



American Council of Engineering Companies of New York

ACEC New York Presents 59th Annual Engineering Excellence Awards

AKRF/KSE Joint Venture

Wins Top Award for East Side Coastal Resiliency

NEW YORK, April 21, 2026 – On Saturday, April 18, 790 consulting engineers and clients attended the American Council of Engineering Companies of New York’s (ACEC New York) 59th annual Engineering Excellence Awards Gala at the New York Hilton Midtown. Awards were presented to 131 projects in the following categories: studies, research, and consulting services; building/technology systems; structural systems; surveying and mapping technology; environmental; waste and storm water; water resources; transportation; energy; industrial and manufacturing processes and facilities; small projects; and special projects.

“Behind every bridge, building system, roadway, utility, and element of critical infrastructure is an engineer whose work is often unrecognized. The Engineering Excellence Awards change that,” said Nancy Clark, PE, Chair of ACEC New York. “By shining a light on these extraordinary projects, we honor the immense value engineers bring to society and inspire the next generation of problem-solvers to follow in their footsteps.”

For the first time, ACEC New York presented two Lifetime Achievement Awards to two honorees. This award recognizes individuals whose careers have been defined by exceptional leadership, integrity, and dedication to advancing New York’s built environment. The first Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Tom Foley, PE, for his decades of service, concluding in his leadership as Commissioner of the New York City Department of Design and Construction. The second award was presented to Joseph Seebode, Former Deputy District Engineer and Chief of Programs and Project Management, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, for his lasting impact on infrastructure, environmental stewardship, and the engineering community in New York and beyond.

ACEC New York recognized two deserving Awards of Merit winners: New York City Public Housing Preservation Trust and New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for their commitment to improving the infrastructure and wellbeing of New York through their policies and programs. Proceeds from the event benefited the ACEC New York Scholarship Fund, formally the New York Consulting Engineering Scholarship and Educational Fund. Two \$10,000 scholarships were announced that evening in honor of the two 2026 Awards of Merit honorees.

Diamond Awards were presented live to the 27 most exceptional projects, both within New York State and worldwide. Congressman Joe Morelle and Congressman Mike Lawler acted as the masters of ceremony for the Diamond Award presentations.

The Empire Award, recognizing the top-rated project designed and built entirely within New York State, was presented that evening to AKRF/KSE Joint Venture for their work on East Side Coastal Resiliency (ESCR). The joint venture led preliminary and final engineering of this landmark project for the New York City Department of Design and Construction, delivering a critical coastal protection system woven into the physical, social, and economic fabric of Lower Manhattan.

ESCR provides a 2.4-mile-long coastal flood protection system interwoven with existing parks and cityscapes in the borough's most vulnerable neighborhoods. The project involved complete reconstruction of East River Park, redesign of three pedestrian bridges, and creation of a new 7,000-foot-long shared-use path. Critically, AKRF and KSE (KS Engineers) engineered the flood protection walls so they can be raised by an additional 2 feet in the future with minimal disruption to the existing system. The built-in adaptability that maximizes the project's long-term value in the face of continued climate change and sea level rise.

Projects that received Diamond Awards that evening were:

Studies, Research and Consulting Engineering Services

Arcadis for Climate Risk Assessment to Drive Capital Planning

NV5 for Red Hook Coastal Resiliency Study

Shenoy Engineering for Butler Houses Decarbonization: A Roadmap for All-Electric Housing

Velocity Architecture & Engineering Group / A Company of BRAVO Group for PS 250K - The George H. Lindsay School - Securing our Future: A Bold Leap to Carbon Reduction

Building/Technology Systems

AECOM for Suffolk Community College Renewable Energy/STEM Center

CSA Group NY Architects & Engineers for NYCHA Eastchester and Jackson Houses Design Build - Geothermal DHW and Heating Upgrade

IMEG for Samara Community School - PS 320X

Jaros, Baum & Bolles for Disney NYC Headquarters at 7 Hudson Square

M-E Engineers for National Medal of Honor Museum

Structural Systems

C&S Engineers, Inc. for Shared Services Facility

CHI Consulting Engineers for Pulaski Skyway Contract 8B - Truss Bearing and Rocker Bent Replacement

Greenman-Pedersen for Brooklyn Bridge Rehabilitation

LERA Consulting Structural Engineers for Merdeka 118

Parsons/AECOM Joint Venture for The Backbone of Brooklyn - Innovative Interim Repairs on the BQE

STV for Grand Central Terminal Passenger Tunnel

Waste and Storm Water

Mott MacDonald for Thames Tideway - London SuperSewer

Water Resources

AKRF/KS Engineers Joint Venture for East Side Coastal Resiliency

Transportation

AECOM for Hall Interlocking Expansion, Design Build

Jacobs for Port Liberty Bayonne Berth 3 Wharf Extension

RMJV, GFT and Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers Joint Venture for Harold Interlocking, Unlocked - Delivering Flow and Capacity in the Nation's Busiest Rail Junction

Tectonic Engineering Consultants, Geologists & Land Surveyor for Hall Interlocking: Bridging the Future of LIRR's Jamaica Station

Special Projects

Dewberry for MADE Bush Terminal Campus

H&H for Transforming the Bronx: The Hunts Point Interstate Access Improvement Project

H2M architects + engineers for From Drainage to Diamonds: Whelan Field and Pine Stream Extension

HDR for Central Business District Tolling Program

HNTB New York Engineering, Architecture and Landscape Architecture for John F. Kennedy

Redevelopment - Accelerated and Innovative Delivery of Central Substation 2

WSP USA for Shirley Chisholm Recreation Center

About ACEC New York:

ACEC New York is a proactive coalition of 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.acecny.org.

Media Contacts:

Jen Waterbury

ACEC New York

518.452.8611

jennifer@acecny.org

Tony Sclafani

Mercury

646.354.3087

tony.sclafani@omc.com