IN FOCUS

As I mark another anniversary with my company and the realize that I am closer to the end of my career than the beginning, I took pause to reflect on the influences that led me to becoming an engineer.

As a sophomore in high school, I worked construction, moving materials from the drop off zone to the daily worksite for use by the carpenters, masons, and finishers. While essential to the daily progress of the project, solely for logistical purposes, I was easily replaceable. For me, it was a summer job, a way to pay for my ‘new’ car, insurance, and gas. I expected long hours of physically demanding work in the hot and humid weather we are currently experiencing. I was not disappointed.

What I did not expect was the daily interaction and explanation of the importance of each task. Beating the sun to the job site most days, I was more interested in how many loads of concrete I had to push to the top of the hill, rather than why and how fast it had to be completed. Fortunately, I had a supervisor that saw the value of sharing both sets of information. He held daily meetings with all the laborers to discuss our days’ work and introduced me to my first set of construction plans. There certainly was no deep dive into the dimensions, details, or schedules but it did spark a curiosity and interest in how our work contributed to the completion of the project.

At no time throughout that summer did I have that a-ha moment thinking I know what my career aspirations are, but I did enroll in a drafting class that fall. It was not the only influence from age 16 until college graduation, there were the traditional counselors, teachers and professors, but the ‘real life’ experience put me in a position to realize and take advantage of new opportunities.

I am sure we all share these experiences, as engineers, surveyors, environmental scientists, construction services professionals and many others on the long list of professionals that constitutes our industry. Workforce development is a popular topic and the projected shortfall in high school and college students enrolled in STEM curriculum warrants its significance. You have the ability to influence, encourage and empower the next generation. If you are not already involved, ACEC/PA, via our committees, offers multiple opportunities to contribute to building the next generation of professionals. Specifically – Workforce and Human Resources; Diversity and Inclusion; and Scholarship. Each offers a distinct focus with the goal of expanding opportunities for students.

It only takes one positive experience to start a student down the path to a rewarding career.

Troy Holloway, P.E., PTOE, PTP
ACEC/PA President
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](#)

'There will never be another:' Former state Rep. Nick Micozzie dies at 89
Another icon of a seemingly bygone era of Pennsylvania politics and one of the great pugilists of the state Legislature fell Tuesday afternoon with the death of longtime former state Rep. Nicholas Micozzie…[Read more](#)

Majority of Pennsylvanians favor face masks, support Gov. Wolf amid pandemic, new poll says
About half of Pennsylvania voters, or 48%, view the state as headed in the right direction, down from 57% last fall, according to a new poll…[Read more](#)

Reschenthaler self-quarantines after House colleague tests positive for COVID-19
U.S. Rep. Guy Reschenthaler, R-Peters, Washington County, announced Wednesday he’s self-quarantining for 14 days after coming into close contact with a colleague who tested positive for COVID-19…[Read more](#)

Pennsylvania health insurance marketplace: history and news of the state’s exchange
Pennsylvania will have its own exchange — Pennie — by the fall of 2020. The state will also have a reinsurance program as of 2021…[Read more](#)

Economy in reverse: Initial jobless claims rise for second week, GDP falls by record 33 percent
More than 1.43 million people filed for unemployment benefits for the first time last week, according to weekly data released Thursday by the Department of Labor…[Read more](#)

Tumar Alexander to become interim city director
An African-American man is poised to take up the highest unelected position in Philadelphia…[Read more](#)

New data released on 2020 Census response rates
The countdown is on to complete the 2020 Census, but many Pennsylvanians still haven’t been counted…[Read more](#)
Libertarian presidential nominee Jorgensen stumps in Erie
A presidential candidate stumped in Erie Sunday morning, but you probably don’t know her name…Read more.

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.

ACEC Water, Energy and Environment Committee in a Summer meeting session with Greg Bernosky, Director of Corporate Strategy for Arizona Public Service.
August 19, 2020 ● 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Bernosky will cover the challenges of meeting rising shareholder, regulatory and customer expectations in the near-term delivery of sustainable energy. APS has more than 4 GW of generating capacity, including three nuclear reactors and serves more than one million customers mostly in northern and central Arizona. Professional Development Hours to be determined.

Join Zoom Meeting
us02web.zoom.us/j/...
Meeting ID: 843 6133 3889
Passcode: 479565

Monthly PennDOT Clearance Transmittal Webinar
August 20 ● 1 p.m.
Join Skype Meeting
Toll number: (267) 332-8737
Conference ID: 56863635

Government Affairs Breakfast
September 9 ● Virtual

Central Chapter Meeting
September 9 ● Virtual

Western Chapter Meeting
September 10 ● Virtual

Eastern Chapter Meeting
September 15 ● Desmond Hotel or Virtual
ACEC/PA Fall Conference  
November 18 ● Hershey Lodge

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

View the 2021 ACEC/PA Diamond Awards for Engineering Excellence [Call For Entries] information today.

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

**COMMITTEE NEWS**

Committee Leadership  
We are very excited to announce [new committee leadership] both in the Chair and Vice Chair roles for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Please congratulate your peers and do not forget to sign up for a committee if interested. Remember that all committee information is available for any ACEC/PA member in good standing to access through the Member only section of the ACEC/PA website so you do not need to join a committee to become familiar with the work of a committee.

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].

**PARTNERS**

Engineering Influence from ACEC  
Listen to the latest episode [here]

ACEC Advocacy Center  
View it [here]

PSATS annual educational conference  
[Learn more]

Transportation Builder  
Read an edition [here]
The Influence Insider
Catch-up today

RESOURCES

Why mentoring matters more during the COVID-19 crisis
At a time when not much feels certain about the world, having someone in your corner to turn to can help to make work life a little more manageable…Read more

ACEC membership digest
Read it here

Enhance your communication skills to achieve measurable benefits of diversity in the workplace – soft skills make the difference
August 6 ● 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Register here

Diversity & inclusion keys to success: DPCs playbook on ACEC firm's best practices
August 12 ● 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Register here

Ownership transition: How to design a sustainable program
August 19 ● 1:30 - 3 p.m.
Register here

Dewberry Welcomes Market Segment Leader Virginia Feigles-Kaar
Dewberry announced that Virginia Feigles-Kaar has joined the firm as a market segment leader for municipal services based in the Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, office…Read more

Name The College Of Engineering’s Celebratory Creamery Flavor
Penn State’s engineering students consistently use their book smarts to nail exams, push boundaries, and learn math and science most other folks would groan at…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 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?**
On this day in 1830 plans for the city of Chicago were laid out.

**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.