

ACEC

American Council of Engineering Companies
of Mississippi

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

“The Voice of Mississippi’s Engineering Companies”

ACEC OF MISSISSIPPI ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS FOR THE ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

GRAND CONCEPTOR AWARD WINNER **BURNS COOLEY DENNIS, INC.**

Project: Mississippi Civil Rights Museum
Client: MS Archives and History



Pictured from left: Randy Ahlrich, Burns Cooley Dennis, Inc.; Tommy Dunlap, Burns Cooley Dennis, Inc.; Robert Benson, MS Archives and History; Lucy Allen, MS Archives and History; Carey Hardin, President of ACEC/MS; and Craig Carter, Executive Director of ACEC/MS

GRAND AWARD WINNER **PICKERING FIRM, INC.**

Project: SR 27 Roundabout
Client: Mississippi Department of Transportation



Pictured from left: Brad Cupit, MDOT; Durwood Graham, MDOT; Kevin Magee, MDOT; Rick Ferguson, Pickering Firm, Inc.; Carey Hardin, President of ACEC/MS; and Craig Carter, Executive Director of ACEC/MS

HONOR AWARD AND PEOPLE’S CHOICE AWARD **NEEL-SCHAFFER, INC.**

Project: Greenwood Wastewater Treatment Plant
Client: City of Greenwood



Pictured from left: Craig Carter, Executive Director of ACEC/MS; Carey Hardin, President of ACEC/MS; David Bowman, Neel-Schaffer, Inc.; and Eddie Curry, City of Greenwood



Pictured from left: Charles McCoy, City of Greenwood; Johnny Jennings, City of Greenwood; David Bowman, Neel-Schaffer, Inc.; Carey Hardin, President of ACEC/MS; Eddie Curry, City of Greenwood; and Craig Carter, Executive Director of ACEC/MS

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ACEC/MS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Carey Hardin



So far 2018 has been a very busy and productive time for ACEC/MS. The Engineering Excellence Awards Banquet was outstanding, and everyone enjoyed a delightful evening. Thanks are in order to Chris Gill and Control Systems, Inc. for providing the reception entertainment and to the dinner sponsors: Environmental Technical Sales, Sunbelt Sealing and Ergon. We were honored to have Central District Transportation Commissioner Dick Hall provide his insight based on over four decades of service to the State of Mississippi.

The ACEC/MS Winter Meeting was well attended and offered excellent opportunities for continuing education—thanks to the work of the Program Committee. Speakers included Jeremy Nelson with Element

Wealth, Laura Housel with Butler Snow, John McCallum and Mike Carraway with Grantham Pool and Jamie Pope with Engineered Tax Services.

Special thanks are due to Jessica Gosa and Craig Carter for their splendid work in arranging and managing the event in seamless fashion, while juggling their duties at the ACEC/MS office and State Capitol.

Another highlight of the meeting was awarding another scholarship in memory of our colleague Jimmy Nelson. It was a pleasure to have Jimmy's wife, Francis, attend the presentation to Peyton Barnes of Yazoo City. Peyton is a senior in Civil and Environmental Engineering at Mississippi State University.

The ACEC Annual Convention and Legislative Summit will be held in Washington, D.C., April 15-18th 2018. There is a common theme in the comments of those who have attended this meeting or the annual fall meeting. Remarks generally include, "I had no idea of the magnitude or scope of the services and resources provided by ACEC." If you have never attended a national meeting, you owe it to yourself and ACEC to attend and gain a perspective that will make your membership and involvement in ACEC more meaningful and productive.

Also keep in mind the Deep South Convention to be held in Sandestin, July 26-28th. This joint meeting with Alabama, Arkansas and Louisiana is a fun, entertaining and informative event.

Finally, don't forget the resource that allows ACEC to maintain top tier influence in Washington, D.C. - the ACEC PAC. Mississippi receives more in donations to our elected representatives than is contributed, so it is especially important that we meet the annual contribution goal which is \$12,164 for 2018. This goal only requires an average contribution of \$120 per member firm and is a very small portion of the \$1,071,000 ACEC 2018 goal.



SAVE THE DATE
ACEC Deep South Convention



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Winter Meeting and EEA Banquet

Transportation Update - Commissioner Dick Hall



Transportation Commissioner Dick Hall Speaks

Central District Transportation Commissioner Dick Hall was our featured speaker at the 2018 ACEC Engineering Excellence Awards Banquet. He gave a passionate and rousing speech about the state's transportation needs, as well as transportation-related bills being considered by the state legislature. Commissioner Hall, who has served on the commission since 1999, has long advocated for the state to allocate more money for road and bridge maintenance, and new construction.



James Cleveland Nelson Scholarship

James Cleveland Nelson attended Murrah High School and graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering from Mississippi State University. He worked for Allen & Hoshall for 32 years, serving as Senior Vice President, Company Secretary, and on the Board of Directors. He was a Past Chair of the AL-MS American Waterworks Association, where he received the Fuller Award. He also was a Past President of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Mississippi and served on the ACEC/MS scholarship committee for several years. He was a charter member of the Madison-Ridgeland Rotary Club, a member of the Bulldog Club and a parishioner of the Cathedral of St. Peter the Apostle in Jackson.

Scholarship Winner Peyton Barnes



Peyton Barnes and Frances Nelson, the wife of the late Jimmy Nelson

Executive Director's Update: Craig Carter

The 2018 ACEC/MS Engineering Excellence Awards Banquet, held on March 8th at the Old Capitol Inn in Jackson, was a resounding success! Much appreciation to all who attended, participated and made the event possible. I can't thank everyone enough. After a lively reception, an informative speech by Central District Transportation Commissioner Dick Hall on the need for additional funding for our state's infrastructure system and a delicious and elegant dinner, we celebrated and honored the outstanding work of three Mississippi engineering firms for projects that demonstrated a high degree of achievement, value to society and ingenuity. The three top engineering projects in the Magnolia State are to be commended for their complexity and innovation.

Burns Cooley Dennis, Inc. (BCD) was the recipient of our most prestigious honor, the Grand Conceptor Award. The award was in recognition of BCD's outstanding geotechnical and construction materials engineering and testing services provided to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History during construction of the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum in Jackson. The project was completed under budget and within schedule prior to the grand opening on December 9, 2017, which garnered national exposure with attendance by prominent civil rights figures, as well as President Donald Trump. This once-in-lifetime project is very special for the Great State of Mississippi. One that we, as Mississippians, can all be proud of.

The Grand Award was given to Pickering, Inc. for engineering excellence in developing plans and designing the first high-speed rural roundabout in Mississippi, located at the intersection of SR 27 and Lee Avenue in Crystal Springs. The intersection had been the site of severe crashes, often resulting in fatalities. One recent crash killed many members of a family.

To resolve this problem, the Mississippi Department of Transportation elected to place a roundabout at this intersection, as they are known to reduce the frequency of crashes and to drastically reduce the damage caused in a crash. Pickering provided Phase A and B roadway plans for the roundabout. The splitter islands force motorists approaching along SR 27 to reduce their speed from the limit of 55 mph to the expected 25 mph in the circulatory lane.

Bringing home the Honor Award and the People's Choice Award was Neel-Schaffer, Inc. for its design and program construction management work on the Greenwood Wastewater Treatment Plant project that replaced an aging facility that had fallen out of compliance with federal regulations. Neel-Schaffer helped secure funding for the state-of-the art activated sludge plant with a capacity to treat 6.38 million gallons of waste per day.

The plant is proving to be a great regional solution for surrounding communities that are or will soon face the same decisions Greenwood had to make. It also allows Greenwood to seek new industries that might not have been able to locate in Greenwood, given the limitations of the old plant.

Congratulations to all our 2018 ACEC/MS Engineering Excellence Awards winners. These projects speak volumes about our talented firms and the quality of engineers across the Mississippi.

Our goal is to grow and expand the ACEC/MS Engineering Excellence Awards Banquet in 2019. Plans are underway to springboard from our past successes into an even more impressive evening. For this goal to come to fruition, we need more entrants and additional involvement from our members. Expect me to be contacting each of you in the future!



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