



## ACEC NEW YORK TO HOST 2024 FALL CONFERENCE

*New York State's Top Engineering Professionals to Discuss Latest Trends and Innovations*

*Featuring Showcase with Disadvantaged Minority and Women-Owned Engineering Firms (DWMBE) to Encourage New Partnerships and Business Opportunities*

**COOPERSTOWN, NEW YORK (September 12, 2024)** – The American Council of Engineering Companies of New York (ACEC New York) today announced the opening of its 2024 Fall Conference, where hundreds of New York State's top engineering professionals, industry stakeholders and thought leaders meet to discuss the latest trends, innovations and challenges facing the industry. As the year's inaugural conference for nearly 300 member firms of ACEC New York, the Fall Conference will focus on the importance of facilitating partnerships with Disadvantaged Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises (DWMBE), as well as insightful discussions on the future of the state's capital projects, the impact of the design-build process and the challenges associated with lot-line construction in dense urban settings. Ken Meifert, Vice President of Sponsorship and Development of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, and Dr. Don Levy of the Siena College Research Institute, will deliver the keynote addresses at the three-day event.

"New York's engineers are critical to improving the built and natural environment around us, and our Fall Conference enables industry leaders to come together with government partners and stakeholders to share ideas that can move our industry, state and country forward," **said John Evers, President and CEO of ACEC New York.** "From subway tunnels to skyscrapers, the work of our members helps to generate a tremendous amount of economic activity, spur job creation and improve the quality of life for millions of people across the United States, and that's why it's imperative to address the most important issues facing our industry and determine a path toward greater success."

“As our environment continues to evolve on a local, national and global scale, the role of the engineer has never been more important,” said **Keith Harlock, P.E., of WSP USA, Chair of the ACEC New York Board of Directors**. “Through innovative design, planning and research, our members are focused on protecting the safety of our infrastructure and enhancing the quality of life in our communities, and our Fall Conference is designed to foster a dialogue among the industry’s top engineers that leads to a world that is safer, more sustainable and more productive than ever before.”

At The Otesaga Resort Hotel, members of ACEC New York will participate in the organization’s first DWMBE showcase, connecting the industry’s largest engineering firms with smaller DWMBE businesses in order to facilitate new partnerships and business opportunities. Members also will be able to participate in five professional development sessions and hear from some of the Empire State’s leading authorities on infrastructure development including New York State Department of Transportation Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez, New York State Office of General Services Commissioner Jeanette Moy, New York State Dormitory Authority President and CEO Robert Rodriguez and Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Deputy Chief Engineer Amanda Rogers, PE, CCM, LEED AP. Empire State Development’s Executive Vice President of the Division of Minority & Women’s Business Development Jason Myles Clark also will deliver a keynote address on creating new opportunities with Disadvantaged Minority and Women-Owned businesses throughout the state.

During the three-day conference, presentations and panel discussions include:

- **MTA C&D, East Bound Re-Route Project.** Presentation on the Eastbound Reroute Project, which enhances the efficiency of Metro-North Railroad, Long Island Rail Road, and Amtrak by re-routing critical tracks along the Northeast corridor. Presented by Xiaohu Fan, P.E., Senior Project Manager, Gannett Fleming.
- **Successes and Lessons Learned from Member Firms.** This panel will feature member firms representing both DMWBE and non-DMWBE firms. DMWBE firms will be asked to share experiences on how to garner work from public clients and discuss the challenges involved. Moderated by Jared M. Green, P.E., D.GE, F.ASCE, Principal/Chief Diversity Officer of Langan Engineering, and panelists include:

- Christina Minkler, P.E., Vice President of JMT of New York
  - Carla Artis, ENV SP, MCA, Director, Supplier Diversity/Compliance, Stantec
  - J. Evans Doleyres, P.E., President of JED Engineering & Land Surveying
  - Phillip M. Galbo, P.E., F.ASCE, Vice President, Watts Architects & Engineers
- **Design-Build Panel Discussion.** This panel will discuss challenges related to preliminary engineering for design-build, the change order management process, conflicts of interest between EIS/Preliminary Engineering/PMC/QA in Construction and design-build. Moderated by Chris Sklavounakis, P.E., VP/Northeast Alternative Delivery Lead of HDR and Xiaohu Fan, P.E., Senior Project Manager of Gannett Fleming and panelists include:
    - Stephanie Winkelhake, P.E., Chief Engineer, New York State Department of Transportation
    - Dana Hecht, PMP, Senior Vice President, Business Enterprise & Industry Relations of MTA Construction & Development
    - Thomas Foley P.E., CCM, ENV SP, Commissioner of NYC Department of Design and Construction
    - Amanda Rogers, P.E., CCM, LEED AP, Deputy Chief Engineer of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
- **Olcott Harbor Breakwater.** Efforts to construct a breakwater to protect and improve conditions within Olcott Harbor have been ongoing for nearly 40 years. The Lake Ontario Resiliency and Economic Development Initiative (REDI) provided the needed funding for the \$14M project, which began in 2019. The presentation will cover some of the design and construction challenges that were encountered, including the development of design alternatives, weak and varying soil conditions, stone sourcing and general constructability. Presented by John Hubert, P.E., Senior Vice President, Project Management of WSP USA.
- **Lot Line Construction.** This session will discuss the risks inherent in the design and construction of property line building structures, offer practical solutions to mitigate same and discuss how A&Es can protect themselves professionally prior to, during, and after construction. Presented by Kriton Pantelidis, JD, Vice

President, Professional Services of Risk Strategies Company and Benjamin M. Cornelius, P.E., C.E., S.E., P.Eng., Partner of LERA Consulting Structural Engineers.

**About ACEC New York:**

ACEC New York is a proactive coalition of nearly 300 firms representing the leading engineering firms in the United States, including every discipline of engineering related to the built environment—civil, structural, mechanical, electrical, environmental, geotechnical—and affiliated companies. With more than 33,000 employees represented by our member firms, our shared goals are to further the business interests of our membership, enhance the quality and safety of the environment we live and work in, and help ensure the vitality of our communities. For more information, visit [www.acecnyc.org](http://www.acecnyc.org).

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