A Note from ACEC-KY Executive Director Russ Romine

Dear Members:

Earlier this month, the 2018 Kentucky General Assembly began its latest legislative session. In addition to the development and adoption of the 2018-20 Biennial Budget and the next Six-Year Highway Plan, legislators will tackle issues ranging from foster care, to criminal justice reform, to public pensions. With the help of our joint ACEC-KY/KSPE Legislative Committee, Committee Chairman Ben Edelen, and our legislative agents from the Rotunda Group, your staff at the Kentucky Engineering Center will track legislative proposals and actions that could impact your profession and business.

For additional information on Governor Bevin’s Recommended Executive Branch Budget, please visit the Office of State Budget Director’s website at www.osbd.ky.gov. In bill form, a link to House Bill 200 – the Executive Branch Budget – can be found at http://www.lrc.ky.gov. Additionally, HB 201 is the Transportation Cabinet’s operating budget, HB 202 is the Recommended Biennial Highway Construction Plan, and HJR 74 includes projects in the “last four years” of the Highway Plan. For more detailed information on the Governor’s Highway Plan, please visit the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet’s website (www.transportation.ky.gov) and click on the “2018 Recommended Highway Plan” link.

The General Assembly’s 60-day budget session is scheduled to adjourn on Friday, April 13. Until they adjourn sine die, please look for weekly legislative updates in your email inbox. I encourage you to contact me if there are issues or concerns you would particularly like to draw our attention to during the session.

Legislative Reception Honoring the 2018 General Assembly
Make plans now to attend our legislative reception honoring members of the 2018 Kentucky General Assembly. This event – cohosted each “budget session” by ACEC-KY, the Kentucky Society of Professional Engineers (KSPE) and the Kentucky Association of Highway Contractors (KAHC) – provides members a terrific opportunity to meet with legislators and discuss issues that are important to you and the business of engineering. Please consider personally inviting your local state representative and state senator to this event. It will be held on Tuesday, February 27, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. (EST) at the offices of KAHC in downtown Frankfort. There is no charge for this event, but please RSVP at www.kyengcenter.org at your earliest convenience.

March Quarterly Membership Meeting
What is 10 x 10 x 10 cm, weighs less than 1 kg, is considered “disruptive technology,” and has Morehead State University at the center of attention? Give up? Nanosatellites – “CubeSats,” for short. These satellites have become the de facto world-wide standard for small satellite technology, and the Space Science Center at MSU has become an important center for research in this field.

President Shawn Washer is pleased to announce that our next quarterly membership meeting will be held on Thursday, March 22, at the MSU Space Science Center. This is your chance to see and hear all about the exciting things going on at the Space Science Center. In addition to our 10:30 a.m. (EST) meeting, you’ll eat lunch in the Space Science Center Upper Rotunda, hear a presentation on Space Systems Development and Space Missions at MSU, view a short film in the Star Theater, and tour the $15.6 million state-of-the-art facility. Space is limited, so to reserve your spot, visit www.kyengcenter.org and register.

Engineering Excellence Awards Program – Mark Your Calendar
We are excited to announce that this year’s ACEC-KY Engineering Excellence Awards will be held on Thursday, March 29, at Copper & Kings Distillery in Louisville. The event begins at 5:30 p.m. (EST) and will feature the innovation and engineering accomplishments of the 12
Final Thought
As you can see, there are many opportunities to gather and network with your fellow ACEC-KY members over the next several weeks. Through these activities, we look forward to highlighting ACEC-KY as an organization, your business as a consulting engineer, and our message as the face and voice of engineering businesses in Kentucky for advocacy, access and education.

As we look ahead to spring, I encourage you to attend the **2018 ACEC Annual Convention and Legislative Summit**, April 15-18, in Washington, DC. Registration is open and can be found at [www.acec.org](http://www.acec.org). In addition to the convention events, ACEC-KY attendees will have an opportunity to meet with members of Kentucky’s congressional delegation and share their thoughts on issues that are vital to the business of engineering and our mission. If you plan to attend the convention and would like to participate in these meetings, please contact me at your convenience.

Thank you for all that you do to support ACEC-KY. Please look for a message from ACEC-KY President Shawn Washer in next month’s THE KENTUCKY TIMES – Engineering Edition. As always, if you have any questions or would like to discuss any of these issues further, please let me know.

All the best!

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**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

**MicroStation II**
Kentucky Engineering Center - Frankfort, KY
February 13 - 15, 2018

**Design of ADA Sidewalk Facilities for Roadways in the Public Right-of-Way**
Kentucky Engineering Center - Frankfort, KY
March 29, 2018

Check [http://www.kyengcenter.org/events/](http://www.kyengcenter.org/events/) to see what other classes we have scheduled for the coming months!