippi State Port Authority



Pictured from left: Don Lancaster, Neel-Schaffer, Inc. and Mike McGrevey, MS State Port Authority at Gulfport

## People's Choice Award Winner

### Waggoner Engineering, Inc.

Project: Hinds County Parkway Segment 2  
Client: Hinds County Board of Supervisors



Pictured from left: David Archie, Hinds County Board of Supervisors; Credell Calhoun, Hinds County Board of Supervisors; Peggy Calhoun, Hinds County Board of Supervisors; Bobby McGowan, Hinds County Board of Supervisors; Tommy Avant, IMS; Hunter Arnold, Waggoner Engineering, Inc.

## Banquet Sponsors:



The Dowell Group  
at Morgan Stanley

## Entertainment Sponsor:



## Reception Sponsor:



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CONCRETE  
ASSOCIATION**  
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# ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARD HONOR WINNERS



**Michael Baker International**  
Project: Colony Park Boulevard From  
Sunnybrook Road to U.S. Hwy 51



**Garver, LLC and  
MES Group, Inc.**  
Project: Traffic Flow at the  
ERDC  
Project: New Secure Com-  
puting Facility at the ERDC



**WGK, Inc.**  
Project: Brookhaven  
Annexation Water &  
Sewer



**Michael Baker  
International**  
Project: Spring Lake  
Earthen Dam  
Improvements



**Compton Engineering, Inc.**  
Project: Linea Dock Bulkhead Improvements

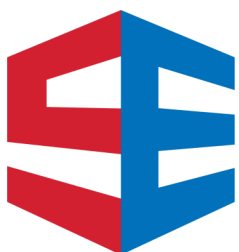


**Laird + Smithers, Inc. and Burns Cooley**  
Dennis, Inc.  
Project: Additions & Renovations to Pisgah  
High School



**WEI/AJA, LLC**  
Project: Capitol Com-  
plex Improvements  
District Master Plan

**NEW MEMBER:**  
**Smithers Engineers and Consultants,  
LLC**  
435 Katherine Drive, Suite A  
Flowood, Ms 39232  
Website: [smithersengineers.com](http://smithersengineers.com)  
PH: 769-216-3004  
Email: [chas@smithersengineers.com](mailto:chas@smithersengineers.com)  
Principal: Charles Smithers



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ENGINEERS +  
CONSULTANTS**

**ACEC/MS  
2019-2020  
Executive  
Committee**



# ACEC/MS President's Update: Wayne Morrison



Many of you have probably seen several memes around the internet in the last few months about "how can we just get out of the year 2020 unscathed." What else can happen between pandemics and disasters? Certainly, we at ACEC/MS have been affected by what is happening in our country. There is much concern for the future of the economy and how to keep our workers in a healthy and safe environment. After speaking with various firms in our state, some have not missed a beat, as far as being in their office turning out work. Others have had to adjust to working from home and manage the challenges of communicating and keeping up with their employees. Some projects have been pushed back because of Covid-19. We would love to know if you have found any method of working remotely that you would share with rest of us to benefit other firms. Craig Carter and Steven Clay of The Clay Firm have been doing an excellent job keeping us informed with the legislature activities this year. Right now, the legislature is on break and some have turned up with the Covid-19 virus. Their work will resume soon.

Our ACEC National Meeting in Washington, DC was cancelled, due to the Covid-19 virus and concerns about how to keep people safe. During our National Meeting, we normally meet with our congressional delegation to inform them about engineering issues and possible solutions at both the state and national levels. Because of the meeting cancellation, we had various conference calls with all our Washington delegation. Many thanks to the many ACEC/MS members who participated! There were two main topics which centered around infrastructure. First was on transportation and how an injection of federal funds would help stabilize state and local economies against budgets that have been impacted by the pandemic and loss of revenue. We must have long term investment in transportation! Water Infrastructure was the other topic and how \$1 billion invested creates 23,000 jobs. EPA will need at least \$750 billion over the next 20 years to maintain current levels of service, and there is a \$100 billion backlog of authorized Corps of Engineers water resource projects that should go forward. Funding of these are critical for our nation, and we need to pray for our leaders that they would have wisdom to deal with these issues. The next ACEC National Meeting will be in San Diego, CA on October 28 – 31, 2020.

An ACEC/MS casualty of the Covid-19 virus was the cancellation of our Deep South Meeting in Sandestin, FL, scheduled for the week of July 23 - July 25. Since it was cancelled, we added another year on our contract for having it there for the next two years. Thanks to ACEC/AL for helping with the negotiations so that penalty fees would not be assessed for canceling. In the beginning of those negotiations, our friends in Louisiana were banned from entering Florida. Please make plans to come to Sandestin next summer, July 22-24, and bring your families for a wonderful time.

Roosevelt Day, which is usually during the month of August, is cancelled because Roosevelt State Park is still closed. We may have an event via Zoom with each of the agencies that are normally scheduled. We will keep you informed.

Congratulations to Kyle Wallace of Shows, Dearman and Waits as incoming ACEC/MS Executive Committee Board President and to Kent Geno of Cook Coggin Engineers, our new Executive Committee Board Member.

Thank you to Craig Carter and Jessica Gosa for leading us through this trying year.

I want to thank ACEC/MS for allowing me to serve as President this year. I have always benefited from my participation in ACEC and encourage everyone to become actively involved. I wish you well in this next year.

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