“Engineers dream, imagine, design, and create. That’s what makes our job so great! Finding solutions is what we do, to make the world better for me and for you!”  
(from I Can Be an Engineer book series.)

We really do have the greatest job! My job has continually taken me to new heights (and depths). During my career, I have been lifted nearly 200 feet to the top of the containment building of a nuclear power plant under construction in Arizona and lowered 200 feet to the deep rock tunnel under the City of Indianapolis. Now, I am honored to follow in the footsteps of so many great leaders to become the next ACEC Indiana President.

Thanks to all of you for allowing me to achieve a new “height” in my career and serve as your president. A special thank you to all the past presidents who paved the way and made ACEC Indiana the great organization that it is today.

Our mission, at ACEC Indiana, is to represent the business interests of the consulting engineering profession in the State of Indiana and offer knowledge and services to enhance the quality of life for every citizen of Indiana.

We achieved our mission last year under Scott Hornsby’s leadership and will continue to build on the foundation that Scott, Sanjay Patel, and all the other past presidents and board members have put in place.

We will continue to build on the success from last year:
• We created the transportation funding committee and successfully launched the “Fix my Roads Indiana” campaign. Our voices were heard! We will continue this campaign with “Fund Our Roads Indiana” to ensure that long term transportation funding remains a priority. We also got momentum on the water funding campaign and will continue to work with our legislators to ensure this important issue is also a priority.
• We were again the first State to reach our National PAC goal for 2016! We will strive to continue to be the first state again for 2017. This year, we are stepping up our State PAC campaign. The PAC is an important mechanism to advocate for the promotion and protection of the business interests of engineering companies of Indiana. We are striving to achieve double the amount of contributions to the Indiana PAC from last year. One mechanism we will employ to reach this goal is through personal contributions, now accepted online at: http://www.acecindiana.org/?page=PAC
• We will continue to promote QBS throughout the state as we have in previous years and work to include legislative language that will require locals to use QBS in their selection process.
• We were able to increase the amount of scholarships awarded to collegiate applicants last year and will continue that escalation this year.

We have new opportunities to set for the association this year:
• We will evaluate and update our Strategic Plan to ensure ACEC Indiana is on track with the mission and goals of the member firms.
• The client liaison committees have been tasked this year with obtaining a “Partnership Charter” with our clients. The primary objective is to agree with a common goal, expressing the desire and commitment to continue the development of an enhanced business partnership based on trust, communication, and timely resolution of issues.

My challenge to all of you this year is to get more involved with ACEC. There are so many opportunities to participate in ACEC Indiana. Attend the conferences and luncheons. Volunteer to speak at a school during National Engineers Week. Sign up for a committee. Speak up in the committee meetings. Give to the PAC (both State and National). Mentor younger ACEC members. Encourage other firms to join ACEC. Attend the convention in Puerto Vallarta. Your experience is so valuable, you each have a story to tell, and we want to hear it. Engineers dream, imagine, design, and create…..

Cheryl Cunningham, ACEC Indiana President, was recently recognized in the Engineering Inc. magazine for publishing three children’s books promoting engineering as a career to young girls.