



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Mississippi

The Voice of Mississippi's Engineering Industry.

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2015 Engineering Excellence Awards



Grand Conceptor Award Winner: Smith Seckman Reid, Inc., for Methodist Olive Branch Hospital. Pictured left to right: Richard Kelly, Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare; David Rosenbaum, Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare; Tiffany Heard, Smith Seckman Reid, Inc.; David Baytos, CEO, Methodist Olive Branch Hospital; Mike Burton, Smith Seckman Reid, Inc.; and David Bowman, ACEC/MS President-Elect.



Grand Award Winner: Burns Cooley Dennis, Inc., and Jordan Kaiser & Sessions, LLC for Magnolia Bluffs Casino. Pictured left to right: Eddie Templeton, Burns Cooley Dennis, Inc.; Hayden Kaiser III, Jordan Kaiser & Sessions, LLC; Kevin Preston, President, Premier Gaming Group, and David Bowman, ACEC/MS President-Elect.



Grand Award Winner: FTN Associates, LTD, for Dam Hazard Classification Assistance for the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. Pictured left to right: Randy Reed, FTN Associates, LTD; Drew Moffitt, FTN Associates, LTD; Marc Johnson, FTN Associates, LTD; Dusty Meyers, Chief, Dam Safety Division, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, and David Bowman, ACEC/MS President-Elect.



ACEC/MS Scholarship Award Winner **Alex Bohannon** pictured with parents, Mr. & Mrs. Courtney Bohannon and Jimmy Nelson, ACEC/MS President.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 19 - 22 ACEC Consulting Congress Day - Washington, DC

July 9 - 11 Deep South Convention
Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort Sandestin, FL

August 28 Roosevelt Day, Roosevelt State Park - Morton, MS

ACEC/MS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jimmy Nelson

The 2015 Winter Meeting recently held in Jackson was a tremendous success, with informative seminars, committee meetings and exceptional networking opportunities. The Engineering Excellence Awards Dinner was also held at the winter meeting and we had 7 entries for this year's competition. More information relative to this is included elsewhere, but congratulations to all the participants as everyone was a winner!

As usual, ACEC Mississippi was quite active in protecting your interests during this year's legislative session. Several items were addressed that could have created an adverse effect on your business and your bottom line. It cannot be stressed enough how important it is for all of us to be actively involved in legislative issues. Judy Adams deserves special recognition for her hard work in staying on top of the various items during a rapidly changing legislative environment. Additionally, all of our members who contacted their senator or representative during the session are to be commended for helping to protect our interests.

The ACEC Annual Meeting will be held 19-22 April in Washington, DC. If you have never been to one of our national meetings, you should seriously consider attending the meeting, as the technical sessions are outstanding and you will have the opportunity to participate in consulting congress day. During consulting congress day, several of our members will visit our state's congressional delegation and discuss key issues that affect engineers and our businesses.

Mark your calendars for this year's ACEC Deep South Convention to be held in San Destin in July. San Destin is an incredible venue for our meeting and is family oriented, so plan on attending the meeting and having an informative and enjoyable time.



People's Choice Award Winner: Burns Cooley Dennis, Inc. & Jordan Kaiser & Sessions, LLC for Magnolia Bluffs Casino. Pictured left to right: Eddie Templeton, Burns Cooley Dennis, Inc.; Kevin Preston, President, Premier Gaming Group; Hayden Kaiser III, Jordan Kaiser & Sessions, LLC and David Bowman, ACEC/MS President-Elect.

We would like to THANK OUR SPONSORS for our 2015 Winter Meeting and EEA Engineering Excellence Awards Dinner: Sam Bryson, HUB International, Harry Lee James, Mississippi Concrete Industries Association, Gary Cole, ACEC Life/Health Trust, David Compton, Compton Engineering, Chris Gill, Control Systems Inc., Baxter Burns II, Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions Inc., Gary Hill, Walker-Hill Environmental, Inc., Jeff Dungan, Dungan Engineering and Jim Hust, Waggoner Engineering, Inc.



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Honor Award Winner: Neel-Schaffer, Inc., Old Taylor Road Bridge Widening & Roundabouts. Pictured left to right: Keith Purvis, Neel-Schaffer, Inc.; Keith Carr, Neel-Schaffer, Inc.; Cindy Rich, Neel-Schaffer, Inc.; Mark McConnell, Mississippi Department of Transportation, and David Bowman, ACEC/MS President-Elect.



Honor Award Winner: Smith Seckman Reid, Inc., for Hernando Lagoon Reclamation. Pictured left to right: Tiffany Heard, Smith Seckman Reid, Inc.; Mayor Chip Johnson, City of Hernando, and David Bowman, ACEC/MS President-Elect.



Honor Award Winner: Calvert-Spradling Engineers, Inc., for the West Point Wastewater Treatment Plant. Pictured left to right: Matt Forrester, Calvert-Spradling Engineers, Inc.; Stanley Spradling, Calvert-Spradling Engineers Inc.; Mayor Robbie Robinson, City of West Point; and David Bowman, ACEC/MS President-Elect.



Honor Award Winner: SOL Engineering Services, LLC for Presidential Hills Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade. Pictured left to right: Dan Thomas, City of Jackson Department of Public Works, Scott Armstrong, SOL Engineering Services, LLC; Cynthia Hill, William Miley, Mary Carter, Terry Williamson, City of Jackson Department of Public Works, Willie O'Neal, SOL Engineering Services LLC, and David Bowman, ACEC/MS President-Elect.

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New Members

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ACEC PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

By Dave Raymond

Dear Colleagues-

With the 2015 Annual Convention in Washington fast approaching, we will need all hands on deck to help secure reauthorization of MAP-21, energy legislation, and tax and procurement reforms. This convention will not only be important from the standpoint of legislative advocacy, but will also feature important business practice and markets sessions, provocative speakers, and an exciting social program. We are in a new venue- the Marriott Wardman Park- which allows us to run a bigger and better convention program. Also, the Nominating Committee is soliciting applications for ACEC's chair-elect and four vice-chair positions for terms commencing April 2016 on ACEC's Executive Committee. I would encourage MO leaders who have been active in ACEC activities and who are interested in national leadership positions to seriously consider becoming a candidate and submit their applications through state MOs to the national office by April 3, 2015 (Please feel free to call me if you wish to discuss further).

Government Advocacy

- Joined forces with industry allies in securing signatures of nearly 300 Members of Congress- including a majority of House Republicans on a bipartisan letter to House Speaker John Boehner and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi urging them to work toward a long term transportation bill as soon as possible.
- Testified before the House Small Business Committee in favor of reforms in the design-build procurement process for federal work, including limiting the use of single-step design build and reducing the shortlist on the two-step process.
- Senior Capitol Hill staff, the Corps of Engineers, and the EPA briefed ACEC's Environmental and Energy on new initiatives to expand water and energy markets.
- The House of Representatives passed ACEC-endorsed legislation that would permanently raise the Section 179 expensing level to \$500,000, and would also make it easier for S corporations that were previously structured as C corporations to access the firm's capital without tax penalties.
- The State Department's Bureau of Overseas Building Operations (OBO), USAID, and the International Financial Corporation briefed ACEC's International Committee on market opportunities and program changes.
- ACEC/PAC hosted engineering industry meet and greets for newly elected Members of the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee- Rep. Cresent Hardy (R-NV), Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-VA) and Rep. Mimi Walters (R-CA).
- ACEC/PAC hosted fundraising events for Rep. Charlie Dent (R-PA), Chairman of the Military Construction and VA subcommittee, and Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-CA), Chairman of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation subcommittee.



Paving the way to the Winner's Circle.

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