

# ACEC Tennessee

American Council of Engineering Companies of Tennessee

## FREIGHT AND LOGISTICS IN TENNESSEE



By: Martin Lipinski, P.E.,  
Ph.D., PTOE  
Director Emeritus,  
Intermodal Freight  
Transportation Institute  
University of Memphis

Maintaining a robust infrastructure for the movement of freight in Tennessee is critical for the continued economic growth of the state, the region,

and the nation. Tennessee is crisscrossed with major national trade routes that are the lifelines of our country supporting the movement of goods. These include highways such as I-40, I-65 and I-75/I-81, as well as other modal facilities for rail, water, and air. These linkages support a network of ports and terminals which provide jobs and economic opportunities for Tennesseans. While these impacts are statewide, nowhere are they more evident than in the West Tennessee/Memphis area.

Strategically positioned with five Class 1 railroads, crossed by several Interstate highways, and home to the world's largest air cargo airport and the nation's fourth busiest inland waterway port, the Memphis region is one of the nation's largest inland intermodal centers. The world headquarters of Federal Express is located in Memphis, and its presence has spawned a vibrant warehousing-distribution industry. Goods of all types ranging from small, high-value products such as computer components and medical devices shipped by air, to low-value bulk commodities like coal, grain, and petroleum shipped via barge, either have origins or destinations in the region or pass through Memphis. Approximately eleven percent of the region's employment is in the transportation or logistics industry.

Moving the high volume of freight significantly taxes the capacity of the region's highway and rail surface transportation systems. For example, Lamar Avenue, located in the corridor that serves the Memphis International Airport, rail

intermodal yards, and many of the largest distribution centers, is known as one of the most congested freight-centric non-interstate highways in the country.

The Intermodal Freight Transportation Center (IFTI) was created at the University of Memphis to respond to the critical need to improve the intermodal freight transportation system. IFTI was established as a USDOT University Transportation Center in 2005. Since then, it has partnered with the Tennessee Department of Transportation, regional planning organizations, local governments, and the private sector to conduct research, provide education opportunities, and offer conferences and seminars devoted to freight issues. Support of the CN Railway has been instrumental in the development of its activities. It also has teamed with other universities including Vanderbilt, Southern Mississippi, and the University of Wisconsin, Madison on studies of national significance. Examples of research activity include participation in a study to improve operations in the Lamar corridor, conducting opinion surveys of freight transportation needs for the Memphis MPO, and examining issues affecting the short line rail system in Tennessee. Each fall, IFTI sponsors a free one-half day conference devoted to current freight issues. TDOT Commissioner Schroer is a regular speaker at this event. One very successful program offered by IFTI is the Freight Transportation Leadership Institute. The program is offered over four weekends, each devoted to a single mode of transportation – rail, river, road, and runway. Speakers have included industry leaders such as Hunter Harrison, former CEO of CN Railway. Among attendees have been TDOT officials, engineering consultants from firms in Tennessee and other states, and private sector firms such as FedEx, CN Railway, and International Paper.

For more information on the leadership program and other IFTI activities, access our website at [www.memphis.edu/ifti](http://www.memphis.edu/ifti).

## ACEC OF TENNESSEE PARTNERS

These companies provide Tennessee engineering firms with products and services and support the activities of ACEC of Tennessee through participation in the Partners Program. Additional information about these Partner Program participants is available at [www.acectn.org](http://www.acectn.org)

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JULY

22

ACEC PR Committee Meeting

JULY

3

Offices closed for Independence Day

SEPTEMBER

7

Offices closed for Labor Day

SEPTEMBER

17 - 18

TN Engineers Annual Conference

OCTOBER

14 - 17

ACEC Fall Conference Boston, MA

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Kasey Anderson, CAE  
Executive Director

Judy Logue  
Manager of Member Services

## 2015 TENNESSEE ENGINEERS' CONFERENCE

Opportunities Galore at the Tennessee Engineers' Conference! For the fourth consecutive year, ACEC of Tennessee will join with the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers and the American Society of Civil Engineers-Tennessee Section for an annual meeting on September 17-18, 2015, at Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro. The two-day conference provides significant opportunities to network with peers in the industry and complete continuing education requirements. Individuals who participate in all of the seminars can earn up to thirteen professional development hours (PDH), including ethics, which makes the conference an extremely easy, cost-effective way to meet the PDH requirement. Sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities are now available! For additional information, contact Judy Logue at 615-242-2486 (jlogue@tnec.org). More details on activities, educational offerings, and speakers are still developing, so look for additional information in the coming weeks!

## FIVE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Tennessee Engineering Foundation (TEF) awarded scholarships to five students. Kelli Grissom from Chucky, TN, who is a sophomore in civil engineering at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, won the \$4,000 Dorothy and Arthur Crouch Memorial Scholarship. TEF scholarships of \$3,500 each were awarded to: Rachel Gaudet from Clarksville, TN, a junior in nuclear engineering at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; Aleksander Klibisz from Cleveland, TN, a junior in computer engineering at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; Kristen Miranda from Johnson City, TN, a junior in industrial engineering at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; and Johnson Luma from Nashville, TN, a senior in civil engineering at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville

The TEF was established by a group of engineering organizations to advance and support the engineering profession in the State of Tennessee. TEF raises funds for scholarships and other kindergarten -12th grade science, technology, engineering and

math (STEM) education support activities such as MATHCOUNTS. The TEF is headquartered at the Tennessee Engineering Center, 800 Fort Negley Blvd., Nashville, TN, 37203. Your tax deductible contributions to the TEF would be welcomed.



## MEMBER NEWS

Don Williams, P.E., has joined Gresham, Smith and Partners as a principal-in-charge and senior civil engineer in the Land Planning market. He brings 35 years of experience in the design and engineering of numerous high-profile, highly successful site development and infrastructure projects throughout Middle Tennessee and the Southeast.

George Holliday, PE and Taylor Smith, EI have joined Smith Seckman Reid, Inc., to work in the firm's Horizontal programs in the Memphis office.

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

## IN GOOD HANDS



By: Thomas L. "Chuck" Saunders, PE  
President of ACEC of Tennessee

In an attempt not to plagiarize presidents of the past, I went back to the archives to read their closing articles and discovered they had taken all of my talking points. How could it be that they read my mind? The simple truth is we are consistent and that is a strength of ACEC of Tennessee. We

have all centered on common goals and objectives for the engineering profession over the years with a defining mission "to advance the business environment of the engineering industry."

I can confidently say the Council will be in good hands this coming year under the leadership of incoming President John Kenny of Facility Systems Consultants (Knoxville). My tenure in reflection seems very short and I am so thankful to the leaders who helped make this a successful year. I was fortunate enough to preside during the final year of the Council's long standing Executive Director Candy Toler and celebrate her accomplishments as well as serve on the committee to select a very worthy successor, Kasey Anderson. Many organizations do not have such great fortune in such successions. I am honored to have served during these monumental moments. I am especially proud of Mickey Sullivan's work anchoring ACEC's joint selection team with TSPE, and the resource support of Gresham Smith and Partners. The Council is indebted to his servitude and I am certainly grateful for his efforts. I would be remiss if I did not praise our dear Judy Logue for her tireless efforts year over year as well.

Under John's leadership, ACEC of Tennessee will continue striving to represent the interests of engineers through advocacy and education and collaborating with other groups share in the protection of the health welfare and safety of the public.

Regrettably, we did not witness enactment of long-term fixes for infrastructure funding this year, but the message will continue to be in the forefront and the Council will be at the forefront with the stakeholders bearing that standard.

Among this year's notable successes, President Elect Kenny was integral in a collaborative effort with the AIA to work with the State Architect to shore up a consistent platform for architects and engineers to conduct business on State building projects. Business Practices Chair, Greg Brubaker of K.S. Ware & Associates, launched the Leadership PE program that has been lauded with high praise, and Transportation Committee Chair, Brad Winkler of Parsons Brinckerhoff, laid out the framework for a sustainable quality improvement program in coordination with Tennessee DOT staff and leadership.

As to advocacy and education, ACEC of Tennessee again met its national PAC goal for the twelfth straight year in a row under the leadership of Volkert's Jerry Stump. The joint annual conference with TSPE and ASCE was the largest to date and the PAC auction apexed its previous high mark.

I can reflect fondly on my term as President and I can say with great confidence it had little to do with me individually. I applaud the efforts of the entire Council leadership team and staff and look forward to serving the Council as Past President in the coming year.

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

### **TRC Worldwide Engineering, Inc.**

217 Ward Circle  
Brentwood, TN 37027  
Tel: 615-661-7979  
Email: [sramanna@trcww.com](mailto:sramanna@trcww.com)

PRINCIPALS: Suri Ramanna, PE,  
President

DISCIPLINES: Architect; Civil-General;  
Civil-Structural; Civil-Transportation;  
Construction Management; Electrical;  
and Mechanical

DESCRIPTION: Full service engineering  
company with an excellent track  
record in Civil, Structural, Mechanical,  
Electrical, Precast and Transportation  
engineering, as well as steel detailing,  
parking structure design and  
architectural support.

### **Lukens Engineering Consultants**

P. O. Box 1586  
Brentwood, TN 37024  
Tel: 615-804-4617  
Email: [jlukens@lukensengineering.com](mailto:jlukens@lukensengineering.com)

CONTACT: James Lukens, PE

PRINCIPALS: James Lukens, PE,  
Manager/Engineer

DISCIPLINES: Civil-General; Land;  
Development

DESCRIPTION: Lukens Engineering  
Consultants is a civil engineering  
design firm for commercial, residential  
and industrial sites.

### **Structural Design Professionals, PLLC**

718 South Church St., Ste. B  
Murfreesboro, TN 37130  
Tel: 615-278-9986  
Email: [Jeremy.godwin@sdppllc.com](mailto:Jeremy.godwin@sdppllc.com)

CONTACT: Jeremy Godwin, PE

PRINCIPALS: Jeremy Godwin, PE,  
President

DISCIPLINES: Civil, Structural

DESCRIPTION: SDP works with many  
nationally recognized developers,  
owners and general contractors on  
projects of various size and difficulty,  
providing structural engineering  
services. Projects include work in truss  
design, lifting and rigging design,  
shoring/jacking design, connection  
design, stair/handrail design, new  
structure design of steel, concrete,  
wood and masonry structures,  
renovations including column removal,  
vertical transportation openings  
support, seismic analysis and forensic  
inspection.

## NEW PARTNER

### **Info Tech, Inc.**

5700 SW 34th St., Ste. 1235  
Gainesville, FL 32608  
352.381.4400  
352.381.4444 (Fax)  
[www.infotechfl.com](http://www.infotechfl.com)

CONTACT: Dr. James T. McClave

DESCRIPTION: Info Tech, Inc. provides  
construction management software  
and services as well as Internet bidding  
services, construction administration,  
and inspection software and paperless  
contracting services.

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### TIME TO GET INVOLVED

By: Kasey Anderson, CAE  
kanderson@t nec.org



Many people approach the holidays as a time of reflection, a time to look at the accomplishments and begin to set goals for the year ahead. For many reasons, I tend to use the academic year to do the same. This May was particularly poignant for me. My daughter graduated from high school, which comes with its own heap of reflections. Two things stand out. One, time FLIES. The days can be long, but the years are short. And two, there are natural cycles in life, and we have to learn to embrace them and make the most of every opportunity.

The life cycle in organizations is much the same. We are entering a new phase in the life-cycle of ACEC. Last month the board spent two days in Chattanooga at a planning retreat. We examined the ACEC of now, and solidified plans for the ACEC of the future. ACEC has just been through a graduation of sorts. Next month we welcome new officers, but the transition is more substantial than that. This cycle brings with it a new generation of leadership. I certainly don't mean "new generation" in the traditional sense (I'm 43 for anyone who's wondering) but in terms of the opportunities this cycle of life brings to ACEC.

The mission of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Tennessee is to advance the business environment of the engineering industry. Your board is committed and energized, with concrete goals that will raise the bar for ACEC. Those efforts will start at the committee level, where we hope to engage as many members as we can in the important work of the Council.

We welcome your participation at the committee level, and encourage you to find a place to plug in to one of the following:

- Business Practices** – develops and implements a program to improve business practices of member firms, promotes Quality-Based Selection and works actively with state and local governments to achieve tort reform and liability limitations.
- Chapter Development/Membership** – promotes membership recruitment, leadership training and chapter development
- Engineering Excellence Awards** – applauds the work of engineering firms through the promotion and production of an annual awards program and banquet.
- Environment and Energy** – collaborates with TDEC and responds to environmental issues.
- Government Advocacy** – develops and responds to legislative and regulatory initiatives for the ACEC of TN board and develops the program for Engineers' Day on the Hill
- Inter-professional** – focuses on supporting member firms in matters associated with the State Architect, AIA and other organizations.
- Leadership** – designs, implements and coordinates the Leadership PE program.
- Public Relations** – promotes public awareness of the practice of engineering through the newsletter, website, and other means
- Transportation Working Groups** – collaborates with TDOT representatives in focused groups to address issues in the transportation industry.

We are faced with an opportunity to make a tremendous impact of the business of engineering. Committees are key to our success. I hope you will reach out and get involved.