

# ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
of Mississippi

*The Voice of Mississippi's Engineering Industry.*

3900 Lakeland Drive, Suite 201 • Flowood, MS 39232  
Tel: (601) 420-2002 • Fax: (601) 420-2315  
acecms@comcast.net • www.acecms.org

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## 2013 Engineering Excellence Awards



**Grand Conceptor Award Winner:** Mid-South Consulting, Inc. Murphy Engineering, Inc. & Jenkins Engineering, Inc., for the Three Rivers Regional Landfill Generator Project. Pictured left to right: Dennis Murphy, Murphy Engineering, Inc., Calvin Abernathy, Mid-South Consulting, Inc., Ronnie Bell, Governmental Functions Director, Three Rivers Planning & Development District, Inc., Dan Reese, Solid Waste Specialist, Three Rivers Planning & Development District, Inc., and Ron Cassada, President, ACEC/MS.



**Grand Award Winner:** Neel-Schaffer, Inc. for the Golden Triangle Landfill Gas to Electricity Generation Project. Pictured left to right: John Cunningham, Neel-Schaffer, Inc., Jimmy Sloan, Executive Director, Golden Triangle Regional Wastes Management Authority, and Ron Cassada, President, ACEC/MS.

# Congratulations!

*Shows, Dearman & Waits  
50 Years*

*Neel-Schaffer, Inc.  
30 Years*

### WELCOME NEW MEMBER

DEWBERRY CONSULTANTS LLC - 5  
2510 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 810  
Gulfport, MS 39501  
Telephone: (228) 265-9424  
Email: swilliamson@dewberry.com  
Website: www.dewberry.com

*Principal(s): Stuart Williamson; Bryon Griffith*

**Areas of Interest:** Dewberry is a leading professional services firm with a proven history of providing architecture, engineering and management and consulting services to a wide variety of public and private-sector clients.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thank you to Walter Lyons of Michael Baker, Jr., Inc. for printing the ACEC/MS Newsletter.  
ACEC/MS appreciates your support!!

July 11-13	Deep South Convention Sandestin, Florida
August 23	Roosevelt Day Roosevelt State Park

## ACEC/MS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Ron Cassada

We had a very successful winter meeting this year. The educational seminars and committee meetings were informative and well attended. The seminar on Business Etiquette was particularly interesting and exactly what our motley crew of engineers needed. I am sure all of our spouses were particularly impressed that we all learned which fork to use at the dinner table. The Engineering Excellence Awards banquet was also a great success thanks to our member firms who submitted several outstanding engineering projects. The People's Choice Award was a great addition this year and I think it will become an annual award. If you have never participated in the Engineering Excellence Awards competition I would encourage you to consider submitting a project for next year's event. It is an excellent way to spot light your projects and clients. Contact Ed Dedeaux or Judy for details.

The legislative session came to an end this week and I want to personally thank Judy and Al Sage for all of their hard work in lobbying on our behalf. Our main legislative initiative, the Certificate of Merit, did not pass. The bill passed the Senate but failed to pass in the House of Representatives. Although the legislation failed, it was definitely a good start towards the eventual successful passage of a Certificate of Merit for engineers. We did have success with the passage of several bills including

the funding for the LSBP bridge program and the Bond Bill which included a significant amount of funding for state projects.

Our ACEC National Meeting and concurrent Consulting Congress Day will be held in Washington DC April 21-24. Capitol Hill is starting to heat up as the House and Senate consider long-term budget options, new water and energy proposals, and other initiatives that will affect the engineering marketplace. We currently have six ACEC/MS members who will be attending the meeting and participating in the Capitol Hill visits to discuss these issues with our Mississippi Representatives. If you have never been to our National meeting I would encourage you to go. Until I had attended this event I never realized how well run our organization is and how critical it is in protecting our business interest in Washington.

I hope to see each of you at our annual Deep South Convention which will be held at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort on July 11-13 2013. This is always a great conference and one that the entire family can enjoy.



Road to Toyota— Improvements to SR9 Project. Pictured left to right: Joey Hudnall, Neel-Schaffer, Inc., Melinda McGrath, MDOT, and Ron Cassada, President , ACEC/MS.



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## 2013 ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS



**Honor Award Winner:** Pickering Firm, Inc., for the Kemper County IGCC Treated Effluent Pipeline Project. Pictured left to right: Rob Manuel, Pickering Firm, Inc., and Ron Cassada, President, ACEC/MS.



**Honor Award Winner:** Cook Coggin Engineers, Inc., for the Kimberly Clark Access Road Project. Pictured left to right: Lowell Hinton, President, Alcorn County Board of Supervisors, Kent Geno, Cook Coggin Engineers, Inc., and Ron Cassada, President, ACEC/MS.



**Honor Award Winner:** Mississippi Engineering Group for the Flowood Wirtz Road Water Well Project. Pictured left to right: Mayor Gary Rhoads, City of Flowood, Garry Miller, Public Works Director, City of Flowood, Jim Hust, Waggoner Engineering, Inc., and Ron Cassada, President, ACEC/MS.



**Honor Award Winner:** Neel-Schaffer, Inc., Parsons Transportation Group, Inc., Burns Cooley Dennis, Inc., and URS Corporation for the Road to Toyota— Improvements to SR9 Project. Pictured left to right: David Dennis, Burns Cooley Dennis, Inc., Robert McIvor, Parsons Transportation Group, Rodney Gray, URS Corporation, Melinda McGrath, MDOT, Keith Purvis, Neel-Schaffer, Inc., and Ron Cassada, President, ACEC/MS.

## ACEC CONVENTION & LEGISLATIVE SUMMITT

The 2013 ACEC Annual Convention and Legislative Summit will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Washington, DC, April 21-24.

In addition to great speakers and educational programs, ACEC members will be carrying ACEC's 2013 Legislative Agenda to the Hill.

We hope you can join us for this great Convention. Visit <http://www.acec.org/conferences/annual-13/> for more details.



**Honor Award Winner:** Compton Engineering, Inc., for the Hurricane Katrina Retaining Wall Mitigation Project at the Water Treatment Plants. Pictured left to right: Geoffrey Clemens, Compton Engineering, Joey Duggan, Compton Engineering, George Wolverton, Ward 2 Councilman, City of Pascagoula, Joe Abston, Councilman at Large, City of Pascagoula, and Ron Cassada, President, ACEC/MS.

# ACEC PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

By Dave Raymond

As Congress continues to struggle over solutions to the nation's long term debt and budget deficit, we continue to work with Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle on key issues where we can have productive results for our industry in the coming months such as water infrastructure funding and energy (two of our likely focus issues at our upcoming annual convention April 21-24). Bill Shuster, the new Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, will be a special guest at the convention, which will also feature NBC White House correspondent Chuck Todd, Fortune Magazine senior editor Geoff Colvin, and CEOs from leading firms.

- Met with FHWA Administrator Victor Mendez re: FHWA's proposed pilot project on indirect cost rates, the next phase of Every Day Counts, and other issues.
- Signed partnership agreement with National Highway Institute (arm of FHWA) to carry out an industry-wide training program on FAR-based audit and procurement practices to begin this Spring.
- Hosted Rep. Tom Petri (R-WI), Chairman of the House Transit and Highways Subcommittee, Rep. Elizabeth Esty (D-CT) and Rep. Sean Maloney (D-NY), both members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee; and House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD), and T&I members Rep. Trey Radel (R-FL) and Rep. Daniel Webster (R-FL).
- ACEC's Design Professionals Coalition (DPC) celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with renewed commitment to addressing key industry issues such as contracting out, P3s and liability concerns.
- Submitted comments to the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board on its proposed rules for municipal advisors, urging the agency to (a) remove fiduciary duty language that could conflict with an engineer's ethical obligation to protect public safety, and (b) revise the Board's proposed pay-to-play rule so that engineers are not excluded from the political process.
- Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), the ranking Republican on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, released an ACEC-backed "energy blueprint" which advocates a broad range of energy initiatives that could serve as the basis for bipartisan energy legislation
- Achieved increased highway and transit funding to full MAP-21 levels in the final Continuing Resolution for the remainder of the 2013 fiscal year.
- Senate Environment and Public Works Committee passed the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), which includes a number of ACEC priorities, including accelerated project delivery, innovative financing alternatives, and a levee safety program.
- Senior House and Senate committee staff briefed members of ACEC's Environment and Energy Committee on water and energy initiatives; key EPA and Department of Energy officials briefed on hydraulic fracturing and other pending regulatory issues.
- International Committee met with House and Senate committee staff to press for greater engineering involvement in planning, oversight, and performance of U.S. funded overseas infrastructure projects.
- Initiated research effort with DBIA, AIA and AGC to compare the costs and impacts of one-step versus two-step design-build.

## Government Advocacy

- Working with House committee staff on new water legislation that creates new funding mechanisms for water projects and requires the use of QBS.
- International Committee members briefed the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) on industry concerns pertaining to a new international agreement in services that is currently being negotiated.
- Urged the World Bank to maintain strong procurement standards and warned against devolving to in-country systems and rules, in comments to the Bank as part of its ongoing review of procurement policies and practices.
- Provided comments to congressional staff on draft WRDA legislation, underscoring the importance of the private sector in WRDA programs.



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