IN FOCUS

“Potatoes, Eggs and Coffee Beans”

Once upon a time a daughter complained to her father that her life was miserable and that she didn’t know how she was going to make it. She was tired of fighting and struggling all the time. It seemed just as one problem was solved, another one soon followed.

Her father, a chef, took her to the kitchen. He filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Once the three pots began to boil, he placed potatoes in one pot, eggs in the second pot and ground coffee beans in the third pot. He then let them sit and boil without saying a word to his daughter. The daughter moaned and impatiently waited, wondering what he was doing. After twenty minutes he turned off the burners. He took the potatoes out of the pot and placed them in a bowl. He took the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. He then ladled the coffee out and placed it in a cup.

Turning to her, he asked. “What do you see?” “Potatoes, eggs and coffee,” she hastily replied.

“Look closer”, he said, “and touch the potatoes.” She did and noted that they were soft.

He then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg.

Finally, he asked her to sip the coffee. Its rich aroma brought a smile to her face.

“Father, what does this mean?” she asked.

He explained that the potatoes, the eggs and coffee beans had each faced the same adversity – the boiling water. However, each one reacted differently.

The potato went in strong, hard and unrelenting, but in boiling water, it became soft and weak. The egg was fragile, with the thin outer shell protecting its liquid interior until it was put in the boiling water. Then the inside of the egg became hard. However, the ground coffee beans were unique. After they were exposed to the boiling water, they changed the water and created something new.

“Which one are you?” he asked his daughter. “When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a potato, an egg, or a coffee bean?”
The moral of the story:

In life, things happen around us, and things happen to us. The only thing that truly matters is your choice of how you react to it and what you make of it. Learn, adapt and choose to make the best of each experience.

*This was originally shared at: https://medium.com/jump-start-your-day/potato-coffee-and-eggs-which-are-you-99e989baf3f1

Leeann Sherman, MPS, CAE
ACEC/PA Executive Director

---

**Legislative**

Stay on top of issues pertaining to transportation and other legislative matters.

- **Transportation Recap** - Read it [here](#)
- **Capitol Recap** - Read it [here](#)
- **Bill Tracker** - Read it [here](#)

Presentation from the April 3 ACEC CARES ACT webinar
View [here](#)

Automated Workzone Speed Enforcement Annual Report
Read the report [here](#)

IBTTA April 7, 2020 Letter to Congress
The letter can be read [here](#)

Gov. Wolf and Host of Governors in the Region Announce Multi-State Council to Restore the Economy
Recognizing that their states have one integrated regional economy, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf, New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, New Jersey Governor
Phil Murphy, Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont, Delaware Governor John Carney and Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo today announced the creation of a multi-state council to restore the economy and get people back to work... Read more

U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces $25 Billion to Help Nation’s Public Transportation Systems Respond to COVID-19

The U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced a total of $25 billion in federal funding allocations to help the nation’s public transportation systems respond to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) ... Read more

AASHTO Asks Congress for $50B Fiscal Backstop for State DOTs

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials sent a letter to Congressional leadership on April 6 requesting the immediate emergency injection of $49.95 billion to offset an estimated 30% loss in state transportation revenues over the next 18 months ... Read more

COVID-19 Legislation Passes House, Absent Liability Language to Protect Manufactures

Last week, the state House passed in a 108-93 vote emergency statutory and regulatory legislation (S.B. 327) related to the COVID-19 pandemic... Read more

Bill to Relax Regulations, Improve Economy Advances in the State House

Last week, the House State Government Committee approved legislation that would establish a process for the state Independent Regulatory Review Commission to review regulatory actions... Read more

ACEC Coronavirus Resource Center

Learn more here

UPCOMING EVENTS

2020-2021 Calendar of Events

Please mark your calendars for these important dates of our upcoming conferences, networking, educational opportunities, scholarship fundraising, board meetings and more.
Government Affairs Breakfast
September 9 ● Dixon University Center

Central Chapter Meeting
September 9 ● Dixon University Center

Western Chapter Meeting
September 10 ● Cefalo’s

Eastern Chapter Meeting
September 15 ● Desmond Hotel

ACEC/PA Scholarship Golf Outing
September 28 ● Armitage Golf Club

ACEC/PA Diamond Awards
January 28, 2021 ● Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square

ACEC/PA Spring Conference
May 12-14, 2021 ● Hilton Harrisburg

COMMITTEE NEWS

You Are ACEC/PA

We have 22 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.
2020 Professional Engineers Conference
August 12-16 • Philadelphia
Details can be found here here

ARBTA Bridge Report
View the report here

Keystone Transportation Funding Coalition
Learn more here

RESOURCES

PennDOT & PTC Guidance document for restarting construction projects
Click here for more information

ACEC Coalitions
See the various groups here

ACEC Councils and Forums
View the opportunities here

ACEC Information Technology Forum
Through ACEC’s Information Technology (IT) Forum and its accompanying online community, IT professionals are connected to a network of their peers in an informal, roundtable setting ... Read more

AIA Career Center
See opportunities here
Bill Gates Explains What Separates Successful Leaders From Everyone Else in 2 Words

Bill Gates said something years ago that should resonate deep within the collective conscience of leaders everywhere. The co-founder of Microsoft pointed out ... Read more

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 Leann 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?

On this day in 1860 the first Pony Express rider arrived in San Francisco from St. Joseph, Missouri

Connect with Us on Social Media

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