

# ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
of Mississippi

*The Voice of Mississippi's Engineering Industry.*

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## 2016 Engineering Excellence Awards



**Grand Conceptor Award Winner:** Michael Baker International for I-55 Reconstruction from Old Agency to SR 463. Pictured left to right: Ray Balentine, Michael Baker International; Kenny Collins, Michael Baker International; David Bowman, ACEC President; Melinda McGrath, MDOT; Commissioner Dick Hall, MDOT.



**People's Choice Award Winner:** Michael Baker International for I-55 Reconstruction from Old Agency to SR 463. Pictured left to right: Ray Balentine, Michael Baker International; Kenny Collins, Michael Baker International; David Bowman, ACEC President; Melinda McGrath, MDOT; Commissioner Dick Hall, MDOT.



**Grand Award Winner:** EnSafe, Inc. for Site 8B Stabilization Pilot Test, Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport. Pictured left to right: Eric Tidquist, EnSafe, Inc.; Dave Felter, EnSafe, Inc.; Brian Derry, EnSafe, Inc.; David Bowman, ACEC President; Kirk Giessinger, EnSafe, Inc.



**Honor Award Winner:** Asset Engineering for Topaz Solar project. Pictured left to right: Will McArthur, Asset Engineering; David Bowman, ACEC President; Ben Barnette, Asset Engineering.



**Honor Award Winner:** CDM Smith for Savanna Street WWTP Storm Cell Rehabilitation project. Pictured left to right: S. Wayne Miles, CDM Smith; Terry Williamson, City of Jackson; Mary Carter, City of Jackson; David Bowman, ACEC President; Matthew Horton, CDM Smith; Steve Hall, Denali Water Solutions; Phillip Gibson, Gibson Engineering; Harold Underwood, CDM Smith.



**Honor Award Winner:** Neel-Schaffer, Inc. for Capitol Street Renaissance project. Pictured left to right: Mark Beyea, Neel-Schaffer, Inc.; Hibbett Neel, Neel-Schaffer, Inc.; David Bowman, ACEC President and Neel-Schaffer, Inc.; Robert Lee, City of Jackson.

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- **July 21 - 23, 2016**—ACEC Deep South Convention, Destin, FL

**Honor Award Winner:** Smith Seckman Reid, Inc. for Natchez Toll Plaza Colonades. Pictured left to right: Todd Jordan, Smith Seckman Reid, Inc.; David Bowman, ACEC President; Sharpie Smith, Smith Seckman Reid, Inc.



# ACEC/MS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By David Bowman



March 15, 2016

Our ACEC Engineering Excellence Awards continue to thrive. Last year's winner was submitted by SSR for its mechanical work at Methodist Hospital in Desoto County. This year's winner was Michael Baker International for their work on I-55 in south Madison County. Entries ranged from solar panel electrical power plants, removal Agent Orange at Navy CB Base in Gulfport, sludge removal in Jackson, to the upgrading of a Natchez landmark. These projects really showed our council's diversity in engineering disciplines. I am amazed each year at what our member firms are doing to make Mississippi a better place to live.

Our legislative session is a long one. Judy is doing a great job of tracking down those issues that affect us. She is also glad to have Stephen Clay available to assist when needed. Stephen and The Clay Firm have already proven their worth at the State Capitol. The transportation bill to increase revenue by some \$350 million is progressing but has many stumbling blocks. Please discuss with your legislative delegation about the importance of this legislation. Many feel if the increase revenue bill is not done during this session it will be dead for at least 3 more years.

The council's other initiative is to increase membership. We have several active firms in Mississippi that we need to secure as members. Firms like Civilink in Desoto County, Alan Engineering in Jackson, Anchor QEA in Ocean Springs, and others that are active in our engineering community. If you know these firms or others please ask them to join. Our membership is our strength and thus we need all of our engineering community to be part of our organization.

We appreciate what you do for ACEC and want to encourage you to get others involved. There are three things you can do to help the Mississippi Council of ACEC reach its goals:

1. Participate in our events
2. Financially support our organization
3. Get others to do the same



## Welcome New Members

**ACE Consulting and Design, LLC**  
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Ph: (601) 209-4885  
Email: [mcorkern@ace-c-d.com](mailto:mcorkern@ace-c-d.com)  
Principal(s): Michael B. Corkern, Jr., P.E.

## **THOMPSON ENGINEERING RECEIVES**

### **ENR's "BEST OF THE BEST SPECIALTY CONSTRUCTION: IP CASINO DRY DOCK"**

"Thompson's design incorporated intricate and well-conceived solutions that we could understand and build, even in the most challenging working conditions our marine construction group has ever faced," says Ray Winters, construction project manager with Yates. The project was one of 750 projects nominated for an ENR award, and only one of 20 projects receiving national honors.

Dredging the area under and around the existing casino vessel to precise subaqueous neat-line profiles in zero-visibility conditions, divers removed 33,300 cu yd of silt, clay and sand. Next, 820 linear ft of cantilevered cofferdam—a combination of pipe and sheet piles—enclosed the area around the vessel. The judges noted this project's incredible level of difficulty. "To have no recordables and no lost-time accidents—that is a team that's on top of their game, no doubt," one judge said. "They absolutely reinforced the construction industry in building foundations of this magnitude."

**To read the full article, go to:**

**<http://www.enr.com/articles/38998-best-of-the-best-specialty-construction-ip-casino-dry-dock>**

### **Cook Coggin Engineers, Inc. Announces Two Promotions**

**COOK COGGIN ENGINEERS, INC.**, CCE, a civil engineering and consulting firm in its 70th year of service to North Mississippi and Southwest Tennessee, announces the promotion of two Professional Engineering Staff to the position of Principal. CCE congratulates Matthew Estes and John Mark Weeden as its newest Principals.

**James Matthew Estes, PE**, has been employed with CCE since 2004 and has been involved with numerous projects over the past twelve (12) years. Located in CCE's Regional Corinth Office, Matthew has worked closely with North Mississippi Communities throughout his tenure with CCE. Matthew's work experience includes project management, planning design and construction oversight for municipal water, wastewater, gas, roadway and drainage projects. He has been involved with an array of planning teams over the years to assist in the development of local infrastructure and growth. Matthew is a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Mississippi and Tennessee, a Certified Floodplain Manager in the State of Mississippi, and has certification in the National Highway Institute Program for the Safety Inspection of In-service Bridges.

**John Mark Weeden, PE**, has been employed with CCE since 2007 and has been involved with numerous projects over the past nine (9) years. Located in CCE's Corporate Tupelo Office, Mark has worked intimately with North Mississippi Communities and Water Associations throughout his tenure with CCE. Mark's experience includes conceptual planning, field layout, project management, design and construction oversight for water systems, sanitary sewer systems and utility relocations throughout North Mississippi. Mark is a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Mississippi.



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# ACEC PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

By Dave Raymond

## General

- Congratulations to ACEC/Hawaii for meeting their 2016 ACEC/PAC fundraising goal, joining Indiana as the first states to cross the PAC finish line this year; and thank you to Tony Bartolomeo of Pennoni Associates (PA), Phil Houser of Alfred Benesch & Company (IL), and Ralph Christie of Merrick & Company (CO) for already contributing the maximum allowable limit (\$5,000) to ACEC/PAC this year.
  - A Minuteman Fund grant was approved for ACEC/Kansas to help them defeat state efforts to reduce contracting-out and repeal QBS.
  - EEA national judges selected 24 Grand and Honor Award winners which will be recognized along with 127 National Recognition Award winners on April 19, at the Annual Convention.
- February's most popular webinar was "2015 Year in Review – Legal Issues for Engineers," a timely overview of recent legal decisions and an update on common legal issues affecting our firms, including indemnification, third party beneficiaries and claims, code compliance, and damages.

## Government Advocacy

- Helped to secure an 11 percent increase in Airport Improvement Program funding and beneficial provisions for drone use in House committee FAA reauthorization bill.
- The U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) and the Cuban Embassy briefed ACEC's International Committee on market opportunities and programs.
- ACEC-endorsed legislation was passed out of the Senate's Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee which will limit both one-phase design-build and reverse-auctions in design-build projects in federal civil construction.
- Government cybersecurity experts from the Senate and federal agencies outlined new voluntary and regulatory initiatives underway to bolster cybersecurity for engineering services at the Environment & Energy Committee winter meeting.
- Endorsed and helped build support for a bipartisan congressional letter with 108 signatures asking the Department of Labor to revise its proposed onerous overtime pay rule.
- Representatives Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), John Duncan (R-TN), and Richard Hanna (R-NY) reintroduced ACEC-backed legislation to create a dedicated trust fund for water projects, while Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Cory Booker (D-NJ) introduced legislation to give states greater flexibility to raise funds in the bond market to address water needs.
- Briefed DPC, ACEC/Wisconsin and ACEC/Virginia on key federal legislative and regulatory priorities.

ACEC/PAC hosted an industry event organized by ACEC/PA for U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA), and co-hosted events for U.S. Reps Mike Bost (R-IL), Ryan Costello (R-PA), Elijah Cummings (D-MD), Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), Martha Roby (R-AL), Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD), John Katko (R-NY) and Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-NM).



## *Paving the way to the Winner's Circle.*

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