

ACEC Ohio, a Year in Review

It is my honor to share with you the 2024–2025 State of the Association for ACEC Ohio, a year defined by strategic progress, robust advocacy, and deepened member engagement. Together, we have strengthened our role as a powerful voice for Ohio’s engineering companies and demonstrated our collective impact across the state and beyond.

Organizational Engagement & Leadership

- This year, we convened **4 board meetings**, engaged with **41 active committee meetings**, held **19 chapter meetings**, and facilitated **4 agency liaison sessions**, ensuring strong communication and responsiveness to both our members and public partners.
- Our **7 professional forums**, including those held jointly with ACEC Indiana, covered HR, Finance, IT, and Private Sector priorities. We also convened CEO and marketing-specific forums for enhanced peer dialogue.

Leadership Development & Recognition

- We proudly graduated the **6th class of Rising Leaders**, continuing our investment in emerging talent. We also hosted a continuing education session on “Conflict Resolution” session for all our RL graduates followed by a social event.
- Scholarship support included **4 regional scholarships**, one for CIWP, and a new **Early Career Scholarship** allowing a recipient to attend the ACEC National Spring Convention.
- Our **Young Professional and Early Career events** were hosted in every chapter, demonstrating our commitment to developing the next generation of industry leaders.

Advocacy & Public Policy

- We successfully conducted our **second annual Regional Legislative Fly-ins** hosting 13 Ohio Legislative Members across 4 chapters.
- Continuing to build strategic relationships through the PAC kick-off event, Ohio House and Senate Leadership Dinners and targeted political contributions. For the **ninth consecutive year**, ACEC Ohio met our ACEC PAC fundraising goal.
- Key advocacy issues addressed so far this year in Ohio include:
 - **OPWC reauthorization**
 - **ODOT budget**
 - **General Revenue Fund budget**
 - **Opposition to harmful non-compete clause legislation**
- At the national level, **10 of Ohio’s U.S. House members and both U.S. Senators** participated in our DC Fly-in and ACEC Annual Meeting visits.
- Developed an “**Advocacy 101**” **podcast** to amplify our message and engage members in legislative efforts.

Programs & Member Services

- Business education remained central with:
 - The **PSMJ Principal Bootcamp**
 - **AI & Insurance** and **Workforce Development Roadshow** webinars
 - Our continued **Professional Forum series**
 - A **Virtual Ethics session**
- We conducted a **comprehensive salary, benefits, and business practices survey** with participation from 43 firms.
- Our **Engineering Excellence Awards** received 23 project submissions and brought in over 200 attendees. The event received media coverage in Columbus and advanced 3 projects to ACEC National.
- We've continued to support members with **QBS guidance**, including a presentation at the CEAO conference, resulting in several successful qualification-based selections.

Strategic Initiatives & Industry Collaboration

- The Board addressed several key initiatives:
 - Finalized and approved our **strategic plan**
 - Created a **non-resident member category** and updated our bylaws accordingly
 - Approved the **Early Career Scholarship** using excess chapter funds
 - Provided **financial and advocacy support for OPWC Issue 2**
- Ongoing collaboration with **OFCC** resulted in shared work on contract revisions and an IPD panel discussion.
- We are engaged in dual platform and fee guidance issues with ODOT and are **revamping our Energy and Environment Committee**.
- We've created liaisons for workforce development with the **Lt. Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation**, **OSU**, and **Strategic Ohio Council of Higher Ed (SOCHE)** to support pipeline growth. These liaisons are in addition to the Educational Service Center, NAWIC Block Kids, Future Cities and The Ohio Science Academy.

Member Engagement

- We continue to engage with ACEC's DEI initiatives and were proud to co-host our first **"Women in Leadership" seminar** with WTS and NAWIC in early June.
- Membership has expanded with **7 new firms**, **2 non-resident firms**, and **6 new affiliates**.
- Our work with **DBE firms** included engagement on injunction-related issues and collaboration with ODOT on an SBE pilot program.

As we look to the future, ACEC Ohio remains focused on:

- Supporting members through **economic and inflationary uncertainty**
- Helping firms navigate the **impacts of AI and digital delivery**
- Securing **infrastructure funding** and monitoring its effective implementation

- Advocating for **tax policies** that protect our industry's sustainability
- Strengthening **recruitment and retention** in the face of continued M&A activity

Thank you for your support, engagement, and leadership. Our collective strength is what moves ACEC Ohio forward and together, we will continue to elevate the business of engineering across Ohio and nationally.

~Beth

Beth Easterday, President ACEC Ohio

2024-2025 Annual Report



Committee Name: Communications Committee

Date: 5/28/25

Committee Chair: Nick Hoffman

Committee Vice Chair: Rachel Headings

Committee Members: Kathy Bast, Tim Bates, Beth Easterday, Lexi Francis, Tracey Hanlin, Monica Mosure, Haley Phillippi, Lynn Resta, Zoe Rios, Kristin Studabaker, Brooke Voisard

Committee Mission: Develop and implement an outreach and communications program informing the engineering community of ACEC Ohio's mission, benefits, and importance in leading the promotion and protection of engineering in the State of Ohio as well as nationally.

Meeting dates:

- 7/23/24 Committee Meeting
- 10/11/24 Committee Meeting
- 11/26/24 Committee Meeting
- 1/28/25 Committee Meeting
- 3/3/25 Marketing Forum Planning Meeting
- 3/11/25 Workforce Development Video Meeting
- 4/8/25 Committee Meeting
- 4/24/25 Marketing Forum Planning Meeting

Summary of 2024-2025 Communication Committee Activities & Accomplishments:

- Hosted the annual ACEC OHIO 2025 Engineering Excellence Awards Luncheon. The event, coordinated by ACEC Ohio staff, drew over 200 attendees, included 25 project entries, and took place on February 27 at the Exchange in Bridge Park, Dublin, Ohio.
- Guided the development of a podcast, with the help from ACEC Ohio staff, to be aired in the future through the ACEC Research Institute. This 30-minute podcast will focus on the role of a Political Action Committee (PAC), the importance of donations, and how to get involved in advocacy.
- Hosted the 2025 Virtual Marketing Forum, along with SMPS Columbus and Northeast chapters. The event attracted 25 participants and provided valuable insights on topics such as artificial intelligence (AI), recruitment and retention, and crisis communications in our industry. Main speaker topics included "How AI is Transforming Marketing" (Frank Lazaro) and "Real-World Insights on Crisis Communication" (Jocelyn Hodson).
- Monitored ACEC Ohio's social media platforms and website metrics for success by increasing digital campaign efforts and focusing on educating through our social platforms, creating a social media content calendar to assist in campaign promotions, and utilizing more video content in our social media campaigns.
- Continued communication support to ACEC Ohio; and to encourage all other ACEC committees to provide content in support of their own committees' goals for posting on social media sites and within the newsletter.

Future Goals:

- Continued support of the Workforce Development Committee Promotional Video.
- Coordination with other ACEC Ohio committees to share their committee reports and information.
- Develop a crisis communication plan in 2025.
- Increase attendance at events (i.e., Marketing Forum and EEA)

- Increase social media engagement

2024-2025 Annual Report



Committee Name: DEI

Date: 6/4/25

Committee Chair: Frances Rubio Rourke

Committee Members:

Tajudeen Bakare, Verdantas
Laurie Adams, DGL Consulting Engineers
Greg Riley, Schaefer
Hamid Homaei, TBD Advisors
Savvas Sophocleous, DHDC
Lalitha Benjaram, Mead & Hunt
Amy Portis, True Inspection Services
Monica Mosure, ms consultants
Candice Harrison, SSOE Group

Committee Mission: Ensure ACEC Ohio is recognized as a welcoming organization where all members are included, involved and can achieve their full potential. Serve as a resource for issues related to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and lead by example.

Meeting dates:

- November 18, 2024
- March 3, 2025
- May 27, 2025

Summary of 2024-2025 Committee Activities/Accomplishments:

1. For the second year in a row, ACEC Ohio proudly hosted Young Professional and Early Career Happy Hour events across all four regional chapters, continuing our commitment to fostering connection and engagement among emerging leaders in the industry.
2. Hosted a dynamic Employee Resource Group (ERG) Panel at OTEC, highlighting the impact of ERGs in the A/E/C industry.

Facilitator: Frances Rubio Rourke, Engineering Director, CAP-STONE & Associates, Inc.

Panelists:

- Greg Riley, Schaefer
- Candice Harrison, SSOE Group
- Abraham Carrillo, HDR Engineering

Presentation description: In transportation engineering, diversity and inclusion are key to innovation. This panel highlights the impact of Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) on recruitment, retention, and fostering an inclusive culture. ERGs, extending beyond social networks, are crucial for professional development and corporate innovation, providing leadership opportunities. In this session, you'll learn best practices for supporting ERGs with financial incentives and recognition, and how you can leverage ERGs to boost organizational success and employee loyalty. The presentation underscores the need for a supportive ERG environment, emphasizing their transformative role in effecting positive change and industry advancement.

3. Hosted a successful Women in Leadership Event with WTS Columbus & NAWIC Columbus with over 60 attendees.

Stephanie Nowak, a former burned-out engineer turned stress management expert, shared strategies to help women in A/E/C build confidence and overcome chronic stress. A dynamic panel discussion on leadership journeys and personal experiences with the following panelists:

- **Joy Bledsoe**
Executive Director
Ohio Facilities Construction Commission
- **Joy Lanham**
President/CEO
Lanham Engineering
- **Jessi Marcincavage**
Safety Manager
Thompson Concrete

Items needing Board discussion

- None

Items needing Board Approval

- None

Additional Comments

- None

2024-2025 Annual Report



Committee Name: Government Affairs

Date: May 30, 2025

Committee Chair/Vice Chair: David Krock, OHM Advisors (Chair), Andrew Walton, Singh (Vice Chair)

Committee Mission:

Provides direction for the Council's Government Affairs activities; monitors legislation introduced in the Ohio General Assembly and rules and policies promulgated by state administrative agencies; coordinates with other committees to develop the Council's position on legislative and regulatory issues; works with the Council's staff and lobbyist to actively represent the industry's position on legislative and regulatory matters.

Summary of 2024-2025 Committee Activities/Accomplishments:

Federal: (Monitoring, Tracking, and/or Advocating)

- Taxes: Reauthorization of 2017 Tax Bill
 - Maintain the 21% Corp Tax Rate, Special Waiver for LLC and S-Corp, and R&D Tax Credit
- Infrastructure: Surface Transportation Bill, Water, and long-term Infrastructure funding
- Talent Pipeline – continuing to advocate for workforce development, expanded H1b Visas, and with over 50% of graduate students from overseas – focus on keeping talent in the USA.
- Regulatory Reform: Emphasis on reducing time from project inception to delivery

State: (Monitoring, Tracking, and/or Advocating)

- Reviewed Performance and Recommended the extension of the contract for Calendar Year 2025 with Government Advantage Group (Kevin Futryk).
- Monitoring Statehouse Leadership transitions in the House and Senate, Legislation, & Regulations.
 - Kevin Futryk reports out monthly to keep the GA committee informed
 - Matt Huffman, Speaker of the House
 - Rob McColley, Senate President
- HB 519-Clean Ohio Fund
- HB 327-E-verify
- OPWC Re-Authorization – passed on May Ballot ! (Issue 2)

- HB 54-Transportation Budget Bill
- HB 96-GRF Budget Bill
- HB 98-Workforce Programs
- SB 11-Non-compete
- HB 93-Restore Clean Ohio Fund
- HB 83-Regards state highways located in villages and cities
- SB 16-Establish road rules around distressed stationary vehicles.
- HB 15-Amend competitive retail electric service law
- Utility Coordination proposal, Ohio Underground Damage Prevention Coalition (OUCPC)

January 2025 Regional Fly-In Debrief:

- Northwest Ohio Chapter Fly-in held January 10, 2025, at the Toledo Club.
 - Legislative attendees included:
 - Representative Jim Hoops
 - Senator Susan Manchester
- Southwest Ohio Chapter Fly-in held January 13, 2025, at Brio Italian Grille Liberty Center.
 - Legislative attendees included:
 - Representative Phil Plummer
 - Representative Adam Bird
 - Representative Thomas Hall
 - Senator Louis Blessing
- Central Ohio Chapter Fly-in held January 17, 2025, Scioto County Club.
 - Legislative attendees included:
 - Representative Dontavius Jarrells
 - Senator Tim Schaffer
 - Senator William DeMora
- Northeast Ohio Chapter Fly-in held January 24, 2025, at Wild Eagle Steak and Saloon – Broadview Heights.
 - Legislative attendees included:
 - Representative Sean Brennan
 - Representative Bride Sweeney
 - Representative Bill Roemer
 - Representative Nick Santucci
 - Senator Nickie Antonio
- 98% of members that responded to the survey sent out by ACEC Ohio noted they had a positive response and would like to see these Regional Fly-Ins annually.

Future Goals:

- Continue Monitoring, Tracking, and Advocating for legislation and administrative policies and rules that support the business of engineering and our collective firm's interests.

2024-2025 Annual Report



Committee Name: Member Services

Date: 6/5/25

Committee Chair: Jake Stremmel

Committee Members:

Evan Baker – SSOE

Gina Balsamo – Carpenter Marty

Dan Hoying – LJB

Ed Kagel – American Structurepoint

Matthew Kairouz – CTL Engineering

Marcia Lampman, Resource International, Inc.

Lynn Miggins – KS Associates

Rob Hans – Michael Baker International

Marc Smith – USI

Sean Ryan – Enterprise Fleet

Mike Storey - Hylant

Committee Mission: Responsible for membership retention and growth of ACEC Ohio member firms.

Meeting dates:

- October 31, 2024
- March 12, 2025
- May 28, 2025

Summary of 2024-2025 Committee Activities/Accomplishments:

1. Created document based off internal 'Talking Points' document to send to new members
2. Grow committee to 12 active members
3. Sent 'thank you' letters from ACEC Ohio President Beth Easterday to each firm who renewed membership for FY 2024-2025
4. Increased affiliate members by 6
5. Increased new members by 9
6. Created a new membership type: Non-Resident Membership and added 2 member firms

In Progress:

1. The Committee continues to reach out to Target List firms, including the ACEC National Target List of ENR 500 companies – each committee member picking "High 5" firms to target from list

2. Continuing to add new firms to Target List including analyzing a list from ACEC Life Health Trust of potential new firm targets
3. Create incentives for current members to invite/engage non-members including a new member referral program the committee is still drafting

Items needing Board discussion

- None

Items needing Board Approval

- New member applications: Garver, Lochmueller Group
Affiliate: Centered Strategies

Additional Comments

- None

2024-2025 Annual Report



Committee Name: Political Action

Date: May 30, 2025

Committee Chair/Vice Chair: David Krock, OHM Advisors (Chair) (National PAC Champion), Jake Stremmel, HDR (Vice Chair)

Committee Members: Paul Gluck (Michael Baker Intl), Marie Keister (Engage), Tom Mosure (ms consultants), Ram Nunna (LJB), Lynn Miggins (KS Associates), and Hassan Zahran (CTL), Steve Bergman (Mannik & Smith Group)

Committee Mission:

To raise funds from the Membership to support ACEC Ohio's Government Affairs program and activities and to allocate those funds to candidates for the Ohio General Assembly and statewide offices who are supportive of the engineering industry's business interests.

Summary of 2024-2025 Committee Activities/Accomplishments the PAC runs on the calendar year:

Calendar Year 2024 – PAC Donation Highlights

- ACEC Ohio PAC: \$34,625 contributed by member firms in Ohio. (Stretch Goal = \$55,000)
 - Over 220 individuals and firm PAC's contributed to ACEC Ohio
 - 58 Member Firms met their goal (10 others donated at less than goal)
- ACEC National PAC: \$29,130 contributed by member firms in Ohio. (Stretch Goal = \$55,000)
 - \$59,500 distributed in Congressional Legislators from Ohio
- Summary: 58 member firms met or exceeded their firm goal (10 others gave some level of contribution)

Calendar Year 2025 (YTD) – PAC Donation Highlights

- ACEC Ohio PAC: \$24,966 contributed by member firms in Ohio. (Stretch Goal = \$55,000)
 - 137 individuals and firm PAC's contributed to ACEC Ohio
- ACEC National PAC: \$17,345 contributed by member firms in Ohio. (Stretch Goal = \$55,000)
 - #TBD Nationally in State Ranking for total giving
 - #TBD Nationally in State Ranking for total number of Contributors (97)

- Summary: 34 member firms met or exceeded their firm goal (12 others gave some level of contribution)

Calendar Year 2025 (YTD) – PAC Event Highlights

In Progress

- **Donation Strategy:**
- New strategies for 2025 were discussed in March of 2025 and will be implemented this year

Completed

- 2025 PAC Appreciation Event: January 9th (virtual) Updates: Matt Reiffer and Kevin Futryk
- 2025 Legislative Fly-in OH Chapters: NW (1/10); SW (1/13); CEN (1/17); NE (1/24)
- January 22, 2025 – 2025 PAC solicitation emails sent to all firm PAC contacts.
- 2025 Legislative Dinner w/ Ohio House Leadership: February 11th, Due Amici, Columbus
- 2025 PAC Kick-off Event: February 19th (in-person), Due Amici, Columbus (Cirino & Balderson)
- 2025 Legislative Dinner w/ Ohio House Minority Leadership: March 4th, Due Amici, Columbus
- 2025 Legislative Dinners w/ Ohio Senate Leadership: March 18th, Lindey's, Columbus
- 2025 Legislative Fly-in to DC: April 29 & 30

Future

- By October 31, 2024: ACEC Ohio will meet our ACEC National Goal of \$26,000
- By December 31, 2024: 60 Member Firms will meet or exceed their ACEC Goals
- With advice from lobbyist, target donations to State and Federal legislators supporting the engineering industry
- Continue to message to all member firms the value of donating to ACEC Ohio to support the collective business interests of the engineering industry. We are stronger together – Support ACEC today!

Committee Report



Committee Name: Scholarship

Date: 5/7/25

Committee Chair: Joe Bolzenius, PE, PS

Committee Members: Haley Phillippi and Lexi Francis (ACEC), Joe Bolzenius (Committee Chair), Joanne Shaner with assistance from Matthew Kairouz, Rich Bloch, Brendan Lieske (NE Chapter), Rob Hans with assistance from Jon Carroll and Ram Nunna (SW Chapter), Nikhil Khedekar with assistance from Joe B (Central Chapter), Mike Gramza (NW Chapter), Gary Bowen (CIWP Award) and Candice Harrison (Minority Contacts at several universities).

Meeting dates since last report: N/A (Last meetings held 1/20/25, 11/19/24, 9/30/24)

Progress last year:

1. Meetings to coordinate applications received and the use of the Award Spring software through ACEC's website.
2. We extended the application deadline to 1/28/25 and we received the following amounts per chapter:
Central – 10, NW – 8, SW – 7, NE – 9
3. Winners announced on 2/6/25:
 - a. Northeast – Ryan Emch, Youngstown State University, studying civil engineering
 - b. Northwest – Cannon Moser, junior at University of Toledo studying civil engineering
 - c. Central – Megan Bhanoo, senior at Ohio State University studying environmental engineering
 - d. Southwest – Rachel Ballentine, pursuing master's degree at Wright State University studying mechanical engineering
 - e. CIWP – Tamara Brown, Columbus State Community College, associate's degree in construction management
4. 2025 Engineering Excellence Awards Luncheon on February 27.

Action Items (Year to Date)

In Progress: Preparation for 2026 Scholarships to kickoff on 9/24/25

Completed: All

Future: N/A

2024-2025 Annual Report



Committee Name: Small Firms Committee

Date: 5/12/25

Committee Chair: Joy Lanham

Committee Members: Various Representatives from Small Firms

Meeting dates since last report: 1-15-25

Next scheduled meeting: TBD Summer/Fall 2025

Action Items (Year to Date)

In Progress

- Promote membership to ACEC Ohio member companies that meet requirements of “small firms”
- Share best practices and discuss overall business issues in at least two meetings per year amongst committee members
- Educate importance of the PAC program and our organization effectiveness
- Increase committee diversity, focusing on race/ethnicity, gender, location, and area of practice

Completed

- A committee meeting was held 1-15-25 in person. We watched a recorded webinar from ACEC National about the USDOT DBE program and injunction, and discussed. Terry Bolden from the SBA updated the committee on the current state of the SBA including the following topics:
 - What the SBA does and how they can help
 - Implications of potential DBE program changes
 - Potential changes to SBA certification process
- Committee discussions occurred on the following member topics:
 - Open discussion about DBE program worries
 - Updates on the legal injunction
 - ODOT’s current direction
 - Tax treatments

Items needing Board Discussion

- None

Items needing Board Approval

- None

Additional Comments

- None

2024-2025 Annual Report



Committee Name: Transportation

Date: June 3, 2025

Committee Chair: Shane Campbell, GFT

Vice Chair: Ed Kagel, American Structurepoint

Committee Members: Over 120 members

Meeting dates since last report: 7/10/24, 9/11/24, 10/3/24, 11/7/24 (Full), 12/11/24, 3/10/25, 3/18/25 (Full)

Next scheduled meeting: 7/28/25, ODOT Liaison Meeting

Action Items (Year to Date)

In Progress

- **Plan Quality Discussion** – ODOT met with 5-6 contractors in the second half of 2024 and utilized a peer exchange format to better understand the challenges of both the Department and Contractors. There was discussion regarding items that were causing contractors to add risk to their bid prices. Contractors indicated that in some instances the lack of detail being provided in answers to Prebid Question results in them having to add risk to their price. Contractors also cited incidents where lack of quality (and clarity) in the plans is driving up their bids. ODOT indicated that Significant Plan Quality issues will be reflected in design consultants CES scores. A joint committee will be established in 2025 (ODOT/ACEC OH/OCA) as there are many issues in getting plans complete including scope, review timeframes and specs. This was further discussed during breakout sessions at the 2025 ODOT ACEC Ohio Partnership Conference and will be a topic further explored this year.
- **Federal Executive Orders Update** – Impact on ODOT
 - ODOT received a low carbon grant (equipment purchase) that is on hold
 - Additional grants including RAISE, etc. are also on hold
 - No further updates on other Energy or Equity impacts at this time
 - ODOT NEVI formula state plan will be resubmitted this fall; currently no state NEVI plans are approved
 - States are requesting more formula-based funding solutions versus grant programs

Completed

- a. **2025 ODOT ACEC Ohio Partnering Conference** – Over 350 attendees participated in this year's conference with a theme of "Quality Matters". Several breakout sessions were structured to better understand the state of quality as experienced by contractors, consultants, and ODOT. Takeaways from the conference will be used by the Transportation Liaison Committee to determine next steps later this year.
- b. **Dual Platform (Autodesk/Bentley) Discussion** : ACEC Ohio was approached by representatives from Autodesk regarding potential industry interest in developing a state kit tailored for use in Ohio. ACEC Ohio shared this inquiry with its member firms and received mixed

feedback. Several smaller consultant firms expressed limited interest, citing that their delivery teams are already proficient in and primarily use the existing Bentley platform. Notably, some ACEC Ohio member firms have expressed willingness to assist Autodesk in creating a state kit if a path forward were established.

ODOT had previously been contacted by Autodesk and was aware of their interest. However, ODOT currently lacks the internal resources to support or maintain a state kit should one be developed by Autodesk. This topic was discussed in person between ODOT and an ACEC Ohio subcommittee on March 3, 2025. While ODOT does not mandate a specific software platform—only that submitted plans meet all applicable design requirements—it has invested in the development and ongoing maintenance of the Bentley OpenRoads Designer (ORD) state kit. Given the time and cost involved, ODOT has no current plans to support a dual-platform environment.

- c. **Consultant Prequalification Updates** – ODOT rolled out new prequalification requirements in July of 24. Several updates required additional training above and beyond what has historically been required. ODOT also added new hydraulic and hydrologic (H&H) requirements to the bridge prequalification. The transportation consultant community voiced their concern with these changes and a committee (with representation from ODOT and the consultant community) was formed to reevaluate the recent prequalification updates. Summary of findings/recommendations:
- Number of years for representative projects was discussed, and proposal was made to allow projects performed within last 8-10 years.
 - ODOT is working to find ways to increase the frequency of NHI courses being offered. Also working to establish their own equivalent training courses – doing so requires approval by FHWA Ohio Division.
 - ODOT also collaborating with other MAASTO states on things they are doing to get FHWA approved courses in place.
 - Advanced Hydraulics will be a new prequalification category
 - Federal requirements driving these changes
 - Any changes that are ultimately decided will be reflected by published updates to the Prequalification Manual and notice of those changes will be shared via ODOT's Consultant Announcement system.
 - ODOT acknowledged that the PreQ system currently generates automated emails which have led to confusion and is working to revise the wording in those messages to provide clarity.
 - When a DBE or EDGE firm loses their certification, they will need to remove the certification from their firm profile within the PreQ system within 30 days. Important that all consultants understand that the DBE report generated from the Consultant Services web site is reliant on the info that each firm has entered into PreQ. Best practice would be to always confirm with planned DBE partners that their certification is still in place.
- d. **Streamlined Programmatic General Qualifications (GQ)** – The Letter of Interest (LOI) subcommittee identified a way to streamline the GQ submitted with each programmatic. Instead of it being a 7-page document, a single page GQ will be developed for each specific KSPA. This pilot was rolled out in the January Programmatic.
- i. Positive responses from Districts; like shortened prequal summary
 - ii. No issues to report; will continue outreach and provide updates when available

- e. **DBE Program and Injunction**– ODOT completed a study to investigate any discrepancies in overall DBE participation on projects whether the project included a DBE Participation Goal or a DBE Development Goal. Based on the data they reviewed ODOT feels they are getting similar overall DBE participation regardless of whether the project has a DBE Participation Goal or DBE Development Goal. ACEC Ohio continues to be in contact with ODOT on the *DBE Program Federal court decision in Kentucky (Mid-America Milling Company, LLC, et. Al. v. U.S. Department of Transportation, et. al.)*. At this time, it's business as usual for the consultant DBE program.

- f. **Biennial State Budget**
 - i. ODOT \$11 billion budget passed Ohio General Assembly and goes into effect July 1, 2025.
 - ii. Revenue projections are good through the TRAC
 - 1. After 2 years, there is a likely funding gap
 - a. 2028 anticipated shortfalls are between \$150-200M
 - 2. Plan to have a TRAC round in May with a realistic outlook on what funding is available for these projects
 - 3. Current TRAC list includes \$4.3B in unfunded projects

Future

- Understanding any impacts by Federal Executive Orders
- Continued dialog with ODOT on plan quality and delivering the program and stresses / impacts caused by labor shortage, etc.

Items needing Board discussion

- None

Items needing Board Approval

- None

Additional Comments

- None

2024-2025 Annual Report



Committee Name: Vertical Development

Date: 5/29/2025

Committee Chair: Mike Mazzoli – PSI

Committee Members:

Patrick Schwan – Wallace and Pancher

Angie Wells – GPD Group

Anthony Hayek – MS Consultants

Audie Bates – Colliers

C.K. Satyapriya – CTL

Chris Hunt – Hunt Engineering

Diane Oress – CT Consultants

Dustin Doherty – CEC

Gregory Telecky – Kleinfelder

James Cicero – Karpinski Engineering

Jason Retherford – CEC

Jason Watson – Mannik and Smith Group

Jennifer Stull – Osborn Engineering

Joe Troxell – Michael Baker

Josh Epperson – VS Engineering

Matt Furjanic – Osborn Engineering

Michael Keller – EMHT

Nick McCullough – Kleingers Group

Penny Rike – EL Robinson

Prasad Rege – Terracon

Rick Allen – Bowser Morner

Terrence Sullivan – Osborn Engineering

Tim Lehman – Fanny Howey

Todd Copper Hill International

Travis Burr 7NT Engineering

Meeting dates since last report:

ACEC/AIA/OFCC Quarterly Meeting: June 12, 2024
ACEC/AIA /OFCC CMR Contract Review: September 5, 2024
ACEC/AIA /OFCC CMR Contract Review: September 26, 2024
ACEC Ohio Committee Chair Orientation: September 10, 2024
ACEC/OFCC Industry Collaboration Meeting September 11, 2024
ACEC/OFCC Industry Collaboration Meeting October 9, 2024
ACEC Ohio Strategic Plan Retreat: October 17, 2024
ACEC Design Build Contract Review: October 31, 2024
ACEC Ohio Private Sector Forum: November 14, 2024
ACEC Ohio Vertical Development Committee Meeting: December 18, 2024
ACEC/AIA/OFCC Integrated Project Delivery Meeting: February 24, 2025
ACEC year End Awards Lunch: February 27, 2025
ACEC/OFCC Contract Review Meeting: March 24, 2025
ACEC Ohio / Indiana Joint Private Sector Forum: April 22, 2025
ACEC/ OFCC General Conditions Contract Review Meeting: May 1, 2025
ACEC Ohio Vertical Development Committee Meeting: May 6, 2025
ACEC/ OFCC General Conditions Contract Review Meeting: May 12, 2025

Next scheduled meeting:

September 2025

Action Items (Year to Date)

In Progress

- Working with the State of Ohio Industrial Compliance Office to help streamline the Special Inspection Process
- Working with State Universities to understand and develop a cadence with project directors to understand how consultants and engineers can better serve and support facility leadership on campuses.
- Working with the OFCC with General Conditions review and implementation of contract terms and conditions.
- Working with committee members on Specpoint software updates and changes to support issues created by expected changes of the supplier.

Completed

- Partnering meeting with Indiana Vertical development committee to discuss Claim Trends in the industry, potential risk management exposures, SE and PE exam issues, sustainability and standard of care practices, and considerations in the design build project formats.
- Partnering meeting and finance forum with the Ohio and Indiana Vertical Development Committees. Discussed key tax provisions, various election outcomes and ACEC's engagement with Congress.

Future

- Continue to work on engagement with various consultants and engineers on identifying topic support in the industry.
- Increase diversity of firms in joining ACEC and subcommittees.
- Continue to work with AIA and OFCC to support open communication channels and resolve challenges that are faced on projects and project delivery selection.
- Educate committee members about the importance of the PAC program and our organization effectiveness.

Items needing Board discussion

- Continued in progress and future discussion items listed above.

Items needing Board Approval

- Nothing at this time.

Additional Comments

- Nothing at this time.

2024-2025 Annual Report



Committee Name: Workforce Development Committee

Date: 5/27/2025

Committee Chair/Vice Chair: Brendan Lieske/Cindy Yerkey

Committee Mission: With worker expectations changing, education costs increasing, and technology demands ever increasing, the Engineering industry must establish clear lines of communication with its educational training partners about the impacts of demographics, technology, and firm business models on workforce needs. This committee will foster and support the development of future professionals in Ohio's built environment.

Summary of 2024-2025 Committee Activities/Accomplishments:

In Progress:

- Develop social media campaign to raise awareness about our committee and call for our members to get involved
- Build out database of member volunteers to share with universities
- BOLO message to universities about this initiative

Completed:

- Met with Ohio Office of Workforce Transformation (OWT) and discussed what the state is focusing on in terms of workforce development.
 - Learned more about the state funded highschool and college intern program. The OWT has agreed to join an ACEC Ohio presentation on the topic.
 - Learned about the OWT's plans to develop a workforce playbook with Ohio's economic development groups through Jobs Ohio.
 - Shared ACEC Ohio's initiatives and goals.
 - Starting to develop alignment with the state.
- Workforce Development Road Show
 - Hosted representatives from 4 Ohio STEM programs
- Developed buttons and business cards to spread the word about our committee and encourage traffic to our website
- Met with a representative from SOCHE
 - Learned more about their program to help students and employers in Ohio
 - SOCHE agreed to join an ACEC Ohio presentation on their program to raise awareness. Will likely target HR representatives from our member firms.

Future Goals:

- Host OWT presentation
- Host SOCHE presentation
- Participate in Civil Engineering Education Summit - June 10-12, 2025 at Case Western in Cleveland
- Develop a list of ACEC Ohio members who are willing to volunteer at universities. Include searchable information such as region, discipline, and volunteer level (advisory board, senior design mentor, class guest speaker, etc.)
- Start by surveying ACEC Ohio members about Workforce Development
- Build a liaison committee with ACEC Ohio members and university representatives to discuss curriculum needs, student experiences, etc.
- Advertise a University Spotlight, to share what other universities are doing to help raise the bar
- Reach out to the Ohio Department of Higher Education to learn more about their current efforts and goals
- Reach out to school counselors and superintendents to learn more about their current efforts and goals
- Raise awareness about the value of Co-ops/internships to students to increase interest

Longer Term

- Create a working group within the committee to explore current technical/vocational school curriculum that is on the Industry Recognized Credentials list. Create a list of curriculums that should be added to support the industry, work to add those skills to the credential list.
- Develop portal for internships at our member companies that student can access, consider more than just college students.
- Develop an apprenticeship program for technician series, on the job training for those that can't or don't want to seek higher education. (Resource guide from ACEC Ohio on requirements needed for certain positions at our member companies?)
- Develop a virtual course for students that are attending online schools in Ohio. Provide resources to schools to use for those K-5 students ex: Engineering for kids.

2022-2023 Annual Report



Committee Name: Environment & Energy Committee

Date: June 2025

Committee Chair: Mike Keller (EMH&T) and Kevin White (Arcadis)

Committee Members:

Mike Keller, EMH&T
Kevin White, Arcadis
Ben Elefritz, MS Consultants
Lexi Francis, ACEC-Ohio
Beth Easterday, ACEC-Ohio
Haley Phillippi, ACEC-Ohio
Nicole Clune, Clune Consulting Services
Mike Rowland, S&ME, Inc.
Matt Miller, CT Consultants
Jacqueline Harmon, Stantec
Mike Coonfare, CEC, Inc.
Anil Tangirala, MS Consultants, Inc.
Daniel Prevost, Parsons
Greg Stacy, HDR
John Pierko, MS Consultants, Inc.
Penny Rike, E.L. Robinson
Christopher Owen, The Mannik & Smith Group
David Richards, Verdantas
Alan Brown, Verdantas
Tony Burgoyne, OHM Advisors
Susan Daniels, Lawhon & Associates

Matthew Witter, K.E. McCartney & Associates
Randy Stoll, Arcadis/IBI Group
Jake Wilburn, Rettew
Brooke Heid, Clune Consulting Services
Len Mikles, ASC Group
C Hauser Jones and Henry Engineers
Bill Johngrass, MS Consultants, Inc.
Robert Smith, Stone Environmental
Rick Paul, American Structurepoint
Jennifer Conroy, Burgess & Niple
Andrew Schneider, Kimley-Horn
Patrick Karnes, Strand Associates
Bill Acton, CEC, Inc.
Bill Sampson, SAM
Gregg Simon, Jones & Henry Engineers
Richard lafelice, CT Consultants
Mark McCabe, JEO Consulting Group
Joseph Rikk, Gannett Fleming
Kyle Schwieterman, American Structurepoint
Heather Lacey, Crawford, Murphy & Tilly
Thomas Monaco, Gannett Fleming

Committee Mission: Represent the interests of ACEC Ohio member companies that provide engineering services for the environmental and energy markets; maintains liaison with the environmental regulatory authorities.

Summary of 2024-2025 Committee Activities/Accomplishments:

Completed 2025 Kick-Off meeting in January with follow up meetings in April/May, key discussion:

- Re-energizing committee and focusing on the three marketplaces of water, environment, and energy.
- Created three associated **Subcommittees** (Water, Environment, and Energy)
- **Environmental**
 - Chair and Vice Chair – Christy Pirkle, Nicole Clune
 - Coordinated the **Environmental Summit** with ODOT on May 13. This was held in conjunction with the ODOT Partnering Conference.

- Discussion to get ACEC-Ohio involved with the review of ODOT's Environmental Prequalification process.
- **Water**
 - Chair – Tony Burgoyne
 - Initial Kickoff Meeting of water subcommittee drew good discussions with focuses on upcoming conferences and areas of expected growth/change such as water reuse. The WEF/WAtReuse Industrial Water Solutions Conference is held in Columbus this year, with anticipated attendance from subcommittee.
 - Highlighted the need to subcommittee members to ensure we are not duplicating efforts of other water groups.
- **Energy**
 - Chair - Ben Elefritz provided some perspective on the energy and renewables markets and will support leading the Energy Subcommittee.
- **General**
 - Discussion on new Administration and impacts of executive orders to funding and the regulatory community. Planning to re-evaluate course in next meeting once Orders become more clear with the administration of the various programs.
 - Committee and Subcommittee will focus on developing relationships with potential partner organizations and develop potential workshops/speakers list that may be interesting to members/industry.

Additional Comments: