

THE FIRST WORD

December, 2011

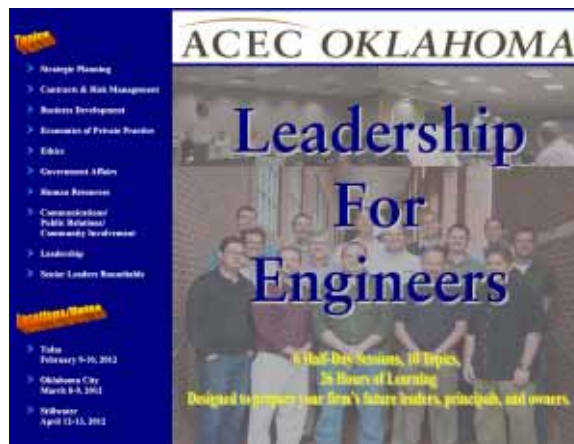
Leadership For Engineers *Only One (1) Seat Left!!!*

**6 Half-Day Sessions, 26 Hours of Learning Covering 9 Topics
Designed to Prepare Your Firm's Future Leaders, Principals, and Owners.**

Only ONE seat remains for **Class #3** of the critically acclaimed *Leadership for Engineers* program beginning in February, 2012.

If you have been waiting to get someone in your firm registered, NOW IS THE TIME! Once the remaining seat is filled, registration for the class will be closed.

ACEC OKLAHOMA's *Leadership for Engineers* program is **targeted to all rising industry professionals** who are committed to developing their leadership and management skills and abilities, and identified by your firm as a "future leader" of your business. **Planning;**



Government Affairs; Economics of Private Practice; Business Development; Risk Management/Contract Language; and, Communications/Public Relations/Community Involvement.

Tuition is \$1,295 and includes all meeting materials, professional development hours, and meals/breaks as appropriate. **Tuition does not include lodging or travel expenses.**

Registration information has been sent to all member firms, and is also available on the ACEC OKLAHOMA website, www.acecok.org

President Obama Signs 3% Withholding Repeal!!!

On Monday, November 14th, one of ACEC's biggest legislative battles formally concluded as President Obama signed the bill repealing the 3% withholding mandate.

ACEC President/CEO David Raymond was on hand at the White House as the President put the final touch on a 6-year battle waged by ACEC and a large coalition of businesses and organizations nationwide.

ACEC was the first group to take a lead role in the repeal effort. Congratulations to David and the Staff at ACEC for a great victory. They were unrelenting in their efforts, and never let up on the pressure to get Congress to repeal this onerous law.

Thanks to all ACEC OKLAHOMA members who kept this in front of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation. Your efforts played a key role in the repeal efforts!

PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY UPDATE

November, 2011

David Raymond, ACEC President & CEO

General

* ACEC's Fall Conference in Las Vegas was attended by record numbers and highlighted by Governors Sandoval and Huckabee, CEOs Craig Martin (Jacobs), Richard Fox (CDM), Bud Wendorf (Sargent & Lundy), and Hisham Mahmoud (AMEC), and former Shell President John Hofmeister. (See *Last Word*, October 26, 2011)

* The Board addressed industry trends including alternative financing of infrastructure, P3s, insourcing, "value proposition" for members, and budgetary challenges.

* Subject to Board approval, ACEC's Nominating Committee tapped Gregs Thomopoulos (Iowa) for Chair in 2013-2014; Ralph Christie (Colorado), Mike Matthews (Virginia), Bill Stout (Pennsylvania) and Peter Strub (South Carolina) for Vice Chairs commencing in April 2012.

* Participated in FIDIC Annual Conference, promoting QBS, sustainability, integrity, and risk management.

Government Affairs

* Lobbied Republican House members to sign a letter to their Leadership supporting a multi-year surface transportation bill as a centerpiece of the economic recovery agenda in Congress.

* ACEC/PAC raised \$145,400 at the Fall Conference in Las Vegas, setting a new conference fundraising record.

* Hosted or co-hosted fundraising events for Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID), Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID), Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), Rep. John Mica (R-FL), and Rep. Jim Gerlach (R-PA).

* Briefed members of SEI Class 17 on key issues before Congress and federal agencies; took class members to Capitol Hill for briefing with senior congressional staff.

* Briefed ACEC/Colorado and ACEC/North Carolina on key federal issues.

Congress Finalizes F.Y. 2012 Transportation Spending Plan Senate Advances New Transportation Bill

House and Senate negotiators have reached a final agreement on a 2012 spending package for transportation and several other unrelated programs.

The bill provides \$41.54 billion for highways, a slight reduction from current funding levels but significantly higher than the \$27 billion proposed in an earlier House draft bill; \$10.61 billion for transit, \$311 million more than current funding; \$1.44 billion for Amtrak, including \$681 million for capital improvements; \$3.35 billion for the airport improvement program, a decrease of \$165 million; and \$500 million for TIGER multi-modal discretionary grants. No funds were provided for high speed rail development.

In the Senate, the Environment & Public Works Committee unanimously approved an ACEC-backed transportation bill.

The bill provides \$85.3 billion for highway programs over two years and expands the Transportation Infrastructure Finance & Innovation (TIFIA) program from \$122 million to \$1 billion per year, significantly increasing federal credit assistance to leverage project financing.

The bill, *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21)*, includes many ACEC policy priorities, such as accelerated project decision deadlines, elimination of duplicative reviews, expansion of category exclusions from environmental review, and early property acquisition.

**Season's
Greetings**



We Wish Everyone
A Joyous Holiday Season
and the Happiest of New Year's!!!!

**Happy
Holidays**

