IN FOCUS

December is a time of reflection. Looking back on 2017, the year has been one of transition for your association. ACEC/PA has begun to evolve, and I hope you are excited to see more forward movement in 2018!

Before you celebrate the holidays with your family and friends, please take a moment to nominate individuals and/or organizations who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement and growth of the consulting engineering profession as part of the 2018 ACEC/PA Client of Distinction and the Distinguished Award of Merit. These individuals and organizations will be honored during the Diamond Awards on Feb. 22. Nominations are being accepted for 10 more days!

I am looking forward to celebrating the best of our industry at the Diamond Awards gala. The evening will be a time to honor our industry’s achievements and leadership while encouraging innovation and growth.

As you turn the calendar to 2018, please make the most of your ACEC/PA membership. Attend a chapter meeting, volunteer for a committee, recruit a peer to join, and nominate a colleague for the 2018 ACEC/PA Client of Distinction or Distinguished Award of Merit.

A heartfelt thank you to the ACEC/PA Board of Directors, committee members and all of you, our members, for the hard work and dedication you have shown to the association in
2017. Thank you for your continued support. Happy Holidays! Here is to an even brighter 2018.

Leeann MacWilliams
ACEC/PA Executive Director

**LEGISLATIVE**

**Pennsylvania Turnpike tolls going up again in January**
Pennsylvania Turnpike tolls are scheduled to go up six percent early next month in what will mark the 10th straight year of increases along the nation’s oldest superhighway… [Read more](#)

**Corporate rate cut in tax bill could change as GOP hunts for votes**
Congressional leaders, facing pressure to add expensive items to their tax reform legislation, could end up settling on a smaller corporate tax rate cut than originally envisioned… [Read more](#)

**Pennsylvania Dem linked to gambling ring awaits sentencing**
Former Pennsylvania state Rep. Marc Gergely – who resigned last month – is awaiting sentencing next week on corruption charges in relation to an illegal gambling machine ring… [Read more](#)

**Start gathering your identifying documents now for 2019 REAL ID rollout, PennDOT says**
If you thought the wait at the DMV was bad now, imagine what it will be like with 10.7 million Pennsylvanians in line… [Read more](#)
GE to cut 12,000 jobs worldwide
General Electric (GE) announced Thursday it will cut 12,000 jobs in its power business…Read more

Rating agency holds Pa.'s credit ranking steady with an iffy outlook
After seeing Pennsylvania's credit rating got knocked down a notch in Standard & Poor's rankings in the fall, having another major credit rating hold the state's ranking steady at AA-minus on its general obligation bonds is a sigh of relief…Read more

Beyond roundabouts, PennDOT plans diverging diamond interchanges
If PennDOT rocked the boat when it began building roundabouts, expect things to get even stranger when diverging diamond interchanges start appearing in the midstate over the next few years…Read more

5 things to know about the stretch of I-78 slated for $175 million project
If you’ve ever driven west of the Lehigh Valley on Interstate 78, then you know how the large expressway shape-shifts as you enter Berks County…Read more

PennDOT pares list of structurally deficient bridges
As far back as the early years of the Gov. Ed Rendell administration, PennDOT District 12 Executive Joseph Szczur “knew we had a tidal wave of bad bridges coming our way.”…Read more

UPCOMING EVENTS

January Western Chapter Meeting
Friday, Jan. 5
Cefalo’s Restaurant

January Government Affairs Committee Breakfast
Wednesday, Jan. 10
Hershey Country Club

**January Central Chapter Meeting**
Wednesday, Jan. 10
West Shore Country Club

**January Eastern Chapter Meeting**
Tuesday, Jan. 16
The Desmond Hotel

**Save the Date for the 2018 Diamond Awards Gala**
Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018
Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square
Join us for an elegant evening recognizing engineering firms for projects that demonstrate a high degree of achievement, value and innovation. [Register now](#)

**Save the Date for the 2018 Annual Meeting**
June 11-14, 2018
[Gurney’s Newport](#) Resort & Marina, Newport, RI
Details coming soon.

**COMMITTEE NEWS**

**You Are ACEC/PA**
We have 21 different committees looking for your leadership and expertise. Check out the committee page to see which one is for you. Those interested in learning more should contact the ACEC/PA office at (800) 651-1946 or ACEC/PA Executive Director [Leeann MacWilliams](#).
House, Senate closing in on major tax package; new ACEC grassroots effort needed
[https://www.acec.org/lastword/xxxviii-45/#lw-20171206-0001-h](https://www.acec.org/lastword/xxxviii-45/#lw-20171206-0001-h)

*Transportation Builder* featuring ACEC/PA past president Matt Cummings

NSPE fights back against EPA proposal that undermines professional engineers’ role in critical engineering functions

Federal Highway Administration’s Resource Center
[https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/resourcecenter/](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/resourcecenter/)

*Save the Date*
ACEC Annual Convention
April 15-18, 2018
Washington, D.C.
[Read more](https://www.acec.org/press/acec-annual-convention)

**Resources**

Solve the Mysteries of the FAR; ACEC/NHI Courses
In collaboration with FHWA’s National Highway Institute, ACEC will offer *Mysteries of the FAR Revealed: Using the AASHTO Audit Guide*, in two consecutive courses, in Orlando, Fla., Jan. 15-18, 2018.

Course one is a two-day (Jan. 15-16) program detailing how to apply the audit guide in the development and administration of A/E consultant direct and indirect costs and rates.

Course two, which runs on Jan. 17-18, is an advanced program that focuses on audit requirements and procedures in reviewing compliance with federal regulations and guidance.

Taking stock of the engineering industry in 2018 - the economic and market trends shaping the industry webinar
Tuesday, Jan. 9 from 1:30-3 p.m. ● Learn more

ACEC members save up to 30 percent ● Learn more

SHARE-INSPIRE-HIGHLIGHT

TPD is a Top 10 Best Place to Work in PA
TPD was named the #4 Best Place to Work in PA (medium-sized employer category) in our 12th year on the list at an annual event hosted by Team Pennsylvania, the Department of Community and Economic Development, and the Central Penn Business Journal. The firm jumped 18 spots this year, compared to their 2016 ranking at #22. The firm credits this impressive progress to the consistent improvement of their work environment, practices, and benefits taken directly from employee feedback.

Since its establishment in 1989 in Oaks, PA, TPD has expanded to eight PA locations, with additional offices in NJ, MD, and NC and provides transportation engineering services to a diverse selection of clients throughout the eastern United States.

Each year, judges use a combination of an employer and employee survey to determine a company’s score and final ranking on the list. TPD was ranked among 100 total employers (44 small, 27 medium, and 29 large) providing services across the board including pharmaceutical, accounting, marketing consulting, financial services and many more.

Creating a chain reaction in STEM: How we can bridge the divide and create a new generation of women who change our world through STEM
Nikole Collins-Puri admits she was lucky. “My mom decided that education was the most
Important thing to her and to see my sister and me achieve more than she could ever dream of,” says Collins-Puri, the chief executive officer of Techbridge Girls. Her mother traveled two-and-a-half hours each way to work so Collins-Puri and her sister could be in one of the best New Jersey public school districts…Read more

Nominations are Being Accepted for the 2018 Client of Distinction and Distinguished Award of Merit

It’s time for you to nominate individuals and/or organizations who’ve made outstanding contributions to the advancement and growth of the consulting engineering profession as part of the 2018 ACEC/PA Client of Distinction and the Distinguished Award of Merit. Nominations are being accepted now through Friday, Dec. 22, 2017. View the 2018 ACEC/PA Client of Distinction and Distinguished Award of Merit guidelines and nomination forms today.

ACEC/PA Needs Your Help

- Do you have news to share or know of a colleague/firm making a difference? We want to share that news! Please send ACEC/PA Executive Director Leeann MacWilliams the information for inclusion in an upcoming edition of forward.

- We want to communicate with you. Please take a moment to update your profile with us so you don’t miss any important news or events.

Did You Know? Today marks the first day of Hanukkah.
Connect with Us on Social Media

Follow ACEC/PA on social media to keep up-to-date with the latest company news, industry highlights and benefit from a range of useful resources.

Connect on [Facebook](#) ● [Twitter](#) ● [LinkedIn](#)