



## **PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY UPDATE**

September 1, 2014

### **General**

- ACEC received a clean bill of health from its FY 14 annual audit by outside auditors CliftonLarsenAllen, who said the Council's "sound financial practices and procedures indicate it is among the best managed associations we serve."
- ACEC/Kentucky, ACEC/Connecticut and ACEC/Washington became the eighth, ninth and tenth MOs respectively to make their 2014 ACEC/PAC goals.

### **Government Advocacy**

- Asked the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB) to address the Council's concern that the proposed municipal advisor rule places the client's financial interests over the professional engineer's ethical duty to public safety, health, and welfare.
- Secured 190 House members on a bipartisan letter in support of cash accounting, following a similar successful effort in the Senate.
- Launched an Action Alert to support the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank.
- Filed comments urging that A/E firms be excluded from redundant reporting requirements in a DFARS Service Contract Reporting proposed rule.
- Submitted recommendations to improve the GSA Standard Form 330, "Architect-Engineer Qualifications."
- AASHTO agreed to work with ACEC on updates to their audit guide.
- Former ACEC Chairman Mac MacMurray has been appointed to an FAA rulemaking committee on integrating unmanned aerial vehicles into the national airspace.
- Federal Agencies and Procurement Advocacy Committee met with USACE, NAVFAC, Air Force, SBA and the Veterans Administration on market opportunities and procurement reform; and advocated in Congress for limiting the one-step design-build to

only very small procurements, controlling the number of shortlisted firms in the two-step process, eliminating reverse auctions, and undertaking surety reform.

- ACEC/PAC co-hosted fundraising and other campaign events for Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE), Rep. Dan Webster, (R-FL), Rep. Rob Woodall (R-GA), Rep. Cheri Bustos (D-IL), Rep. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Rep. Mike Quigley (D-IL), Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR), and Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick, (R-PA).
- Energy and Environment Committee met with representatives of the Corps of Engineers on the need for additional investments in the nation's locks, dams, and waterways; and senior DOE officials briefed committee members on challenges and opportunities in fossil fuel-based power generation and in performance evaluations of hydraulically-fractured shale systems.

### **Business Resources**

- CAMEE, CASE, COPS, and LDC examined how new technologies impact infrastructure design work, developed new practice documents, and identified best practices.
- The Design Professionals Coalition (DPC) summer meeting discussed ethics laws governing overseas operations, Oregon's vehicle miles traveled (VMT) program, and other hot topic issues.
- The education management system (RCEP) continues to grow, with 45,743 users – a 27% increase from August, 2013.
- ACEC webinars achieved high summer participation rates, with topics including: *Emerging Trends in Compensation; Business Development Training: Getting the Biggest Bang for Your Buck; Lessons in Professional Liability; Are You Fighting Fires Instead of Managing Your Employees; How to Make Team Collaboration Less Work, More Effective; The Seven Success Secrets of Super Project Managers; Ten Keys to Business Continuity Planning; Mergers & Acquisitions 2.0.*
- Webinars coming in September include: *Find the Lost Dollars – Six Steps to Increase Profits in A/E Firms; Betting the Firm: Managing the Risks of Indemnity Clauses in Professional Services Agreements; Legal Issues Unique to Design-Build; A Review of the New Affirmative Action Regulations for Protected Veterans and Individuals with Disabilities; Opportunities Lost: 16 Missing Things from Most Marketing and Business Strategies; Be Memorable and Win More Work: The Difference-Makers for Winning Proposals.*