INTRODUCTION

Two years ago, ACEC Indiana initiated its current four-year Strategic Plan. Now at the half-way point in the Plan, the full ACEC Indiana membership was surveyed to understand advancements the organization achieved and areas for continued growth.

The survey questions focused on ACEC Indiana’s five strategic plan objectives including, advocacy, business practices, develop and diversify leadership, networking and purposeful abandonment.

Findings

• The top priorities identified by members remained steady since 2016: advocacy, transportation infrastructure funding and a close tie of interaction opportunities with major clients (INDOT, City of Indianapolis, and Citizens Energy Group) and Qualifications Based Selection promotion.
• Member firms are satisfied with the services provided to firms. Several members mentioned increased advocacy for water-related infrastructure funding, which ACEC Indiana helped secure major success in the 2019 legislative session.
• 98 percent of responders would recommend ACEC Indiana to other consulting engineering firms.

Moving forward, the ACEC Indiana Board of Directors will use all the information from the survey results as a tool to assist making informed decisions and allocating resources in the best way to help maximize your firm’s ROI from membership.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Five Strategic Objectives comprise the Strategic Plan:

1. Elevate our voice as THE legislative advocate for the promotion and protection of the business interests of engineering companies of Indiana.
2. Serve Indiana engineering companies as their primary resource on business practices.
3. Develop and diversify Leadership opportunities throughout ACEC Indiana.
4. Enhance relationship-building among members.
5. Purposeful Abandonment (use limited resources wisely).
LEGISLATIVE ACTION

STATE

After ACEC Indiana’s critical role to help pass the monumental state transportation funding legislation, which is projected to double the program to well over $1B by 2021, we launched right into two new major legislative initiatives for the 2019 session: professional liability insurance reform and water-related infrastructure planning and funding (drinking, waste and storm water).

On top of those pro-active goals, out of the approximately 900 bills introduced, there were several that could have been adverse to the ACEC Indiana membership and Professional Engineers, but ACEC staff and lobbyists succeeded in either amending them into acceptable form or worked to keep them from advancing.

BUSINESS AND LICENSING

Senate Enrolled Act 230 Unlawful Indemnity Agreements PASSED! Goes into effect July 1. Specifies that “sole negligence” for purposes of liability under a construction or design contract does not include: (1) vicarious liability; (2) imputed negligence; or (3) assumption of a non-delegable duty. Specifies that provisions in certain professional services contracts (Engineers, Architects, Land Surveyors) requiring indemnification or defense of a promisee for liability are void. It applies to contracts going forward, not retroactive.

With its passage, the General Assembly has addressed “sole” negligence for the design and construction industry and fixed the uninsurable “duty to defend” contractual requirements for design professionals when they have done nothing wrong and are not negligent. Correcting the contractual “duty to defend” was an ACEC Indiana initiated provision, along with AIA Indiana, and a top priority for passage. Special thanks go to Senators Messmer, Doriot and Tallian, as well as Representatives Torr, Lehman, and Delaney for their leadership on passage of SEA 230!

VERTICAL

HEA 1214 Construction Manager as Constructor PASSED! It eliminated the expiration of the original law for some public agencies, and in doing so, extended the use of CMc for all public agencies, plus it added libraries and the health & hospital corporation. Authored by Rep. Jerry Torr.

TRANSPORTATION

HEA 1001 State Budget: Funds received from the amendment to the Toll Road Concession that was signed last year were contained in the state budget, HEA 1001.

There is a new Toll Road Lease Amendment Proceeds Fund established that receives proceeds from last year’s $1B amendment. The budget appropriates $239,400,000 for FY19, $218,100,000 in FY20 and $220,800,000 in FY21, which matches the dollar amounts INDOT indicated they would need in their budget presentation to the Senate. Additional funds will be appropriated in the next budget cycle. These dollars will fund INDOT projects in the Toll Road Counties State Highway Program, which is only for construction and repair, including design and right of way acquisition, of state highways that have a direct or indirect nexus with the Indiana Toll Road in the seven counties located along the Toll Road. INDOT indicated that they had projects planned in these seven counties, which this money will fund.

HEA 1001 also established the Next Level Connections Fund. This fund receives the dollars that had been planned in the Toll Road counties (but were switched out with the lease proceeds described above) and is established to provide trail grants (up to $90M), incentivize nonstop flights from Indiana airports (up to $20M), and accomplish INDOT’s transportation plan (which will likely be I-69 Section 6 based on previous comments by the Governor). INDOT may transfer up to $100M to the rural broadband fund from this fund for grants to rural areas. INDOT may only award grants for trails, flights or broadband through June 30, 2024. HEA 1001 also directed the budget agency to transfer $185M, but up to $205M, to the northern Indiana commuter rail account (a new account within the Next Level Connections Fund) for the NICTD South Shore expansion projects. These funds may only be used for construction of a rail project. If NICTD determines the money is no longer needed, it goes back to the Next Level Connections Fund.
LEGISLATIVE ACTION CONT.

WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

SEA 4 Water and Wastewater Utilities and Runoff & HEA 1406 Water Infrastructure Assistance Fund and Program PASSED!

After passage of the highway and local road funding package in 2017, ACEC Indiana’s next top priority was Water-related infrastructure planning and additional funding to help close the gap for these essential capital projects. Working with legislative “champions” Sen. Ed Charbonneau (R-Valparaiso) and Rep. Ed Soliday (R-Valparaiso), significant and lasting policy has passed the 2019 Indiana General Assembly!

The legislative package is contained in two new laws (SEA 4 and HEA 1406) and the budget (HEA 1001). Taken as a whole, the laws establish statewide policy and procedures to improve and manage drinking and wastewater systems, as well as take a deeper dive into storm water management issues.

Highlights of the legislative package include:

- Appointment of Indiana Finance Authority (IFA) to coordinate executive branch activities of the state’s water programs
- Additional $20M in state funding in FY 2021 to IFA to be distributed through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) program (contained in State Budget, HEA 1001)
- Demonstrated cooperation among utilities that apply to IFA for funding
- Annual “water loss audits” required by utilities and report findings to IFA, with independent verification every other year
- Asset Management Plans required to obtain funding from IFA, and must be maintained by utility
- Project prioritization system and project priority list must be established by IFA for funded projects
- 40 percent of funding from certain sources of revenue set aside for small utilities serving less than 3,200 customers
- Storm Water Management Task Force to meet after this session ends and make recommendations for the 2020 Indiana General Assembly

IFA will begin to implement policy and procedures to carry out the legislative directives, and ACEC Indiana has offered to be of assistance. Both of the bills carried by Sen. Charbonneau (SEA 4) and Rep. Soliday (HEA 1406) had unanimous support, so be sure to thank your state legislators for their support!

ACEC was also successful in stopping the effort to mandate the “consideration” of PVC/plastic pipe materials in local water infrastructure specifications, thereby retaining the expertise of the P.E., working with their client, to select the most appropriate materials to design infrastructure systems on a “life cycle” basis, which is in the best interest of the tax payer/rate payer.

PROFESSIONAL

Although several bills were introduced to eliminate or deregulate professions, including Professional Engineers, none advanced due to the opposition efforts of ACEC Indiana and other allied organizations. On the flip side, several bills passed that rely on the expertise of a P.E. or show concern for “life safety” concerns related to public spaces:

HEA 1258 Department of Homeland Security now requires consultation/review with a P.E. for permits on regulated boiler and pressure vessels

HEA 1266 Sediment & Erosion Control in Construction significantly improved from introduced version with help of ACEC Indiana expertise, to align with upcoming General Permits

HEA 1269 retains diversity to the P.E. Licensure Board and restores the Fire Prevention & Building Safety Commission in the variance review/approval process

HEA 1486 New Sewage Treatment & Disposal Technology requires an ACEC Indiana member to serve on a new technical review panel to help Indiana Department of Health

SEA 485 Elevator Safety adds “codes” that the Fire Prevention & Building Safety must adopt (life safety issue)

SEA 575 Hospital Licensure Rules mandate the use the most current publication (life safety issue)

Now is the time for every member of ACEC Indiana to establish or strengthen your relationship with your State Senator and State Representative so that you can help educate them about the value and expertise of professional consulting engineers. You can meet them for coffee, take them to lunch, or invite them to your office to see your operations and meet your staff. You can discuss any of the subjects addressed above since these topics are fresh to the legislators. You can find your legislator online to contact them. It won’t be too long before interim study committees begin and bills start to get drafted for the 2020 session, so don’t delay.
LEGISLATIVE ACTION CONT.

FEDERAL

Every year, ACEC Indiana sends a strong delegation to the National ACEC Convention in Washington, D.C. to lobby members of Congress on infrastructure and regulatory issues.

Our Message:

America’s engineering firms are ready to build a 21st century America, but their efforts require the support of Congress. That means:

- Long-term, rational and sustainable infrastructure funding that addresses revenues and the long-term solvency of the Highway Trust Fund
- Tax policies that encourage investment in sustainable construction
- Regulations that emphasize resilient design techniques that adapt to a changing climate and increasingly severe storms and disasters
- A workforce agenda that prioritizes STEM education and immigration policies that allow us to keep the best and the brightest
- Contracting and procurement rules that emphasize project success
- Increased investments in the nation’s airports, ports and waterways

THANK YOU TO OUR 2018-19 BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP & VISION!

Shelby A. Swango, WSP- President
Richard D. Olson, Earth Exploration- VP/Treasurer
Michael A. Rowe, United Consulting- Secretary
William L. Bailey, Crawford, Murphy & Tilly
Andrew A. Bender, VS Engineering
Cash E. Canfield, American Structurepoint
Daniel R. Cutshaw, ms consultants
Christopher B. Gale, HNTB

Trent E. Newport, CrossRoad Engineers
Michael J. Obergfell, USI Consultants
Hans J. Peterson, Clark Dietz, Inc.
Gary L. Pohl, Butler, Fairman & Seufert, Inc.
Jon D. Stolz, Christopher B. Burke Engineering
Scott Sutton, Somerset CPAs, P.C.
John D. Taylor, CE Solutions
Gregory P. Cafouros, Kroger, Gardis & Regas
INDOT, ICI and ACEC came together in November 2018 to identify opportunities to collectively improve how we serve the citizens of Indiana. Focus centered on:

**INDOT/ ACEC/ ICI- 360° STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT**

- Process Issues
- Contracts & Policy
- Inconsistencies
- Subjectivity
- Decision-making
- Communications
- Performance Management
- Dispute Resolution

Initial discussions clearly highlighted the importance of context; INDOT and its partners are in a very dynamic environment:
1. Funding Unlocked by HB 1002: Up to $1.2 B in new dollars beginning in 2024
2. Shift to Preservation Projects
3. Tight Labor Markets
4. Advancements in Innovation and Technology (Autonomous/ Connected/ Electric Vehicles)

2019-20 will involve working together on short-mid and long-range improvements for the whole industry.

**STATE HIGHWAY AND LOCAL ROAD FUNDING**

Results from the 2019 Legislative Session saw core highway funds preserved in state budget and truck tolls to fund trains. The Build Indiana Council (BIC), of which ACEC Indiana is a member, goal was to preserve and keep on track the long-term, dedicated and stable highway funding achieved two years ago with the passage of HEA 1002-2017. But, some diversions occurred, including a shift of $205M from the re-negotiation of the Toll Road lease for the expansion of NICTD's passenger rail system in northwest Indiana in cooperation with the Administration. BIC was pleased that our state elected leaders almost entirely preserved the highway funding enacted in 2017 but we will need to strongly and continually advocate for and be vigilant about protecting these funds.

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

ACEC Indiana recognized the need to increase the pipeline of engineers and other professional staff that support the consulting engineering community. In the fall of 2018, the Board of Directors added this initiative to the current Strategic Plan and established a Workforce Development Committee. This Committee continues to develop recommendations to the Board for proactive approaches towards creating a solution for the workforce demand within ACEC Indiana member firms.

In addition, ACEC Indiana has partnered with several other associations in the industry to form an effort for the horizontal industry called Work IN Roads. This is a collaborative initiative between industry, federal, state and local agencies and other organizations to advocate, educate and provide resources for heavy highway and utility construction workforce development efforts. Check out more at: workinroads.org
ACEC NATIONAL PAC

ACEC Indiana was once again the first to reach, and exceed, its ACEC National PAC goal by more than 135 percent, raising more than $26,000 for our federal PAC that supports candidates for U.S. Congress. The ACEC National PAC is the largest federal PAC in the design industry, raising $1M annually.


Members who would still like to lend support can participate in the Fall Sweepstakes contest. Contact Colleen Merkel at cmerkel@acecindiana.org to make a contribution.

ACEC/National PAC

ACEC INDIANA STATE PAC

ACEC Indiana received more than $34,000 in contributions to the State PAC in 2018-19 which will be distributed to select candidates for the Indiana House and Senate who support issues of common interest. It does not contribute to candidates seeking statewide office (i.e. Governor) or local offices.

Because all ACEC Indiana PAC funds are only used within Indiana, corporate contributions are accepted. Individuals may contribute to the ACEC Indiana PAC, too. State law imposes no limits on personal contributions.

Visit ACEC Indiana’s website under the “Advocacy” tab and then “State and National PAC” to find out how you can contribute personally online!
MEMBERSHIP

ACEC Indiana experienced another successful year of membership retention and recruitment. Efforts were made to boost our presence on social media to increase ACEC Indiana’s messaging on important issues including: membership, industry updates and more. ACEC Indiana’s membership strength now stands at 106 Regular member firms and 34 associate members. We welcomed the following firms as new members in 2018-19:

APEX Benefits Group, Inc.
D2 Land and Water Resources
Effective Computer Solutions, LLC.
HDR, Inc.
HW Lochner, Inc.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

ACEC Indiana hosted a plethora of opportunities to network and enhance business practices for member firms including:

Annual Recognition Luncheon
Diversity Networking Fair
Diversity Open House
Emerging Professionals: Roundtable & Influential Communicator Workshop
Engineering Excellence Awards
Engineering Leadership Series & Graduate Reunion
Environmental Business & Funding Sources Conference
HR, Finance, IT, Project Management & Legal Forums
INDOT/ ACEC/ ICI 360° Strategic Engagement
Legislative Luncheon
National Engineers Week Student Outreach
Northern and Southern Indiana Roundtables
Principals & Owners Winter & Summer Summit
RPR Training with Indy DPW
Scholarship Golf Outing

ANNUAL SALARY AND BENEFITS SURVEY RESULTS

Each year, ACEC Indiana surveys member firms on salary information for engineering and other staff positions as well as benefit packages. 32 firms responded to the survey, which was an increase from 2018 participation. With the strong economy and robust transportation funding, it was no surprise that overall, salaries continue to trend up with hundreds of P.E.’s and new engineering graduate positions reportedly sought. The results include Indiana employment size, revenue by firm size and fields of engineering practice, plus salary and total compensation for approximately 70 engineering and other professional positions common in the industry.

Participating firms received the survey results for free, and non-participating member firms are able to purchase the findings for $500 and $1000 for non-member firms. To purchase survey results, visit ACEC Indiana’s website at: acecindiana.org and check under the “Resources” tab.
COMMITTEE UPDATES

Maintaining a high-level presence with state and local officials continues to be essential to advocating the interests and concerns of Professional Consulting Engineers. ACEC Indiana’s member-led liaison committees continued to meet with key state and local government agencies, in addition to internal committees, taking action to enhance the value of membership. This is a summary of ACEC Indiana’s accomplishments on behalf of all member-firms.

CITIZENS ENERGY GROUP

In 2011, the ACEC/Citizens Energy Group Committee was formed during the transition of the Indianapolis Wastewater and Water Utility to Citizens. At that time, there were several issues that were of concern or unknown to our member firms. As this Committee has matured, many of the items have been addressed. In addition, the number of member firms doing business with Citizens, has greatly reduced. Therefore, the ACEC Board has made a decision to suspend this Committee for 2019-2020. Instead a smaller high-level group of ACEC members/staff and Citizens will meet to discuss legislation issues affecting our industries. Also, we will have open conversations with Citizens on areas that ACEC members can assist from time to time. We hope to continue to engage with Citizens and bring value to Citizens and our member firms.

Committee Chair: David Mohler, American Structurepoint

DIVERSITY

Building on its goal of diverse participation in engineering, the Diversity Committee developed a new focus on a diverse engineering workplace. We aim to meet ACEC’s third strategic plan point: Develop and diversify leadership opportunities throughout ACEC Indiana. In collaboration with the Workforce Development task force, Diversity will develop new avenues to engage employees from diverse backgrounds to broaden expertise and encourage new viewpoints.

Diversity has two significant public outreach events each year. The fall Networking Event followed our goal to promote workforce development and was headlined by Blair Milo, Indiana Secretary for Career Connections and Talent. The spring Diversity Panel focused on diversity in the workplace and building global partners, bringing together experts with global reach and experience.

INDOT and KYTC implemented a new DBE Exchange Program, and our subcommittee worked with both agencies through a series of interviews to understand the program, then support and promote its use. As this program evolves – with others like the Indianapolis disparity study and IAA outreach – the Committee is involved to promote inclusion and participation.

Committee Chair: Seth Schickle, HNTB

EDUCATION

National Engineer’s Week was a huge success, with more than 90 volunteers giving presentations at 26 schools. This included a number of schools outside of the greater Indianapolis area. New this year, Engineer’s Week kick-off events were held in three places: Indianapolis, Evansville, and South Bend.

In addition to reaching middle and high school students with the National Engineer’s Week presentations, seven college engineering students were awarded $17,500 in scholarships from ACEC Indiana. The scholarship funds are raised through the support provided to the Annual Golf Outing.

Lastly, the committee refreshed and updated the online Indiana Rules and Statutes and Ethics courses.

Committee Chair: Jerry Bollinger, Crawford, Murphy & Tilly

ENVIRONMENTAL BUSINESS

ACEC continued to strengthen its relationship with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and Indiana Finance Authority (IFA)/State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF), providing feedback for clarification on new regulations and permit language. Highlights include:

• Discussing IDEM’s implementation of SEA 362, Regulation of water and wastewater systems (effective July 2018).
• Reviewing and providing feedback on the general permit language for the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) and the General Permit for Temporary Discharges.
• Informing IDEM of areas of interest for neighboring states such as wet-weather blending and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).
• Planning for the 2019 Environmental Business and Funding Sources Conference.

Committee Chair: Shannon Killion, GAI Consultants
FUNDING SOURCES

ACEC is proud to work with funding agencies across the state to ensure that communities can continue to improve their water infrastructure. The funding sources committee continues to meet with Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA), Indiana Finance Authority (IFA) / State Revolving Fund (SRF), Indiana Brownfields Program and Technical Assistance for Brownfields (TAB), US Department of Agriculture (USDA) / Rural Development (RD) and IU Public Policy Institute quarterly.

ACEC continues to act as a resource for the Legislative Water Infrastructure Task Force which will focus for storm water funding for the 2020 General Assembly.

The Environmental Business and Funding Sources Conference was well attended with all of the funding agencies represented. Austill Stuart, from the Reason Foundation, highlighted how well the funding agencies in Indiana work together with the engineers and communities to invest in water infrastructure compared to other states.

Committee Chair: Chris Kaufman, Beam, Longest and Neff

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

ACEC Indiana experienced another successful year during the ‘long’ session of the 2019 Indiana General Assembly. We celebrate achieving our top two priorities (SEA 230) fixing contractual “duty to defend” a client when the Professional Engineer has done nothing wrong, and there is no claim of negligence; and (SEA 4, HEA 1406) comprehensive policy and additional funding to support water-related infrastructure for the state. In addition to these monumental victories we also saw HEA 1214 Construction Manager as Constructor (CMc) pass; extending the use of CMc for all public agencies, plus it added libraries and the health and hospital corporations.

Although several bills were introduced to eliminate or deregulate Professional Engineers, all were stopped due to the opposition efforts of ACEC Indiana and our allies. In contrast we aided in the passage of several bills (HEA 1258, HEA 1266, HEA 1269, HEA 1486, SEA 485, SEA 575) that rely on the expertise of a P.E. or show concern for “life safety” related to public spaces.

Success would not have been possible without the efforts of our members who contacted their legislators on the key issues supported or opposed by ACEC Indiana. We thank our lobby team at LegisGroup Public Affairs, LLC for their tireless effort on behalf of ACEC Indiana: Glenna Shelby, Ron Breymier and Matt Brase. We also thank our special lobby team at APPIAN, Dennis Faulkenberg and Laurie Maudlin for their effort on the water-related infrastructure legislation.

Committee Chair: Paul Shaffer, Bulter, Fairman & Seufert

INDOT

Work continued on several issues between ACEC Indiana and IDNR: development and implementation of IDNR’s proposed In-Lieu Fee Mitigation program with IDNR Indiana Stream and Wetland Program staff; discussion of strategies for improving the overall efficiency of Construction in Floodway Permit application preparation and reviews; and examining ways to streamline the approval of temporary construction measures through the potential development of standards for temporary construction measures.

Committee Chair: Mike Oliphant, United Consulting

INDOT

Collaboration and relationship strength are illustrated through ACEC’s significant participation in INDOT’s 360° Strategic Plan initiative that was facilitated by KPMG. This initiative was to reestablish lines of communication, facilitate a partnership approach, and collectively improve INDOT’s asset management with their staff, Indiana Constructors, Inc., and ACEC Indiana. This effort was summarized in KPMG’s report titled “INDOT, Consultants and Contractors Collaboration Study.” This INDOT initiative engaged all three parties through surveys and interviews culminating in a roll-out meeting conducted on May 1, 2019.

Other ACEC input and contributions this past year include an updated INDOT Consultant Prequalification Manual; INDOT selection process modification initiative; and soliciting ACEC’s perspective to proposed modifications in the Indiana Administrative Code regarding consultant and contractor prequalification. The INDOT selection modification initiative is a review and discussion with INDOT for changes to performance weighting, pool of performance data used, and additional rating options available to selection committee members. Three joint meetings conducted this past year between INDOT leadership and the ACEC INDOT committee members clearly illustrates the strength of our continued partnership and the agenda overlap between our organizations.

Committee Chair: Michael Guzik, Lawson-Fisher Associates

INDY DPW

Collaboration continued between ACEC and DPW through the use of six subcommittees – Diversity, Funding, Standards, Pavement, RPR Training, and Designer Training. A seventh subcommittee, Operations, was removed due to those efforts being absorbed into the day-to-day procedures in DPW.

Highlights include DPW beginning work on a disparity report. This report is anticipated to be complete at the end of the year, and is a review of the entire City of Indianapolis, not just DPW. The goal is to interview city employees, contractors, design consultants, and inspectors to obtain data on the current system, and to bring recommendations for improvements. The funding committee continues to discuss ways for DPW to fund the program into the future. The Standards and Pavement subcommittees continue to move forward working to improve both the DPW design standards, and to ensure a better product in the field. The 7th annual RPR training was another success, with approximately 170 RPR’s in attendance and positive feedback from those in attendance. The Designer Training subcommittee has moved forward as well; envisioned to be in the mold of the RPR training, the first annual training session is scheduled to be held in September 2019.

Committee Chair: Mark Beck, CrossRoad Engineers, P.C.
MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

In its second year, the committee continued to provide high quality training geared toward young professionals and administer the ACEC Young Professional of the Year award. The committee also increased member participation through its ambassador program, created the bi-annual membership survey and investigated an advanced leadership program.

Young Professionals: Two successful events were held this year, exclusively for young professionals - an Emerging Professionals Roundtable event and “The Influential Communicator Workshop.” The Young Engineer of the Year award was again administered by the committee, allowing member firms to recognize their star young professionals. This award is presented at the Annual Recognition Luncheon in June.

Member Participation: A continuation of last year’s ambassador program worked to re-engage member firms by assigning committee members to mentor firms on how to take advantage of the many events and resources provided by ACEC Indiana.

Survey: Two years ago, ACEC Indiana initiated its current four-year Strategic Plan. Now at the half-way point in the Plan, the full ACEC Indiana membership was surveyed to understand advancements the organization has made and areas for continued growth. The committee helped develop the content of the survey.

Next Generation Leaders: The committee investigated the addition of a Next Generation Leader program aimed at helping firms develop, train and transition the next generation of leaders at their firms.

Committee Chair: Jackie Dohrenwend, RQAW

QBS

The QBS Committee worked to develop a proactive approach to increase visibility and understanding this year. The first effort was to update materials to create opportunities to spread the word. The Committee revised the presentation, brochure, created plaques and buttons to elevate the QBS profile at AIM, IACC, Road School and MPO conferences. The Committee provided QBS plaques and brochures so member firms to display on booths. The “QBS! Ask Me” buttons for ACEC attendees. The Committee increased interest amongst clients by presenting the Engineering Excellence QBS Award to the Town of Plainfield for utilizing QBS on their Public Safety GSC / PFD HQ Building, FS 122, and Moon Road. In early 2019, the Committee presented at the ACEC Engineering Leadership Program, collaborated with the INDOT Committee and ACEC Board to present at INDOT Districts, and developed a plan to reach out to MPO Policy Boards and Technical Advisory Committees. Presentations are currently planned for MACOG, Tippecanoe County, Delaware-Muncie MPC and the Evansville MPO. The actions taken in the past year have created a momentum that will roll forward with scheduled presentation opportunities into the coming year.

Committee Chair: Susan Al-Abbas, Lochmueller Group

VERTICAL

The Vertical Committee started with a strategy session regarding on-going initiatives as well as new goals for the future. We continued, along with AIA Indiana to stay in involved with the code adoption process by involvement with the Indiana Code Coalition. As has been the case with previous years, the Vertical Committee is actively promoting the adoption of Structural Tests and Special Inspections of the International Building Code (IBC); A sub-set of the committee met and developed and new position statement that has been presented to AIA Indiana, ASCE Indiana, and the Structural Engineering Association of Indiana (SEOI) for support. Included within this effort was a revised state by state adoption review as well as a study of IOSHA records of jobsite related accidents potentially contributable to lack of Chapter 17 Adoption. The Vertical Committee also held a brainstorming/strategy session with representatives of Indiana Society of Professional Land Surveyors (ISPLS) regarding issues/problems with Indiana’s 811 program for professional (non-dig) utility locate tickets. Brian Madison (New Director for Indianapolis Department of Business and Neighborhood Services) presented an overview of permits, licenses and inspection issues relevant to the engineering community.

Committee Chair: Steve Bruns, Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.

Workforce Development

A special Workforce Development Committee was created in the fall of 2018 to harness and focus effort to increase the number of professional engineers, surveyors, design technicians, construction inspectors and other that service the consulting engineering community.

Committee members were asked for a 3-year commitment to get traction on the efforts and see it through positive results. The committee’s initial efforts were to prepare a vast list of workforce development efforts are already in place (member firms, universities, corporations), quantify pipeline of graduating engineers from universities (Indiana and surrounding states), and identify STEM opportunities to develop future engineers. Data was gathered and analyzed over several months. In addition, a member survey was developed regarding current level of workforce development efforts, hiring needs and desire of industry coordination, etc.

A succinct proposal was presented to the ACEC Board of Directors in April. The proposal summarized the data collected, expressed the need (500+ current positions in Indiana) and recommended Board support of dedicated funding to foster industry wide workforce development.

Committee Chair: Sanjay Patel, VS Engineering

VERTICAL Services) presented an overview of permits, licenses and inspections issues relevant to the engineering community.

VERTICAL Services) presented an overview of permits, licenses and inspections issues relevant to the engineering community.
ENGINEERING LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The program graduated the 15th class of participants in this in-depth management training program for potential firm managers and owners, which included 24 individuals from 18 firms.

Participants attended four two-day sessions throughout the year that cover a wide range of industry and business-related topics. These courses are led by individuals from business management to presentation skills to sales to contracts and liability to ownership experiences.

If you are interested in recommending a candidate in your firm for the leadership program beginning November 2019, contact Colleen Merkel at cmerkel@acecindiana.org or (317) 637-3563.

ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The 2019 Engineering Excellence Awards recognized 20 engineering achievements based on uniqueness, originality, technical complexity, social and economic value, and public awareness.

The Grand Project Award was presented to HNTB and owners INDOT for the I-69 Section 6 Tier 2 Preliminary Design and Environmental Impact Statement. This complex, $1.5 billion project will upgrade 26 miles of SR 37 to create the new I-69. The project extends from Martinsville to I-465 in Indianapolis and includes adding capacity on 5.6 miles of I-465 from Mann Road to US 31.

ACEC Indiana President Shelby Swango, WSP USA, presented the awards with entertaining hosts Dave Dugan and Pat Long, Indiana Chapter- ACPA.

Representatives from HNTB and INDOT accept the Grand Project Award for the I-69 Section 6 Tier 2 Preliminary Design and Environmental Impact Statement.