



**November 2017**

[Engineering Excellence Awards: Call for Sponsors](#)  
[The Year of Engagement: National Executive Discussion – Dec 4 Needed: “All Hands On Deck” To Fix Tax Bill](#)  
[3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Building Engineering Construction Conference a Success!](#)  
[PR Committee Video Project: Content Requested](#)  
[Emerging Professionals Group – Join Today!](#)  
[Women In Engineering Professional Development Series is Back!](#)  
[Andy Rauch of BKBM Receives National Distinguished Service Award!](#)  
[MNSEA Young Member Group Wins Award & Scholarship!](#)  
[ACEC Young Professional of the Year Program](#)  
[Contribute to Your Industry’s Future: Donate to the Scholarship Fund!](#)  
[ACEC/MN Basketball Tournament – February 17, 2018](#)  
[Make a Difference – Donate to the ACEC/MN PAC!](#)  
[6<sup>th</sup> Annual “Shoot for the PAC” Clay Shoot Results](#)  
[NCEES Announces Price Reduction for FE & FS Exams in 2018](#)  
[Minnesota’s Transportation Conference – Save the Date!](#)  
[Save the Date! ACEC/MN Upcoming Events](#)  
[News From Around the Membership](#)

## **Engineering Excellence Awards: Call for Sponsors**

Sponsoring the Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) is an excellent opportunity to promote your organization’s services and show support for ACEC/MN’s biggest event of the year. This year we have created the Circle of Excellence sponsorship level, which includes a complimentary table of 10, additional recognition on event signage, and special promotion via social media before and after the event.

As a sponsor, your firm will receive recognition and exposure in a variety of ways before, during, and after the event including:

- Event program and signage
- Framework Client newsletter
- Parameters member newsletter
- Assets, ACEC/MN’s Membership Directory distributed to members and several member client groups (nearly 3,000 engineers and purchasers of engineering services)
- ACEC/MN website
- Special recognition during the awards presentation

Click [here](#) for the sponsorship breakdown, which includes sponsorship levels and benefits, and to see last year’s sponsors. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor of this event, please complete the sponsorship breakdown form and return it to Kristine Cassidy by Monday, December 11, 2017.

## **The Year of Engagement: National Executive Discussion – Dec 4**

How are firms adapting to today’s technology, economic and social issues? The practice of consulting engineering is a continuously evolving process. Advances in technology, economic challenges, delivery methods, client expectations, and rethinking the workplace are just a few of the things that successful firms must be aware of. So how does your firm adapt and remain viable in today’s market place?

Our panel of national executive leaders will be discussing their outlook for the future and how they are preparing their firms to meet these challenges. Our moderator will walk the executives through the profound changes that are transforming our profession, and get their valuable opinions on what is happening in the industry.

**National Executive Panel;** AECOM, Matthew J. Crane, Dir. of Operations, Americas DCS, Midwest Region; Burns and McDonnell, Paul Fischer, President and General Manager of Burns & McDonnell's Regional Office Group; EMCS Inc., Rose Morgan, President and Owner; Hanson, "Satch" Pecori, CEO (ACEC Chairman)

**Moderated by:** Bret Weiss, President/CEO of [WSB & Associates, Inc.](#)

Monday, December 4, 2017

11:30 am – Registration & Networking with Panel

12:00 pm – Luncheon

12:30 – 2:00 pm - Program

[Register here.](#)

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## **Needed: "All Hands On Deck" To Fix Tax Bill**

ACEC continues to battle against problematic provisions in both the House and Senate tax bills. Here's the latest:

ACEC President/CEO Dave Raymond sent a letter to all U.S. Representatives On November 14 urging changes to the House bill, noting that the measure "actually increases the tax burden on engineering passthrough firms...hitting small firms the hardest." [Click here](#) to read the letter.

Although the House and Senate bills reduce tax rates for C corps, including engineering firms, to 20 percent, which ACEC supports, they fall short in extending tax relief to engineering firms organized as S corps, partnerships, and LLCs.

Both bills have been modified this week to provide some additional relief for business passthroughs, but the changes do not go far enough. "We are starting to narrow the scope of the problem," said Raymond, "but there is still a long way to go."

The Council is working closely with the House Ways and Means Committee and Senate Finance Committee, the tax-writing committees.

ACEC is raising particular concerns over the fact that the bills would also eliminate Section 199 of the code, which provides engineering firms with a 9% tax deduction for certain income. The combination of denying tax relief to various service industries and eliminating Section 199 leaves many firms with a higher tax burden compared to current law.

ACEC's Action Alert has already generated more than 4,500 member letters to House and Senate offices, calling for changes to the bill. The Council urges members to continue their outreach efforts. For a sample letter, [click here](#).

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## **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Building Engineering Construction Conference a Success!**

On October 10, ACEC/MN held its third annual Building Engineering and Construction Conference. There were over 100 in attendance for the event held at the Marriott Minneapolis West in Minnetonka. Keynote speakers included Bill Katter of United Properties, who presented on Vertical Development in the Twin Cities, and Jamie Roth, DMC manager for Mayo Clinic on the Rochester Destination Medical Center

Presentations were made in three different tracks covering business practice/risk management, codes, and project delivery methods. Representatives from the following organizations made presentations during the tracks: Dewitt Mackall Crouse & Moore, S.C., FMI, McGough Construction, Mead & Hunt, Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry, Mortenson, SagePresence, The Coleman Law Firm, and The Weidt Group. Thanks to our many presenters and committee members for making this event a continued success.

If you are interested in helping to plan the next conference, please contact Dave Oxley at [doxley@acecmn.org](mailto:doxley@acecmn.org) or 952/593-5533. **Thank you to all our 2017 Building Engineering and Construction Conference sponsors:**

**Skyscraper:**



**Stadium:**

[American Engineering Testing, Inc.](#)  
[Hallberg Engineering, Inc.](#)  
[Meyer Borgman Johnson](#)

**Tower:**

[HUB International Mountain Limited](#)  
[Orion Research Group](#)  
[RSP Architects](#)  
[NTH, Inc.](#)

**Signage/Printing:**

[ARC Document Solutions](#)

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## PR Committee: Video Project – Content Requested

ACEC/MN has embarked on a video project designed to promote the field of engineering to all ages in a fun, informal manner. ACEC/MN members in all disciplines of engineering are asked to send in short video clips highlighting your projects to use in the video. The video will be used for a variety of events and occasions, including National Engineering Week presentations to schools, in conjunction with social media marketing campaigns.

We are also looking for young engineers who would like to volunteer to be interviewed for this project. To learn more please contact Kristine Cassidy at 952/593-5533 or [kristine@acecmn.org](mailto:kristine@acecmn.org).

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## Emerging Professionals Group – Join Today!

The Emerging Professionals (EP) Group was created in 2007 to give younger professionals in the engineering industry an opportunity to learn, network, and socialize with each other. The EP group is always seeking additional members and invites you to check out the committee and its activities. The EP Group regularly meets once a month, in addition to hosting other events, including tours, social outings, and sporting events. Recent Emerging Professionals' activities include a tour of the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) on October 19, 2017, and a tour of the Cemstone, Dakota Aggregates, and Wells Concrete facilities on October 24, 2017. If you or someone you know would be interested in joining this group, please contact Stefanie Massignan at [smassignan@amengtest.com](mailto:smassignan@amengtest.com) or James Lundequam at [james.lundequam@lhb.com](mailto:james.lundequam@lhb.com).

### **Upcoming Emerging Professionals Event:**

#### **Simpson Strong-Tie Hands-On Presentation: Structural Repair with Fabric-Reinforced Cementitious Matrix**

Register today for the upcoming presentation sponsored by the ACEC/MN Emerging Professionals on Thursday, November 30 at 4:00 pm at Simpson Strong-Tie in Eagan (3711 Kennebec Drive, Suite 700). A social hour will follow the presentation at Bald Man Brewing (2020 Silver Bell Road, #25 in Eagan, MN). Please RSVP to Stefanie Massignan by Tuesday, November 28 at [smassignan@amengtest.com](mailto:smassignan@amengtest.com) or by completing this [form](#).

**National ACEC Conference - Washington DC April 15-18, 2018:** The ACEC/MN Board of Directors has set aside funds to subsidize the cost of two young professionals (\$1000 each) to attend the Spring ACEC National Conference in Washington DC. The purpose of the subsidy is to provide two individuals with the opportunity to gain exposure and experience on the national level, meet industry leaders from around the country, attend high quality educational events, and gain experience that can help move their careers forward. In addition, they can participate in visits to Capitol Hill where they will meet with congressional representatives and/or staff. ACEC National has discounted rates for EP members, as well.

Candidates must be an employee of a member firm and under 35 years of age by the first date of the ACEC spring conference (April 15, 2018). **The application deadline is February 2, 2018.** Visit [ACEC/MN's website](#) for more information and to download the application.

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## ACEC Young Professional of the Year Program

The ACEC Young Professional of the Year Award was created to promote the accomplishments of young engineers by highlighting their engineering contributions and the resulting impact on society. The campaign is designed to enhance and improve the image of engineering by recognizing young, diverse and talented engineers, thereby portraying engineering as an exciting profession open to everyone.

If you are a young engineer under the age of 35 and are interested in this program, please contact Daisy Nappier, [dnappier@acec.org](mailto:dnappier@acec.org) or follow the links below. Nominations must be submitted only through the Member Organizations, not member firms. **Deadline for 2018 Nominations is May 1, 2018.**

## Women In Engineering Professional Development Series is Back!

In case you missed it, the Women In Engineering (WIE) Series is back! The first meeting of the year was held at HGA Architects and Engineers and saw the largest turnout of the program series with over 100 attendees! Don't miss out on the next few events and your opportunity to learn and network with other women in engineering. Students are welcome to attend meetings free of charge. Check the ACEC/MN [events page](#) to register for meetings.

**New this year is a book discussion.** At the April 23 session, our presenter Sara Taylor, author of the book *Filter Shift*, will be guiding us through a discussion on overcoming unconscious bias. **Filter Shift may be purchased by WIE attendees for only \$10!** Books are available for purchase at the ACEC/MN office.

### Anonymous members had this to say about the October meeting:

"I really enjoyed the seminar today. It was one of the most applicable seminars I have been to and the speaker was fantastic. Thank you."

"Thanks for putting together a great Women in Engineering event! The speaker was a great add to the Women in Engineering lineup – her presentation hit a lot of great points!"

### Future Women In Engineering meeting dates:

#### NOVEMBER 20, 2017, MONDAY

Wendy Nemitz, Nemitz Enterprises – [Communication for Women Leaders: Mastery and Emotion](#)

**Location: Barr**

#### JANUARY 29, 2018

Kristine Kubes, Kubes Law Office, PLLC – [Women Making a Difference: Claiming your Power in Ethical Leadership](#)

**Location: Stantec**

#### MARCH 19, 2018

Panel of Women Engineers – **Work Life Balance Without Sacrificing Your Career**

**Location: AET**

#### APRIL 23, 2018

\*Discussion on Sara's book *Filter Shift* will take place at this session. Books may be purchased for only \$10 through ACEC/MN. Thank you to our co-sponsors Barr Engineering Co. and Burns & McDonnell for helping offset the cost of the books!

**Location: WSB University**

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## Andy Rauch of BKBM Receives National Distinguished Service Award!

Andy Rauch of BKBM Engineers was presented with a National Distinguished Service Award at the ACEC Fall National Conference in Orlando on October 17, 2017. This award is given on behalf of ACEC's six coalitions to recognize an individual who has contributed significantly, or sustained exemplary volunteer performance within ACEC's Coalitions.



Andy has been extremely involved with the Council of American Structural Engineers (CASE) throughout his structural engineering career, which saw him rise from a staff engineer in 1983 to a Principal of his firm today.

His contributions to the success of CASE began in 2001 when he joined the AISC Code of Standard Practice Commentary Subcommittee. During that period, he helped co-author one of the first of many CASE Guidelines he was involved in developing, entitled "A Commentary on the Code of Standard Practice for Steel Buildings and Bridges." Over the next 15 years he helped co-author several additional National Practice Guidelines.

Andy served as the CASE Chairman from 2013 to 2015, and continued to serve on the Executive Committee. He currently serves on CASE's Contracts Committee where he is working on the next generation of CASE contracts. Congratulations for your recognition, Andy!

Pictured left to right: Dave Raymond, ACEC President and CEO, Andy Rauch, BKBM, and Satch Pecori, ACEC Chairman.

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## **MNSEA Young Member Group Wins Award & Scholarship!**

Each year the National Council of Structural Engineers Associations (NCSEA) awards Young Member Scholarships and Young Member Group Chapter Awards during the [NCSEA Structural Engineering Summit](#).

### **Young Member Group Chapter Award**

This year, the Young Member Group Award was given to The **Minnesota Structural Engineers Young Member Group**.

### **Young Member Summit Scholarship**

**Eric McElrath EIT**, of Mattson Macdonald Young, Inc. was one of eight young members to earn the Young Member Summit Scholarship. The scholarship competition is open to any current member of an NCSEA Member Organization who is under the age of 36. Congratulations, Eric! For more information, please visit NCSEA's [website](#).

Congratulations to MNSEA members for their accomplishments and national recognition!

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## **Contribute to Your Industry's Future: Donate to the Scholarship Fund!**

The Scholarship Committee is collecting contributions for scholarships during the 2018-19 academic year and would like to thank firms listed below who have already donated to the fund this year. **If you would like to contribute, there is still time.** Please contact the ACEC/MN office by December 1, 2017. If your firm would like to contribute, please contact Melissa at [melissa@acecmn.org](mailto:melissa@acecmn.org) or 952/593-5533. Thank you to the following supporters:

### **Century (Gift of \$100 per index or greater)**

CNA Consulting Engineers  
Mattson Macdonald Young, Inc.  
TKDA

### **Patron (Gift of \$50 - \$99 per index)**

Barr Engineering Co.  
Larson Engineering of Minnesota  
Ulteig  
WSB & Associates, Inc.

### **Contributor**

Michaud Cooley Erickson

### **McFarlin Memorial Fund**

BKBM Engineers, Inc.

### **Scholarship Golf Tournament**

#### **Title Sponsor:**

VAA

### **Eagle Anniversary Sponsor:**

Braun Intertec Corporation (celebrating 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

### **Cameron Kruse Scholarship**

Braun Intertec Corporation

### **Don Stormoe Scholarship**

American Engineering Testing, Inc.

### **Endowment Fund Partner**

Hiway Federal Credit Union

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## **ACEC/MN Basketball Tournament – February 17, 2018**

The annual ACEC/MN basketball tournament will take place on Saturday, February 17 at Bloomington Kennedy High School. We are expecting another great turnout this year! Trophies will be awarded to the top teams and profits from the tournament go to the ACEC/MN scholarship fund. If your firm is interested in participating, please contact Justin Schmidt at [justinsc@bolton-menk.com](mailto:justinsc@bolton-menk.com). The deadline to sign up is February 5, 2018.

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## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual “Shoot for the PAC” Clay Shoot Results



The 6th annual “Shoot for the PAC” clay shoot to benefit the ACEC/MN State PAC was held on October 4, 2017. It was a beautiful day for the event and over \$1,800 was raised for the Minnesota PAC.

Hallberg Engineering was the winning team, and Keith Weinzierl, of Hallberg, won first place for individual shooters.

Pictured left to right, Hallberg team of Tom Gunderson, Trevor Gilbertson, Mike Jones, and Keith Weinzierl.

Thank you to all the teams who participated, and congratulations, Hallberg Engineering! Mark your calendar for next year’s clay shoot on Wednesday, October 3, 2018.

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## Make a Difference – Contribute to the ACEC/MN PAC!

Through the generous support of individual members of ACEC/MN, the PAC generated over \$50,000 in the last election cycle, which was used to support pro-business, pro-industry candidates. The PAC needs your continued financial support to maintain the momentum it was started. The ACEC/MN PAC is bipartisan – issues determine financial support, not political party. Contributions through the ACEC/MN PAC are essential to legislative success.

The ACEC/MN PAC is the best investment you can make for the future of your business! Please contribute today [online](#) through credit card or PayPal or send your donation to the ACECMN/PAC by mail to the ACEC/MN office.

ACEC/MN members are also encouraged to contribute to the ACEC National PAC. Members have achieved more than half of the State’s goal of \$21,000 in 2017. Thank you to the members who help support a strong and viable industry through contributing to our state and national PAC efforts.

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## NCEES Announces Price Reduction for FE & FS Exams in 2018

Beginning January 1, 2018, NCEES is reducing the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) and Fundamentals of Surveying (FS) exam registration fees by \$50 to \$175. The reduced fee will apply to registrations completed on or after this date; the new price will not be honored for registrations completed before January 1, 2018.

The FE exam is the first of two exams required for professional engineering licensure; it is designed to test students’ knowledge of concepts learned while earning an accredited bachelor’s degree in an engineering discipline. The FS exam is a similar exam designed for surveying licensure candidates. These exams are currently taken by nearly 47,000 examinees throughout the United States and 15 foreign locations annually. They are computer-based exams administered throughout the year at Pearson VUE test centers.

For more information on the FE and FS exams, visit [ncees.org/cbt](http://ncees.org/cbt).

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## Minnesota’s Transportation Conference – Save the Date!

Don’t forget to mark your calendars now for next year’s event, featuring Anthony Foxx, former US DOT Secretary. The 2018 Minnesota’s Transportation Conference will be held February 27–March 1, 2018, at the Verizon Wireless Center in Mankato.

Visit the [event website](#) for more information.

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## Save the Date! Upcoming ACEC/MN Events

- November 20, 2017 – [Women In Engineering: Communication for Women Leaders](#)

- December 4, 2017 – [The Year of Engagement: National Executive Discussion](#)
- December 13, 2017 – [Resilient Communities Project](#)
- December 15, 2017 – [Bypass bridging with cost justification: An Alternative to Phased Construction](#)
- January 26, 2018 – [Engineering Excellence Awards Banquet](#)
- January 29, 2018 – [Women Making a Difference: Claiming Your Power in Ethical Leadership](#)

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## News From the Membership

**Braun Intertec Corporation** is pleased to announce the hire of Senior Corporate Counsel, **Jennifer Clayson Kraus**, who will be joining the executive leadership team.

**BKBM Engineers** moved its offices to 6120 Earle Brown Drive, Suite 700 in Brooklyn Center and is also celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. Congratulations, BKBM!

**Clark Engineering** is excited to announce the hire of **Dr. Yanling Leng, PE**, a Senior Project Engineer in its Sioux Falls, SD office.

**Inspec** has opened a branch in Rochester to better serve its existing client base in southern Minnesota.

**KLJ** recently hired **Eric Michel** as the Vice President of the Energy and Natural Resources Division.

Congratulations to newly named Class B Stockholder, **Mark Maves, PE** of **Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc.** (SEH). SEH's newly named Company Associates are: **Brian Bergstrom, AIA, LEED-AP, CDT**, a senior architect; **Karen Cavett, PE**, central region practice center leader for wastewater; **Heather Kienitz, PE**, leads multimodal traffic engineering projects for area plans, preliminary designs and final designs; and **Shawn McMahan, PE**, project manager and planner. SEH also welcomes the following new employees to our team: **Erol Gudul**, graduate engineer joins the water resources team; **Joshua Breid** and **Carl Duebner**, both graduate engineers in our highway design team.

**Solution Blue, Inc.** welcomes Mauren Frisell to its Environmental team.

**TKDA** announced the promotion of **Tom Stoneburner, PE, LEED AP**, to president and CEO of TKDA. Also announced are the following additions across divisions: **Eric Broostin** joined the Architecture Division as an architectural specialist; **Matthew Catton** and **Amanda France, PE** joined the Rail Division; **Addie Farr** joined the Facilities Division's mechanical group; **Samuel Helgeson, EIT**, joined the Facilities Division's structural group; **Adam Kusterman** joined the Facilities Engineering Division's electrical group as a technician; and **Todd Udenberg, PE**, has joined the mechanical group in the Facilities Division.

**Ulteig** announced that **Jason Hoskins PE**, has assumed the newly-created position of Vice President, Innovation, Development and Quality.

**VAA** is happy to share the news that the firm expanded its Plymouth office and recently opened a branch office in Sioux Falls, SD.

**WSB & Associates, Inc.** is pleased to welcome **Alyson Fauske** as the newest member of its Municipal team.

### In Memoriam

Bob McFarlin passed away on September 24, 2017 at the age of 87. He was President of ACEC/MN (1980-1981) and the recipient of the Tom Roche Award, ACEC/MN highest award. He spent many years at BKBM Engineers (then Bakke Kopp Ballou and McFarlin).

Bob served as a State Representative in the Minnesota Legislature from 1967-70 and 1973-74. He and his wife A.J. were regular fixtures at ACEC/MN activities for decades. He will be missed. The full obituary can be found [here](#).

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If you have an announcement you'd like to see included in the next Parameters newsletter, please contact: **Kristine Cassidy**, [Kristine@acecmn.org](mailto:Kristine@acecmn.org) P: 952-593-533 F: 952-593-5552