



**2024-2025**

# **Membership Packet**

**ACEC Georgia**

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# About Us

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Georgia (ACEC Georgia) is the voice of the business of engineering in Georgia. ACEC Georgia advocates for public policy and legislation that will improve the business climate, promote economic development, and protect the integrity of the engineering industry. Our programs and events provide unique business development opportunities, information on current trends and best business practices, as well as leadership training to develop the next generation of engineering industry leaders.

## OUR FOCUS CENTERS AROUND THE FOUR POINTS OF OUR VALUE PROPOSITION:



### **POLITICAL ADVOCACY**

Fighting for the business interests of the engineering industry at every level of government - federal, state and local - by advancing and securing policies that will positively impact firms in every part of our state.



### **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

Creating networking opportunities, programs and events that allow our members to connect with potential clients, teaming partners, as well as the leaders who influence Georgia's engineering industry.



### **BUSINESS RESOURCES**

Providing resources and content to help members manage their firms more efficiently, highlighting industry best practices and trends. Our practice-area forums address HR, IT, risk management, and legal issues, facilitating knowledge exchange. These forums focus on the unique business challenges faced by firms in specific engineering disciplines.



### **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

Providing best-in-class leadership training programs specifically designed for the up-and-coming talent at every level of our member firms' organizational charts, focused on instilling business development, client & people management and "big picture" leadership skills.

# Member Benefits

**ADVOCACY FOR YOUR FIRM AT THE FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LEVELS** for pro-business policies that will advance the interests of Georgia's engineering industry.

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES** with elected officials, agency leaders, teaming partners, and industry peers.

**BUSINESS RESOURCES** to grow and run your firm efficiently with programs and webinars on industry trends.

**GET ENGAGED IN THE ENGINEERING INDUSTRY** with Practice Area Forums, Committees, and Task Forces.

**REDUCED PRICING** on all ACEC Georgia events, awards, and initiatives.

**ACCESS TO ACEC'S JOB BOARD**, the best engineering niche career center, partnering with 41 other engineering associations to provide an active jobs marketplace for firms and candidates.

**ACCESS TO ACEC'S TRUSTS:** Business Insurance Trust, Life/Health Insurance Trust, and Retirement Trust.

## ACEC TRUSTS

Membership in ACEC Georgia provides the opportunity to get insurance and retirement benefits through one of ACEC's Trusts: Business Insurance Trust, Life/Health Insurance Trust, and Retirement Trust. Firms often experience significant savings by switching, which ends up covering their ACEC Georgia membership dues.

**Contact us to get a free quote to see if one of these trusts can save your firm money!**

*"One of the greater returns Aulick Engineering has found through ACEC Georgia is access to the ACEC Life/Health Trust. The Trust provides access to competitive group benefits like those of a large corporation and results in affordable pricing that is not typically available to smaller businesses. It also offers access to brokers who know our industry and can assist small businesses through the process. The time and cost savings the ACEC Life/Health Trust provides is one determining factor in making ACEC membership a good investment for our firm."*

JENNIFER AULICK ETHERIDGE, PE, MBA,  
PRESIDENT/OWNER, AULICK ENGINEERING

# Membership Types

**Member Firms** are engineering firms that provide professional engineering services in Georgia. They must have a permanent office in Georgia, staffed by one or more licensed professional engineers. Member Firms represent all engineering disciplines and services, and range in size from one-person firms to more than 500-person firms. Once you join, you are a member in both Georgia and at the National level. Dues are calculated based on the number of full-time employees in Georgia.

**Supporting Members** are not engineering firms, but whose company services or products complement or support the engineering industry. Supporting membership offers the opportunity to engage in Member Firm benefits like Forums, Committees and Leadership Programs.

**Affiliate Members** are businesses that support the goals of ACEC Georgia and the engineering industry. Through membership, Affiliates gain the opportunity to network with industry leaders through programs, committees and forums.

## AFFILIATE & SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIPS::

MEMBER BENEFIT:	AFFILIATE:	SUPPORTING:
Ability to register for ACEC Georgia programs at the member rate	✓	✓
Customized listing on ACEC Georgia's online membership directory	✓	✓
Ability to submit presentations for consideration to be a thought leader and content provider at ACEC Georgia events	✓	✓
Receive some communications from ACEC Georgia including Engineering Georgia magazine, program notifications, and monthly newsletters	✓	
Receive all communications from ACEC Georgia including all of the above and Capitol Updates and Policy Updates		✓
Participate in ACEC Georgia Committees	✓	✓
Participate in any of ACEC Georgia's member only Forums (Aviation, Building Systems/MEP, Diversity, Energy, Geotechnical, HR, IT, Land Development, Structural, Transportation, Water & Environmental)		✓
Ability to register employees for ACEC Georgia's leadership training programs (Future Leaders Program & Engineering Leadership Academy)*		✓

\*Space permitting

Get **INVOLVED**

# Annual Events

ACEC Georgia offers a variety of programs, providing valuable information to members and the opportunity to reach potential clients, peers and leaders of the engineering industry.

## 2024

**07**  
SEPT

### STEM Day

Inspiring the next generation, STEM Day engages young students with interactive activities that spark a lifelong passion for engineering and STEM.

**03**  
DEC

### Georgia Transportation Summit

The Georgia Transportation Summit is the state's premier event for exploring the future of transportation infrastructure, bringing together industry leaders, elected officials, and professionals.

## 2025

**28**  
JAN

### Engineers At The Capitol Day

ACEC Georgia's Engineers Day at the Capitol brings together engineering professionals and state lawmakers for impactful discussions on policies and legislation that shape the future of Georgia's infrastructure and industry.

**7**  
MARCH

### Georgia Engineering Awards

The Georgia Engineering Awards is the black-tie celebration of engineering excellence, recognizing outstanding achievements and innovative projects that shape Georgia's future.

**19**  
APRIL

### Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day

Inspiring the next generation, Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day engages young girls with interactive activities that spark a lifelong passion for engineering and STEM.

**23-25**  
APRIL

### Strategic Planning Retreat

The Strategic Planning Retreat is a gathering of the ACEC Georgia Board and members focused on shaping the future direction of ACEC Georgia through collaborative, forward-thinking discussions.

Get **INVOLVED**

# Annual Events

**CONTINUED**

**2025**

**27**  
MAY

## **Introduction To The Business of Engineering**

ACEC Georgia's Introduction to the Business of Engineering bridges technical skills with essential business insights for aspiring engineers.

**5-7**  
JUNE

## **Georgia Engineers Summer Conference**

The Georgia Engineers Summer Conference delivers unparalleled business-focused content and fosters invaluable client relationships within a vibrant engineering community.

**RECURRING**

## **Thirsty Thursdays**

Thirsty Thursday offers a casual, engaging networking opportunity where engineering professionals, VIPs, and elected officials connect over drinks and conversations in vibrant venues.

**RECURRING**

## **Young Professionals Network (YPN)**

The ACEC Georgia Young Professionals Network empowers emerging leaders with opportunities for professional growth, networking, and career advancement in a supportive community.

## **OTHER EVENTS:**

### **Webinars & Workshops**

ACEC Georgia's webinars and workshops provide industry professionals with cutting-edge insights and strategies to enhance firm performance and stay ahead in the evolving engineering landscape.

### **National Conferences**

ACEC National hosts two annual conferences, the Fall Conference in October and the Spring Convention in April, offering up to 20 PDHs, networking, and valuable business insights.

Get **INVOLVED**

# Committees, Forums, and Task Forces

**ENGAGE. LEAD. INFLUENCE.**

At ACEC Georgia, our Committees, Forums, and Task Forces are more than just meetings. They are dynamic platforms where industry leaders and professionals come together to share insights, influence policy, and drive innovation in Georgia's engineering landscape.

## COMMITTEES



- **ENGINEERING LEADERSHIP ACADEMY STEERING COMMITTEE**
- **FUTURE LEADERS PROGRAM STEERING COMMITTEE**
- **GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COUNCIL**
- **INCLUSION & DIVERSITY TASK FORCE STEERING COMMITTEE**
- **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**
- **PROGRAM CONTENT COMMITTEE**
- **WOMEN IN THE WORKFORCE COMMITTEE**

## Practice Area FORUMS



- **AVIATION**
- **ENERGY**
- **GEOTECHNICAL**
- **LAND DEVELOPMENT**
- **SURVEY/GEOSPATIAL**
- **TRANSIT**
- **TRANSPORTATION**
- **VERTICAL CONSTRUCTION**
- **WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL**

## Business Issues FORUMS



- **ACCOUNTING**
- **HUMAN RESOURCES (HR)**
- **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)**
- **LEGAL**
- **SMALL FIRM**

## TASK FORCES



- **INCLUSION & DIVERSITY**
- **QUALIFICATIONS BASED SELECTION (QBS)**
- **STEM WORKFORCE**
- **TECHNOLOGY**



# Leadership Roadmap

## EMPOWER YOUR FUTURE WITH ACEC GEORGIA'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

At ACEC Georgia, we believe that the future of the engineering industry lies in the hands of its leaders. That's why our leadership programs are designed to cultivate the next generation of industry pioneers. Whether you're just starting your career or are a seasoned professional ready to take the next step, our programs offer the tools, insights, and connections you need to excel.

### INTRODUCTION TO THE BUSINESS OF ENGINEERING

ACEC Georgia's Introduction to the Business of Engineering provides employees with 0-5 years of experience essential knowledge on business development, client management, and profitability in consulting engineering. This program enhances participants' understanding of business operations, making them more valuable as they develop their technical skills.



### FUTURE LEADERS PROGRAM

The Future Leaders Program equips Georgia's emerging engineers with managerial skills beyond engineering. For 28 years, it has trained future leaders in business development, presentation skills, and marketing. The nine-month program covers political advocacy, accounting, and risk management, preparing participants for advanced leadership roles.

- 2025-2026 Future Leaders Program applications will open June 2025
- The program will run from September 2025-2026



### ENGINEERING LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The Engineering Leadership Academy (ELA) is a nine-month course for leadership-track employees, focusing on strategic thinking and management. Limited to 24 participants, it enhances skills in leading firms or departments. ELA shifts focus from daily management to big-picture leadership, fostering hands-on learning and professional growth.



Pairs experienced professionals with junior/mid-level employees for six months. Includes six events on mentorship and professional development, plus additional meetings. Open to all ACEC Georgia member firm employees, fostering career growth and mentorship skills.

- The 2025 Mentorship Program applications will open March 2025
- The program will run April 2025 – September 2025

### MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

- WEBINARS
- THIRSTY THURSDAYS
- SUMMER CONFERENCE

### OTHER OPPORTUNITIES:



# Business Resources

## ENGINEERING GEORGIA MAGAZINE

The award-winning statewide magazine of Georgia's engineering industry, *Engineering Georgia* is published bi-monthly in partnership with ten other industry associations with the goal of providing engaging, non-technical content that is of interest to engineers and non-engineers alike. With a reach of more than 10,000 across the state, readers include decision-makers from the leading A/E/C firms, as well as the public and private sector clients who hire engineering companies and the local and state officials who influence these industries. ACEC Georgia members receive free copies of each issue.

## ENGINEERING CHANGE PODCAST

ACEC Georgia's 'Engineering Change' podcast is your guide to the intersection of engineering, politics, and leadership, offering thought-provoking conversations with industry leaders that explore the trends, challenges, and innovations shaping Georgia's engineering landscape.

## ENGINEERING INC. MAGAZINE

This publication from ACEC National keeps members abreast of the latest business management news, mergers and acquisitions, as well as other industry developments and trends from across the country. It is the industry's primary source for in-depth interviews with federal policymakers whose views impact the marketplace.

## LAST WORD E-NEWSLETTER

This national e-newsletter keeps members current on the latest industry news, training opportunities and legislative updates on a weekly basis.

## ACEC ENGINEERING BUSINESS INDEX (EBI)

This quarterly pamphlet charts the health of the engineering industry using responses from leaders at member firms to provide a pulse on company performance and market trends.



# Business Resources

## CONTINUED



## Awards and Scholarships

### ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

This annual competition recognizes engineering achievements which demonstrate the highest degree of merit and ingenuity across ten different categories. The award submission period is from late Summer to early Fall, and winners are recognized during the Georgia Engineering Awards, as well as featured in an issue of Engineering Georgia magazine.

### GPTQ PRECONSTRUCTION DESIGN AWARDS

Presented in partnership with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), these awards recognize transportation projects that demonstrate planning and design expertise. The award submission period is from late spring to late summer, and winners are recognized during the Georgia Transportation Summit, as well as featured in the an issue of Engineering Georgia magazine.

### R. BERL ELDER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP TRUST

These scholarships are granted to students pursuing an engineering degree at one of Georgia's higher-education institutions. Preference is given to students who have interned at an ACEC Georgia member firm. The application period opens in April and closes in August with the scholarships awarded in November at the Georgia Engineering Foundation's annual banquet.

# Advocacy

## ON BEHALF OF ITS MEMBERS, ACEC GEORGIA:



### ADVOCATES

for policies that will advance the interests of the business of engineering in Georgia across all levels of government.



### WORKS

for a more pro-business climate and defends against unfair business practices.



### ADDRESSES

issues on behalf of the industry with state and local agencies to ensure fair, legal business practices so that members do not have to utilize their own "political capital" or risk client relationships by voicing their concerns individually.



### PROVIDES

weekly Capitol Updates during the legislative session as well as regular updates and communications regarding relevant political news that may have an impact on the industry and your firm.



### MONITORS

regulatory issues and government agency actions that affect engineers.



### FIGHTS

to protect the practice, profession and industry of engineering.



## ACEC GEORGIA PAC LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

The ACEC National Political Action Committee (PAC) is the engineering industry's most powerful tool for supporting federal candidates who promote a pro-business legislative agenda. The ACEC Georgia PAC Leadership Circle represents the leading engineering firms in the state – firms that have set the standard for supporting their industry by contributing at least \$1,000 per year in combined individual contributions to the ACEC National PAC.

**Learn more at** [www.acecga.org/pages/PACLeadershipCircle](http://www.acecga.org/pages/PACLeadershipCircle)

# MAJOR POLITICAL WINS

## 2022

### House Bill 476

#### **CREATING AN INDEPENDENT PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS & LAND SURVEYORS (PELS) BOARD**

For many years, ACEC Georgia worked collaboratively with the engineering organizations that make up the Georgia Engineering Alliance to solve the chronic customer service complaints and enforcement issues that plagued the PELS Board's operations. These issues jeopardized public safety and hampered employee recruiting, retention, and career advancement. After exhausting every other option, House Bill 476 was introduced to create an independent PELS Board. Signed into law by Governor Kemp on May 9, 2022, this bill was the culmination of years of cooperative effort by ACEC Georgia in working with the General Assembly and the offices of the Governor and Secretary of State. ACEC Georgia has been and will continue to be a resource for the PELS Board as it transitions from being under the Secretary of State's purview to becoming a completely independent board.

## 2020

### Executive Orders

In 2020, with local governments shut down due to the pandemic, ACEC Georgia worked with the Governor's Office to get Executive Orders that allowed engineering firms to remain open and projects to continue to move forward. These Orders included significant expansion of private plan review and inspections, and these changes were later made permanent by legislation that was signed into law later in 2020.

## 2019

### House Bill 493

#### **EXPANDING PRIVATE PLAN REVIEW AND INSPECTIONS BY ENGINEERS & ARCHITECTS**

Passed into law in 2019, House Bill 493 creates the option for developers, builders, and contractors to go straight to licensed private-sector engineers and architects for local government inspections and plan review. ACEC Georgia worked collectively with stakeholders for over a year on this legislation.

# MAJOR POLITICAL WINS

## CONTINUED

# 2016

## House Bill 943

### PROHIBITING THE USE OF BROAD FORM INDEMNIFICATION AND DUTY TO DEFEND CLAUSES IN GEORGIA

In 2016, Governor Nathan Deal signed House Bill 943 into law, which prohibits the use of broad form indemnification and/or duty to defend clauses in contracts for engineering, architectural and/or land surveying services. ACEC Georgia exclusively led the effort that resulted in its successful passage.

# 2015

## Transportation Funding Act

### PASSING THE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING ACT OF 2015

ACEC Georgia helped lead the effort to pass the Transportation Funding Act of 2015 (HB 170), which created approximately \$1 billion per year in new, permanent, constitutionally dedicated funding for Georgia DOT. This amount will increase over time due to indexing mechanisms built into the legislation.



# MAJOR POLITICAL WINS

## CONTINUED



### TRANSIT GOVERNANCE AND FUNDING COMMISSION

ACEC Georgia was instrumental in the successful passage House Bill 930 that created a new transit governance agency (the “ATL”), and also created a new 1% transit only T-SPLOST that can be put in place for up to 30 years after passage of the required local ballot referendum.



### SIGNIFICANT TAX REFORM BENEFITS FOR ENGINEERING FIRMS

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 lowered the corporate tax rate from 35% to 21% and created a 20% tax deduction for passthrough firms, including S corporations, partnerships, and LLCs. Engineering firms were originally excluded from this deduction but following an extensive advocacy effort by ACEC National in Washington, Congressional leaders modified the final version to provide engineering firms with full use of the new 20% passthrough deduction. The law also allows engineering firms to continue to use cash basis accounting (rather than accrual), which was a critical ACEC priority. The bill also preserves ESOPs and other retirement savings mechanisms, as well as private activity bonds and renewable energy incentives.



### CREATING A STRUCTURAL ENGINEER LICENSE

In 2020, ACEC Georgia helped lead the effort to create a new professional engineering license category for structural engineers. The Structural Engineer (SE) license was created to help alleviate some of the competitive disadvantages Georgia structural engineers were facing when competing against engineers from states that have created some form of established SE license.



# OUR STAFF



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# OUR STAFF

## CONTINUED



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# OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Kenneth Fluker**  
Chairman



**Holly Painter**  
Chair-Elect



**Tommy Crochet**  
Treasurer



**Jennifer Etheridge**  
Secretary



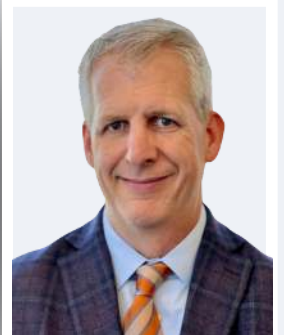
**Ben Adams**  
Vice Chair



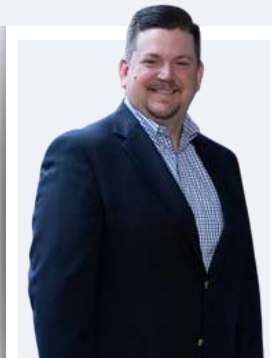
**Stuart Jeffcoat**  
Vice Chair



**Allen Krivsky**  
Vice Chair



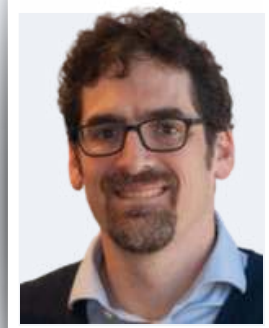
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**Rob Jacquette**  
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# OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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ACEC

Georgia

The BUSINESS of Engineering