

# ACEC Tennessee

American Council of Engineering Companies of Tennessee

## BIG INVESTMENTS FOR TENNESSEE FACILITIES FOR ENGINEERING AND SCIENCES



TSU Campus

If anyone has toured college campuses of late or has recently visited their alma mater, you've probably noticed big changes on campuses – everything from new residence halls and parking garages to athletic, academic, and event facilities. This renaissance is occurring in universities and colleges across the country, including here in Tennessee.

In late 2014, Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) in Murfreesboro opened a new \$147 million, 250,000 square-foot Science Building. In November 2017,



TTU Science Building

Tennessee Tech University (TTU) in Cookeville broke ground on a new \$90 million, 160,000 square-foot Laboratory Sciences Building. In Memphis, the University of Memphis (U of M) pulled permits for a \$33.5 million parking garage and land bridge over the Southern Avenue railroad tracks last year. In Nashville, Tennessee State University (TSU) announced last year they will be building two new residence halls (\$75 million) and that they recently secured \$40 million to construct a Health Sciences facility.



MTSU Science Building

Just announced this month, the University of Tennessee (UT) in Knoxville will soon begin construction of a \$129 million, 228,000 square-foot Engineering and Research Facility to accommodate its growing engineering and science programs. The new building will be

located on the east side of campus near Neyland Stadium and will host a number of university programs. The space is being framed as a gateway to engineering, providing students in engineering fields with hands-on experiences from their first day on campus.

The facility will feature a central building with two wings and as many as five stories. It will include a number of unique elements such as flexible research laboratories, maker and project spaces for engineering students, flexible classrooms that can convert from one room with 132 seats to four rooms with 32 seats, numerous informal areas for student collaboration, and a grand atrium.

Demolition work should begin this summer with construction commencing in the fall. The tentative completion date is fall 2021. The project will be closely coordinated with the first phase of improvements slated for Neyland Stadium, which will also begin in 2018.

The above noted projects are just a fraction of the impressive and wonderful improvements that are occurring at universities across Tennessee. If a college tour is in your future or you're in the neighborhood during next year's tailgating season, marvel in the engineering feats of these investments when you visit these campuses.



UT Engineering Facility

### ACEC TENNESSEE PARTNERS

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

**Crow Friedman Group,**  
a Risk Strategies Company

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**Jacobs Technology**

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**AE Guidance, LLC**

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**Forterra Pipe & Precast**

**Info Tech, Inc.**

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**TRTH Consulting**

**United Structural Systems, Inc.**

**YANMAR America**

**MARCH  
6**

Engineers' Day on the Hill

**APRIL  
11 - 12**

A/E Board Meeting

**APRIL  
14 - 18**

ACEC National Convention & Legislative Summit

**MAY  
15**

EEA Entry Forms Due

**SEPTEMBER  
16 - 19**

2018 TN Engineers' Conference Franklin Marriott

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## ACEC TN CELEBRATES 50 YEARS AT THE 2018 EEA AWARDS

Mark your calendars for this year's EEA Gala, October 26, 2018 at the Omni Hotel in downtown Nashville. Each year Tennessee member and non-member engineering firms are invited to enter their best, most innovative and interesting projects in the Engineering Excellence Awards. Projects of any size and budget are eligible. Projects can be located anywhere in the world as long as they are managed by a Tennessee office.



### Call for Entries - Coming Soon!

We will soon be accepting entries for the 2018 EEA Awards. Entries will be accepted in one of the 11 project categories: studies research and consulting engineering services; building/technology systems; structural systems; surveying

and mapping technology; environmental; waste & storm water; water resources; transportation; special projects; energy; and industrial and manufacturing processes and facilities.

This year, each category will offer a small (total project construction budget under \$2.5 million) and large (total project construction budget over \$2.5 million) subcategory.

**Call for Entry forms must be submitted by Tuesday, May 15, 2018.**

### Celebrating 50 Years

Founded in 1968, ACEC TN continues to promote the business interests of engineering companies in their communities and throughout the state. Join us October 26<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## WELCOME ACEC TN LEADERSHIP PE CLASS 2018

Twenty seven young leaders from across the state have been selected to participate in this year's Tennessee Leadership PE class. The 2018 class members are:

Ryan Beasley, *L.I Smith & Associates, Inc.*  
Adam Belew, *A2H, Inc.*  
Daniel Brough, *Barge Design Solutions, Inc.*  
Jim Byrant, *TN Valley Authority*  
Alex Carpenter, *HMB Professional Engineers, Inc.*  
Joshua Cartwright, *I.C. Thomasson Assoc., Inc.*  
Paul Crim, *GHP Environmental*  
Curtis Duncan, *TN Department of Transportation*  
Steven Fox, *Energy Land & Infrastructure, LLC*  
John Hastings, *TN Department of Transportation*  
Ryan Henley, *Vaughn and Melton Consulting Engineers, Inc.*  
David Hilgeman, *EnSafe Inc.*  
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Natalie Marler, *ACEC Tennessee*  
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Julie Oliphant, *KS Ware & Associates, LLC*  
Christopher Palmer, *Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc.*  
Matthew Regenold, *Fisher & Arnold, Inc*  
Brian Reynolds, *WSP*  
Jason Simpson, *TN Department of Environmental & Conservation*  
Jonathan Storey, *Gresham, Smith & Partners*  
Nicholas Taylor, *Smith Seckman Reid, Inc.*  
Adam Walker, *USACE Nashville District*



Leadership PE Class 2018 pictured with TDOT Commissioner, John Schroer, and executive staff; TN DOHR Dean, Dr. Trish Holliday; Kasey Anderson, ACEC TN Executive Director; & class facilitator, Heather Smith-Sawyer, Barge Design Solutions.

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

## ENGINEERING BUILDS HEALTHY ECONOMICS



By: Charlie Smith, PE  
Barge Design Solutions, Inc.  
President of ACEC Tennessee

It shouldn't be a surprise that engineering companies in Tennessee directly employ thousands of people. ACEC members alone include more than 4,000 jobs and, believe it or not, not all private firms are members. Add to that, all of the engineers and directly supported employment in the public sector at TDOT, TDEC, counties, cities, and other agencies. Is the total number 20,000 jobs? 25,000? While it is hard to get an accurate count of the total number of jobs directly supported by the engineering community in Tennessee, it is clear that we are a major contributor of salaries and household prosperity in the state. In economic impact terms, that translates to billions of dollars within the state. That's *billions* with a B.

And our impact as engineers goes far beyond the significant impact of the salaries we pay and earn. Many more billions in economic impact are added by the projects on which we get to work with our clients to bring to reality. Engineers and engineering projects add to the economy, but is it only because of the dollars that are directly spent on projects? No; the impacts are more effective and more long-lasting than that.

Many people understand the basic factors that shape an economy. A quick review of research and writing on the subject will yield a number of different twists on the vocabulary used to describe those factors, but they are essentially consistent. The factors boil down to: Natural Resources, Physical Capital or Infrastructure, Skilled Labor, Technology, and Public Policy. Around the world, and certainly in Tennessee, engineers have a direct impact on every one of these factors. We know that investment in infrastructure is a game-changer to create sustained economic growth. We know that skilled labor is a

game-changer for companies choosing locations for expansion. We know that technology is a game-changer for productivity and the creation of new markets. When those factors work in tandem, you have a growing economy. "In economics, economic growth refers to a long-term expansion in the productive potential of the economy to satisfy the wants of individuals in the society. Sustained economic growth of [our state] has a positive impact on [Tennessee's] income and level of employment, which further results in higher living standards. Apart from this, it plays a vital role in stimulating government finances by enhancing tax revenues."<sup>1</sup> But can we quantify how engineering (and growth in engineering) impacts growth in an economy? A recent study says yes.

A well-accepted study by the Center for Economics and Business Research for the Royal Academy of Engineering looked at engineering and economies around the world (more than 90 other countries across the economic spectrum, including the U.S.) and ranked them by developing an "Engineering Index." They concluded that "Engineering plays a key role in supporting the growth and development of a country's economy as well as in improving the quality of life for citizens."<sup>2</sup> And they quantified the contribution as follows: "A 1% increase in the Engineering Index score led to a 0.85% increase in GDP per capita."<sup>3</sup> Ok, so now we have numbers, and they translate to big dollars, but so what? I'll borrow from another consulting engineer, who put it well: "Engineers have the adaptive ability to tackle large-scale issues, including improving struggling economies." The punchline - investment in engineering leads to economic growth and prosperity, and in far more ways than we typically think.

<sup>1</sup> 5 Factors that Affect the Economic Growth of a Country, *economicdiscussion.net*, 1/22/18

<sup>2</sup> Engineering and economic growth: a global view, A report by CEBR for the Royal Academy of Engineering, September 2016

<sup>3</sup> It's Official - Engineering Helps Economies to Grow, *Forbes*, Lauri Winless, 9/26/2016

## WELCOME TWO NEW MEMBERS!

**ECS Southeast, LLP**  
318 Seaboard Lane  
Ste. 208  
Franklin, TN 37067  
Tel: 615-885-4983

**Trestles, LLC**  
1 Vantage Way  
Suite C-13  
Nashville, TN 37228  
Tel: 615-823-4008

Mark Luskin, PE, PG,  
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James Dudney Fox, PE,  
Principal  
dudneyfox@trestlesllc.com

## CROW FRIEDMAN GROUP SEMINARS HIGHLIGHTS

Thank you to everyone who attended the Crow Friedman Group seminars on professional liability issues in Knoxville, Nashville and Memphis. Attendance was strong and Candy Toler, past Executive Director, attended the Nashville seminar. Many thanks to the Crow Friedman Group, a Risk Strategies Company, for their continued support and for providing essential education opportunities for our members.



Candy Toler, past Executive Director for ACEC TN and Judy Logue, current Manager of Member Services, ACEC TN.

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FEBRUARY  
2018

## INSIDE

- ACEC Celebrating 50 Years
- Welcome ACEC TN Leadership PE Class 2018
- Crow Friedman Highlights

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Please join us for*  
**Engineers Day on the Hill**  
**Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 AM | Legislative Briefing Breakfast | Doubletree Hotel

8:30 AM | Meetings with Legislators/Committee Meetings | Cordell Hull Building

To RSVP for Day on the Hill [CLICK HERE](#)

*Day on the Hill is FREE for ACEC TN members.  
There will be a \$50 charge for the Legislative Reception*

Doubletree Hotel Room Block (\$204/night)  
1-800-222-8733 | Group Code - SPE

