

Message from the President

Rick V. Baldocchi, PE 2018-19 ACEC-FL President



The Engineer's Creed has been widely accepted as a basis for the Code of Ethics that all should use to govern ourselves in the professional practice of engineering. The Creed makes some pretty strong statements in how we, as engineers, should prioritize our values and ideals. The one that has always stuck with me is: "To place the public welfare above all other considerations."

On face value, this seems like a very simple concept and in many cases the ethical direction is obvious. However, some situations present issues that may not be so black and white as we attempt to follow the statement of the Creed.

As some of you may know, I am an avid bicyclist and put in many miles on the trails and roads in the Central Florida Area. Certainly, the environment is getting better for this activity through the development of bicycle and pedestrian standards by most agencies, the Rails to Trails Program and other sidewalk/trail projects that are being funded and constructed by municipalities, state and federal agencies. The trend is very positive, and coupled with the continued advancement of mass transit, can really make a positive impact to the quality of life of Floridians. Overall, the goals associated with increased bicycle and pedestrian facilities is certainly improving the public welfare.

However, as a community, as we implement and develop these new standards and create these wonderful transportation and recreational facilities, we should also think about the temporary conditions created as we piece together the system. As a cyclist, there is nothing quite as terrifying as having a trail or bike lane on one segment of road, only to suddenly lose it without much (or any) advanced warning. This situation can prove to be very dangerous as the car and bicycle vie for the same space on the open road. It is obvious who will win in this instance.

So, the dilemma in my mind is that a project may be directly serving the betterment of the public welfare, but due to project funding and/or phasing constraints, a situation is created that may or may not place the public welfare above ALL other considerations. There is certainly no easy answer on how to deal with these types of situations, but they do occur and probably deserve some consideration in the design process.

This fact was driven home to me recently through the tragic death of a friend of mine on a bicycle while riding to a mass transit station for his daily commute to work. This highly respected cardiologist had arranged his work and home locations to ride his bicycle to and from a rail station on both ends of his commute. He was very proud of this fact both from a health standpoint and contribution to a sustainable community environment. It appears his death was purely an unfortunate accident, but it should serve as a strong reminder that placing public welfare above all other considerations may take on new thought processes as society changes its priorities. Remember, roads were once designed for horses, and are probably not the safest place anymore for that form of transportation.

The main objective of this message is to remind us, as engineers, the responsibility we are given along with our talents. Engineers have done an amazing job of advancing public welfare throughout the history of mankind, we just sometimes need to be reminded that priorities may change over time. The definition of Public Welfare may also change over time, and our designs should attempt to keep up with societal changes and protect the end users of whatever facilities we are each involved with designing.

Hopefully it has come across that this may not always be as easy as we hope, which may be why the Creed closes with: "In humility and with need for Divine Guidance. I make this pledge."

****BREAKING NEWS****
8 PDHs confirmed for
2019 Winter Water Seminar!

[Register Online Now](#)

FEB 25-26
2019



SAVE
— THE —
DATE



FSU CONFERENCE CENTER
555 W Pensacola St.
Tallahassee, FL 32306



For More Information Visit www.Fleng.org



2019
GMEC
CONFERENCE
April 4th -5th, 2019
Renaissance Orlando
at SeaWorld®

2019 GMEC Conference
April 4th-5th, 2019
Renaissance Orlando @ Seaword

Event details and online registration will be available in January 2019. In the meantime, if you would like to be considered for the 2019 GMEC Award, please use the link below:

[**Sponsor & Exhibitor Prospectus**](#)

[Register Online](#)

2019 GMEC Award Application

Reserve your spot today!
Deadline: **March 1, 2019**

QUESTIONS?

Please contact Cherie Pinsky,
cpinsky@fleng.org or call (850) 224-7121

SAVE THE DATE

May 29-30, 2019

2019 ACEC-FL Transportation Conference

Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport

Booths Are Filling Up Fast!

Secure Your Sponsor or Exhibitor Spot Today!



**2019 ACEC-FL
TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE**

HYATT REGENCY ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
MAY 29-30, 2019

[Trouble viewing? Download the PDF](#)

Legislative News



Get to know your State Legislators

Chapters are encouraged to hold local meetings with their State Legislators. FES and ACEC-FL members are urged to begin educating and re-establishing relationships in personal meetings. FES has prepared a tool kit to help in this process.

[Legislative Tool Kit](#)

ACEC-FL CCNA Letter Campaign

ACEC-FL directs an educational letter campaign to educate public entities regarding the Consultant's Competitive Negotiation Act (CCNA). This campaign is driven by ACEC-FL members who anonymously send Request for Proposal (RFP) to headquarters. This method ensures that the government agency does not know which firm filed the complaint. ACEC-FL staff in return corresponds with government officials in an effort to educate them on the CCNA law and encourages them to amend their RFP process. This has been a successful program and we encourage all members to participate.



If you see an RFP that may be violating the CCNA law, please email [Samantha Hobbs](#). If a member firm or licensed engineer within a member firm knowingly violates CCNA, ACEC-FL believes you may be in violation of Chapter 61G15, rules and regulations. [CCNA Letter Catalog](#)

News from ACEC-FL

ACEC-FL Voting Representatives –

We wanted you to be aware of our “New for 2019” ACEC-FL Board Position and Committee.

Mike Bell, PE is the ACEC -FL Board Civil/Land Development Director and invites your firm employees to participate in the Land Development Committee.

This committee will focus on Federal, State and Local issues that affect professional engineering services for land development, land use and professional practices. The intent will be to have a state-wide committee and voice for issues related to Land Development.

We are requesting volunteers to help steer the direction of the committee from the ground up. If you or one of your employees is involved with the Land Development practice in Florida and would like to participate (anticipate quarterly conference calls), please fill out the form below.

[ACEC-FL Land Development Committee Employee Sign Up](#)



[ACEC Business Insurance Trust — Better Than Ever](#)

The ACEC Business Insurance Trust (BIT) Program has been providing business insurance products to ACEC members for the last 35 years. ACEC members enjoy enhanced coverages and exclusive benefits available only to firms within the ACEC BIT Program. Effective 1/1/18, the ACEC BIT selected Greyling Insurance Brokerage and Risk Consulting, a division of EPIC, as their new broker and program administrator.

It's been nearly a year since the ACEC Business Insurance Trust (BIT) transitioned to Greyling/EPIC. We thought we'd catch up with Jeff Connelly, ACEC BIT Program Manager, to see how the transition is going and to gain some insight into the additional value Greyling/EPIC brings to the Program.

[Download the full article here](#)

Get to Know Your New ACEC-FL Regional Directors

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

With the induction of the 2018 ACEC-FL Board of Directors this summer our organization took a new and exciting turn. Our board now includes seven directors that are tasked to create a local ACEC group within the regions established under the Florida Engineering Society. The primary goal is to extend the voice of the engineering industry in Washington and Tallahassee throughout to the local level. The ACEC regions are to promote the business interests of member firms through networking, advocacy, education and business services. Please reach out to your local directors if you are interested in helping or would like to join committees dealing with local issues.

Region 1 Director - Panhandle	Douglas R. Barkley, PE	douglas.barkley@bcei.us
Region 2 Director - North Central	Robert A. Mizell, PE	mizellr@etmnc.com
Region 3 Director - East Central	Leila Jammal, PE	Leila.Jammal@nv5.com
Region 4 Director - West Central	Whitney A. Stevens, PE	wstevens@ardaman.com
Region 5 Director - Treasure Coast	Raj Krishnasamy, PE	raj@tierrasf.com
Region 6 Director - Southwest	Ralph Verrastro, PE	ralph@bridging-solutions.com
Region 7 Director - FL Gold Coast	Gustavo R. Quesada, PE	gquesada@nmdceng.net

REGION 1: PANHANDLE

Big Bend Chapter

Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, and Wakulla Counties

Emerald Coast Chapter

Okaloosa and Walton Counties

Gulf Coast Chapter

Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, and Washington Counties

Northwest Florida Chapter

Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties

REGION 2: NORTH CENTRAL

Forest Chapter

Citrus, Levy, and Marion Counties

North Central Chapter

Alachua, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Putnam, and Suwannee Counties

Northeast Florida Chapter

Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Duval, Nassau, St. Johns, and Union Counties

REGION 3: EAST CENTRAL

Central Florida Chapter

Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, and Sumter Counties

Daytona Beach Chapter

Flagler and Volusia Counties

Indian River Chapter

Brevard and Indian River Counties

REGION 4: WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA

Pinellas Chapter

Pinellas County

Ridge Chapter

Hardee and Polk Counties

Tampa Chapter

Hernando, Hillsborough and Pasco Counties

REGION 5: TREASURE COAST

Palm Beach Chapter

Palm Beach County

Treasure Coast Chapter

Highlands, Martin, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie Counties



REGION 6: SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Calusa Chapter

Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee Counties

Myakka Chapter

DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota Counties

REGION 7: FLORIDA'S GOLD COAST

Broward Chapter

Broward County

Miami Chapter

Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties

[Trouble Viewing? Download the PDF](#)

Hires, Promotions, Awards, & Other News from ACEC-FL Firms

Mr. Thomas Krohn has joined Baxter & Woodman Inc. Consulting Engineers as a GIS Solutions Lead. He brings over 16 years of experience with geospatial technologies gained through his tenure with Seiler Instrument & Mfg. Co. and The Sidwell Company. Mr. Krohn focuses primarily on designing and deploying GIS enterprise databases and GPS solutions to local government agencies, private engineering firms, and GIS consultants.

Mr. Krohn has a B.S. in Geography from Illinois State University, and is a Geographic Information Systems Professional (GISP). He is active in many technical and industry organizations including the Illinois GIS Association (ILGISA). Mr. Krohn has presented at a variety of conferences and industry sponsored professional development functions for groups such as; ILGISA, Wisconsin Land Information Association, ESRI Wisconsin User Group, and the American



"We are pleased Tom has joined the Baxter & Woodman team. Our clients will benefit from his extensive experience related to GIS project management for the public sector including how to improve data collection and enhance asset management." said Louis D. Haussmann, PE, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.



Dewberry[®]



Dewberry, a privately held professional services firm, has promoted Phil Thiel to executive vice president. In his new role he will lead Dewberry's federal market strategy and business development. A consulting industry executive with nearly 35 years of experience, Thiel will direct and broaden Dewberry's engagement with federal agency clients throughout the enterprise.

Thiel has been with Dewberry for 17 years and will continue to lead the firm's national Geospatial and Technology Services practice. Under his direction, Dewberry holds numerous federal contracts involving state-of-the-art mapping, remote sensing, GIS, and IT services. Federal clients include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Homeland Security, the National Reconnaissance Office, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

I'm very excited about my new role and look forward to growing our federal business throughout the Dewberry enterprise. Many people don't realize that Dewberry is already a very large federal contractor, with the federal government representing more than \$160 million of our sales this year, Thiel stated.

Phil's experience in managing large, complex federal contracts, his understanding of the challenges our public-sector clients face, and his ability to connect multiple agencies to solve mutual problems are keys to his role in leading our federal strategy, says Donald E. Stone, Jr., CEO of Dewberry.



Pensacola Firm Jehle-Halstead, Inc. is Acquired by National Firm McKim & Creed

McKim & Creed, Inc., one of the largest engineering and geomatics (surveying) firms headquartered in the Southeast, announced today that it has acquired Pensacola-based Jehle-Halstead, Inc., also known as JHI.

JHI provides civil engineering and surveying services for land development and infrastructure projects in the Florida Panhandle, South Alabama and Gulf Coast areas of the U.S. Jehle-Halstead is a strong, team-oriented, well-established firm that shares McKim & Creed's commitment to superior quality, responsiveness and dependability, said John T. Lucey, PE, president and chief executive officer of McKim & Creed. Combining McKim & Creed's strengths with those of Jehle-Halstead enables us to provide more specialized and advanced technologies < such as hydrographic surveying, unmanned aerial systems, and sustainable energy solutions < in the dynamic Florida Panhandle and Gulf Coast areas. We are excited to add our tenth Florida office and expand the McKim & Creed footprint into this region of Florida.

JHI began its professional practice in 1987 and employs 17 people. The company works within the commercial, educational, government, medical, military and residential arenas, and has furnished services for such recent notable projects as:

- The Nine-Mile Road Utility Expansion/Upgrade/Relocation completed for the Emerald Coast

Utilities Authority in Escambia County, Florida. The project was preceded by a sanitary sewer master plan to provide sanitary sewer within this high-growth area of the county. The master plan recommendations were part of the construction project that included design and surveying, permitting, construction administration and certification.

- Beach Haven Redevelopment, completed jointly for Escambia County and Emerald Coast Utilities Authority. The project includes infrastructure upgrades and roadway reconstruction across an existing single-family residential area. New stormwater collection and treatment facilities include both wet and dry retention systems adjacent to wetlands. New sanitary sewer collection infrastructure was also included to allow all facilities to use a central sewer system in lieu of septic tanks. Services included surveying, design, permitting, construction administration and certification.
- North and South Old Corry Field Roads sidewalk and drainage improvements for Escambia County. These projects added ADA-accessible pedestrian sidewalks and drainage infrastructure to support master drainage plan recommendations. The project also involved utility coordination and relocation to facilitate the planned improvements. Services included surveying, design, permitting, construction administration and certification.
- East District stormwater project for the City of Gulf Breeze, Florida. This project featured master planning efforts to identify a feasible solution to alleviate historic flooding within a 31-acre drainage basin. In accordance with master plan recommendations, plans are being developed for a new stormwater collection and conveyance system, including associated roadway reconstruction and utility coordination and relocation.
- Numerous planning, design, permitting and construction administration projects as the exclusive continuing civil engineering services provider for the Santa Rosa County School District. Projects range from classroom additions, to parking and pedestrian access improvements, to athletic tracks and courts, to entire school campuses.
- Multiple design-build projects within the public sector, including projects at Naval Air Station Pensacola, NAS Pensacola Corry Station, Eglin Air Force Base, Hurlburt Field, and Tyndall Air Force Base, among others.
- Wide-ranging planning, design, permitting and construction administration efforts for numerous private developments in and around Northwest Florida, including general commercial, retail, and anchor tenant developments, multi-family and mixed-use projects, among others.

Jehle-Halstead President Glenn P. Halstead, PE, and Vice President / Operations Manager D. Patrick Jehle, Jr., PE, will oversee the Pensacola office, which will go by the name McKim & Creed, Inc. By joining forces with McKim & Creed, we are significantly expanding the services we provide to our clients, and can now offer a deep and wide pool of resources from which to draw, said Mr. Halstead.

We will continue to drive local business and be an integral part of the Pensacola community, added Mr. Jehle. As a part of McKim & Creed, our staff will remain in place and our client relationships will continue. The only difference is that now we can offer more opportunities, resources and services for our clients.

The acquisition of Jehle-Halstead, Inc. by McKim & Creed, Inc. was closed January 2, 2019, and terms were not disclosed.



WGI is Ready to Expand Its Texas Footprint; Acquires Big Red Dog

National design firm WGI is pleased to announce it acquired Texas-based BIG RED DOG, INC. (BRD), a firm with a reputation in the industry for intelligent disruption, and a leading provider of civil, MEP, structural, traffic, and transportation engineering for public and private clients. It's not just another merger or acquisition. The fastest-growing Florida-headquartered firm and the fastest-growing firm in Texas will now operate as a single entity, creating exhilarating future opportunities.

With nearly 600 professionals in 18 offices spread across Florida, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, North Carolina, and Texas, WGI has its sights set on affirming its national trademark: *Tomorrow's Technology Today*. WGI invests in the cutting-edge efficiencies and solutions that forward-thinking clients demand. The combination of industry veterans with decades of experience and an ambitious group of youthful visionaries will further grab the market's attention. Together, their combined talents enhance both firms' market leadership and progressive status – delivering revolutionary, resilient, and sustainable infrastructure in smart, connected communities.

The deal closed January 1, 2019 according to Michael L. Davis, senior vice president and chief strategy officer of WGI.

Founded in 2009, BIG RED DOG is a deliberately unconventional group, led by Will Schnier, CEO. Its leadership team – Schnier; Matt Stewart, chief operating officer; and Brad Lingvai, civil market leader – and all key principals, executives, and associates, will continue in their current roles. BRD made a name for itself with a strong set of values (passion, quality, service, accountability, fun) and a reputation for being innovative, aggressive, and driven by a unique level of energy and enthusiasm, resulting in 100% revenue growth over the past five years.

The firm's diverse portfolio includes civic, municipal, commercial, community, education, healthcare, hospitality, industrial, infrastructure, mixed-use, and multifamily projects. BRD's range of expertise and experience, disruptive stance, and enthusiastic corporate culture drew WGI's attention several years ago.

In welcoming the BIG RED DOG team, WGI's CEO David Wantman said, "We were first introduced to the BRD team several years ago, carefully watching the growth and development of a hot firm in hot markets. Combining two great firms with such a broad range of services is certain to result in an exciting future."

Will Schnier, CEO of BRD, noted: "We've been watching WGI from afar with great admiration for several years. For the past five years we've both been among the fastest-growing firms in the industry. By combining forces and creating a national footprint, we expect to create a lot of opportunities for our clients and our team members, and ultimately for our communities."

Combined, the firms serve an active client base in over 30 states and three countries. With this fourth acquisition in four years, WGI is executing its strategic plan with a vision of market leadership via innovative excellence. Infrastructure demands are evolving at a previously unimagined pace, focusing on autonomy, smart and connected cities, resiliency, and sustainability. WGI is committed to investing in the technology and the people necessary to be constantly agile, at the forefront, and always thinking of bigger, better, and faster innovation – delivering tomorrow's possibilities today.

ACEC Report

[ACEC/PAC](#) - is the engineering industry's primary tool for political engagement at the national level. Supported by engineering professionals from across the country who work for member firms, the sole purpose of ACEC/PAC is to elect candidates to the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate who support policies and legislation favorable to the engineering industry.



ACEC/PAC is overseen by a committee of PAC Champions made up of engineering firm executives from all the ACEC member organizations and is regulated by the Federal Election Commission (FEC). ACEC/PAC is currently the largest federal PAC in the design industry, having grown more than 500% in 10 years. It supports candidates on a bipartisan basis and may give up to \$5,000 to a federal candidate per election, and up to \$10,000 per candidate for their federal election cycle. In the last election cycle, ACEC/PAC's winning percentage was 97%.

To learn more about ACEC/PAC, please contact [Greg Knopp](#), Executive Director, Political Affairs or [Jennifer Pugh](#), ACEC/PAC Director, or log on to visit the [ACEC/PAC site here](#).

Calendar of Events

February

5 [2019 Professional Engineers Legislative Days](#)

5 [FES and ACEC-FL Board Meetings](#)

25 [2019 Winter Water Seminar](#)

28 [ACEC-FL - FDOT Regional Meeting for D4, D6, and Turnpike](#)

April

4 [2019 GMEC Conference](#)

9 [ACEC-FL Transportation Committee Meeting](#)

May

- 5 [ACEC Annual Convention](#)
- 29 [2019 ACEC-FL Transportation Conference](#)

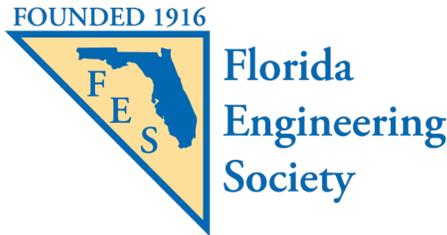
June
6-8 [FES/ACEC-FL Board and Orientation/Planning Meetings](#)

July
9 [ACEC-FL Transportation Committee Meeting](#)

24 [2019 FES/ACEC-FL Annual Conference](#)

October
13 [ACEC Fall Conference](#)

If you are interested in having an item published in the ACEC-FL Update,
please email ACECFL@fleng.org



Florida Engineering Society (FES)
American Council of Engineering Companies of Florida (ACEC-FL)

P: 850-224-7121
F: 850-222-4349

ACECFL@fleng.org or FES@fleng.org
www.fleng.org

Stay informed about all FES and ACEC-FL related news by following us on:

