As I stop to think about the upcoming 2018 ACEC/PA Diamond Awards for Engineering Excellence, I can’t help but be excited.

The achievements we will honor next month are not measured in dollars or cents. Instead, we reflect on our industry’s achievements and leadership while encouraging innovation and growth. There is no better time to look forward than at the Diamond Awards on Feb. 22.

This past year was one of change and progress for our industry and this organization. However, if we continue to move forward with the same vigor and passion that I see in the award winners, there is nothing we cannot achieve in the weeks and months to come.

If you have not registered for the Diamond Awards or filled out a sponsorship form, there is still time! Please click here for details.

I look forward to seeing many of you next month for an incredible evening honoring the best of our industry.

As always, please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Leeann Sherman
ACEC/PA Executive Director
Wolf wants OT expansion amid federal inaction
Stymied by Republicans in his effort to pass a law raising the minimum wage, Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf is moving to boost pay in Pennsylvania by making hundreds of thousands of additional salaried employees eligible for overtime pay… Read more

Senate Democrats Call for New Bridge Investment Mechanism
A bill introduced by Senate Democrats intended to pump $75 billion over a decade into a new competitive grant program for repairing the nation’s structurally deficient bridges… Read more

Infrastructure package: Avoid the mistakes of Obama 'stimulus'
Congress and President Trump would be wise to heed the sage advice of philosopher George Santayana — “Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it" — as they tackle the next big opportunity to further boost the economy and create jobs: delivering the president’s $1 trillion infrastructure investment package… Read more

Justices throw out Pennsylvania congressional map
Pennsylvania’s highest court has thrown out a map of the state’s 18 congressional districts… Read more

Pa. bid to win Amazon HQ2 in Philly or Pittsburgh likely the biggest offer ever from the state
Having Philadelphia or Pittsburgh be the place where Amazon establishes its second headquarters would be a "gamechanger" for not only that city but for Pennsylvania as a whole… Read more

Senate approves funding measure to end shutdown
The Senate voted Monday to reopen the government, ending a three-day standoff that left federal agencies shuttered and hundreds of thousands of workers furloughed… Read more

2018 Winter School News
Read More

February Western Chapter Meeting - Friday, Feb. 2
Welcome Rich Fitzgerald, Allegheny County Executive to discuss various issues affecting the membership… Read more
February Government Affairs Breakfast - Wednesday, Feb. 7
Hear from ACEC Vice President of Governmental Affairs, Steve Hall who will discuss the latest happenings in Washington D.C. and its effects on PA members… Read more

February Central Chapter Meeting - Wednesday, Feb. 14
Welcome Michael Bonini, Director of Public-Private Transportation Partnerships, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation… Read more

February Eastern Chapter Meeting - Tuesday, Feb. 20
Welcome Diego Rincon A.A.E., Deputy Director of Aviation, Capital Development, Philadelphia International Airport… Read more

2018 Diamond Awards Gala
Thursday, Feb. 22
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.

We would like to thank the member companies who have already made a sponsorship commitment.

*Diamond Sponsors*

![Gannett Fleming](image1)

Stambaugh Ness

*Emerald Sponsors*
Save the Date for the 2018 Annual Meeting
June 11-14, 2018
Gurney’s Newport Resort & Marina, Newport, RI
Details coming soon.

On behalf of the Engineering Careers & Workforce Development Committee: Apply to be a 2018 Pennsylvania STEM Ambassador by Jan. 26. Enrollment is Limited.

The Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool/Youth Development Network (PSAYDN) has partnered with Education Policy and Leadership Center (EPLC) and national STEM Education Coalition to launch the 2018 Pennsylvania STEM Ambassador program, a 10-month advocacy training program targeted to leaders in business, education, out-of-school time and/or other STEM-related fields to meet directly with Pennsylvania policymakers, stakeholders and elected officials to help shape STEM policy in the Commonwealth. The program cultivates strategic partnerships with local, state and federal leaders to advance STEM policy goals that help build tomorrow’s workforce. Pennsylvania’s STEM vision entails:

- Identifying, aligning and strengthening student K-12 experiences to postsecondary opportunities with career pathways in STEM;
- Strengthening, diversifying, and aligning educator professional learning in STEM;
- Ensuring quality STEM experiences for all students, early childhood through postsecondary; and
• Connecting STEM education to economic opportunities through collaborative partnerships with diverse stakeholders in the education and the business/industry communities.

The STEM Ambassadorship program will provide training by recognized advocacy experts and STEM professionals on STEM policy, media outreach, relationship building, and leadership development. The skills learned and outcomes will help shape the future of STEM education by targeting vital policy conversations to legislative leadership in the areas of computer science, STEM Learning ecosystems, state and federal policy for formal and informal education and workforce needs. Please review additional program details at www.psaydn.org. Please consider applying and/or forwarding the information to colleagues/friends for consideration. Applications must be submitted by Jan. 26, 2018. Program sponsorship opportunities are also available on the website.

Committee Pages on the ACEC/PA Website
The committee pages of our website have been updated recently to provide an opportunity for you to have access to more resources, tools, information and be kept up-to-date on what matters most. We are considering this recent update to be Phase 1.

Shortly, we’ll begin Phase 2, which will consist of adding important information, as well as providing much more information in the Members Section. Remember, you DO need to sign-in.

We hope you will take a few minutes to visit the website and experience a more exciting and easier experience than before!

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 Sherman.

Save the Date
ACEC Annual Convention
April 15-18, 2018
Washington, D.C.
Read more

Nominations Open For 2018 QBS Awards Program
Nominations are sought for the 2018 QBS Awards Program, which honors public entities, private
organizations, and/or individuals for exemplary use of the QBS selection process at the federal, state, and local levels.

The deadline for nominations is Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018. Click here to access the nomination form.

ACEC and NSPE, the joint sponsors of the award, will select up to three QBS Award winners. In addition, the QBS Awards program will designate up to four Merit Award winners, each of which will be honored in a state event.

ABC Convention ● March 18-22 ● Learn more

PA No Longer Leads Nation in Bad Bridges
Several years ago, Pennsylvania had the dubious distinction of leading the nation with more than 6,000 structurally deficient bridges. Now, just four years after passage of the transportation funding bill known as Act 89, nearly half of those bridges have been fixed or replaced.…Read more

RESOURCES

Online Class: Experts Address Sexual Harassment in the Workplace
News stories about sexual assault and harassment have dominated the media for months now. As a result, many companies, including engineering firms, are evaluating their risks, reviewing their policies prohibiting sexual harassment, and implementing training programs to sensitize employees to the issues, and prevent sexual harassment.

During the Tuesday, Jan. 30 online class, Sexual Harassment Prevention in the A/E Workplace: Understanding the Law; and Establishing and Improving Policies, Procedures and Effective Training, a panel of experts will identify the elements of an effective policy prohibiting sexual harassment and examine options for training.

The panel includes Beverly Tompkins, general counsel, Simpson Gumpertz Heger, Joanne Dekker and Kent Holland, ConstructionRisk Counsel.

For more information and to register, click here

Webinar: Coming Up Short: The Top 10 Reasons Why Companies Fall Short of Achieving Strategic Goals
Wednesday March 28, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. EST
Click here to register.
ACEC Business Insurance Trust Broker Change

Read More

Tips for Working With a New Boss
You might be familiar with how to position yourself when you start a new job. But what about when you have the same job—with a new boss… Read more

Member firm McCormick Taylor is pleased to announce that Gunther Carrle, Esq. has joined the firm as its General Counsel for Professional Services. Gunther is nationally known for his 30 years of experience advising and representing design professionals on contracting, licensing, professional liability, litigation avoidance, and insurance matters. Prior to joining McCormick Taylor, Gunther was the Managing Principal of Powell, Trachtman, Logan, Carrle & Lombardo P.C. and Co-Chair of its Design Professional Practices Group.

Gunther graduated with honors from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, earning Bachelor of Science and Master of Engineering degrees, both in civil engineering, with concentrations in structural engineering. He received his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1980. He completed further graduate law studies in government contracting at the National Law Center of George Washington University.

Gunther is General Counsel to the Carpenters’ Company of the City and County of Philadelphia and previously served as General Counsel to ACEC/PA and Co-General Counsel for the Pennsylvania Component of the American Institute of Architects. Since 2001, Gunther has been the principal author and editor for the Pennsylvania Chapter of the State-By-State Guide to Design and Construction Contracts and Claims. He is a Hearing Board Member of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Disciplinary Board for attorneys. Gunther holds a Martindale-Hubbell® Peer Review Rating of AV Preeminent® and has been recognized by his peers in the legal community who rank him at the highest level of professional excellence for his legal knowledge, communication skills, and ethical standards.

ACEC/PA Needs Your Help

- Do you have committee news to share or know of a colleague/firm making a difference? We’d want to share that news! Please send ACEC/PA Executive Director Leeann Sherman 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 is [National Pie Day](#)! National Pie Day was created by the American Pie Council. The American Pie Celebration began in 1986 to commemorate Crisco’s 75th anniversary of “serving foods to families everywhere.”

**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](#)

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