

THE FIRST WORD

December, 2014

ACEC OKLAHOMA Members Meet with Congressman Mullin



(Left-Right): Stacy Loeffler, Alan Soltani, Congressman Markwayne Mullin, Bill Cyganovich, Todd Cochran, Brian Schmidt, and Jim Benson.

In mid-October, ACEC OKLAHOMA members had the opportunity to meet with Oklahoma Congressman Markwayne Mullin to discuss issues facing Congress of importance to the consulting engineering community. At the same time, ACEC OKLAHOMA presented the Congressman with a contribution from ACECPAC supporting his re-election in Oklahoma's 2nd District.

Congressman Mullin provided a full overview of the challenges which Congress faces regarding the reauthorization of MAP21, the federal highway funding legislation. Mullin also outlined a funding plan which he has developed which, if enacted, would provide for stable, long-term funding of the Highway Trust fund.

Additionally, ACEC OKLAHOMA discussed with the Congressman proposed tax reform legislation which would eliminate "cash accounting" for firms, a move which, as a small businessman, the Congressman opposes.

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ACEC OKLAHOMA's *Leadership for Engineers* 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.

Registration info is available on the ACEC OKLAHOMA website: www.acecok.org

Welcome New Member

ACEC OKLAHOMA is excited to welcome our newest member, **ENERCON SERVICES, INC.**

Michelle Barnett heads up the Tulsa office which provides planning, environmental, hydraulics and hydrology, natural resources services.

Welcome **ENERCON SERVICES** to ACEC OKLAHOMA!



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McCaleb Named to Oklahoma Hall of Fame

Former Secretary of Transportation and ACEC OKLAHOMA member Neal McCaleb was one of seven famous and influential individuals inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in November.

Other inductees included Blake Shelton, Harold T. Holden, Peggy Clark Stephenson, Wanda Jackson, Alfre Woodard, and Thomas H. McCasland, Jr.

Oklahoma City-native Neal McCaleb started his career as a civil engineer in 1957 when he graduated from Oklahoma State University, then called Oklahoma A&M. McCaleb's graduation coincided with the launching of the Interstate Highway System, in which he participated in the early years of planning and designing.

He also worked for the city of Oklahoma City as assistant city manager for a couple of years before opening his own private practice. He would run his consulting engineering firm for about 25 years.

"I made up my mind early in my career that I wanted to seek out opportunities for public service, which I did. I ran for the Legislature in 1974," McCaleb said.

He was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives, serving eight years, four as the Republican floor leader.

In 1987, McCaleb was appointed the first state Secretary of Transportation while also serving as the director of the state Transportation Department.

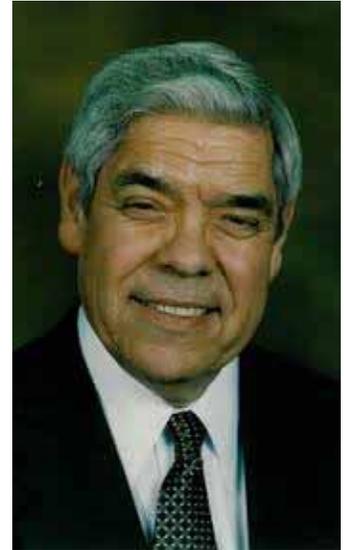
He was again appointed the Secretary of Transportation and director of the state Turnpike Authority and Transportation Department in 1995.

McCaleb was appointed Assistant Secretary of the Interior by President George W. Bush in 2001, which put him in charge of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. His role would include advocating the improvement of tribal nations through the implementation of tribal sovereignty.

He continued his interest in Indian economic development by becoming a special adviser to Gov. Bill Anoatubby of the Chickasaw Nation.

Now 79, McCaleb serves as Ambassador-at-Large for the Chickasaw Nation.

ACEC OKLAHOMA extends our CONGRATULATIONS to Neal on this high honor!



Merry Christmas *Happy Holidays*

***ACEC OKLAHOMA Wishes Everyone
A Joyous Holiday Season
and the Happiest of New Years!***

President's Report

December, 2014

David Raymond, ACEC President

I hope you all had an enjoyable Thanksgiving. Following our successful Fall Conference in Hawaii in October, the Council kept up the pace in November with our annual leadership orientations in Washington, D.C., in which 62 officers from 30 states participated. The uniformly positive ratings given to this program by attendees reflected the benefits MO leaders receive in better understanding national resources available to the states. ACEC/PAC's 95 percent success rate in the mid-term elections, as well as its current program of helping candidates retire their campaign debts, is all aimed at translating political muscle into legislative gain for our industry. This job continues during the current lame duck session of Congress and gains more traction with the new Congress in January. Congratulations to ACEC/New York and ACEC/Utah for reaching their PAC goals in November, with special kudos to New York for raising the highest dollar amount ever reached by an MO – \$65,000 and still counting. With virtually all states contributing at unprecedented levels, we are on track to set a new ACEC/PAC benchmark by the end of the year.

Hope you continue to have a productive and enjoyable holiday season.

General

- ACEC/PAC contributed \$1.68 million to U.S. House and Senate candidates and national party committees to date this election cycle; 95 percent of all ACEC/PAC supported candidates won in the 2014 mid-term elections, including 17 open seat races.
- ACEC/Utah and ACEC/New York achieved their 2014 ACEC/PAC fundraising goals, bringing the total number of states at goal to 21; many more states are poised to meet their goals by year's end.
- ACEC's coalitions (CAMEE, CASE, LDC, SFC, COPS) enjoyed a net gain of 68 new members during the first half of the fiscal year, an uptick of 12 percent; the highest increase went to the Council of Professional Surveyors (COPS), with 26 new members.

Government Advocacy

- Protested a draft Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) regulation released by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers that would significantly expand federal jurisdiction over wetlands and other water bodies, including ditches and wastewater treatment ponds.
- ACEC-AASHTO Joint Committee agreed to collaborate on a comprehensive update of the AASHTO Guide for Consultant Contracting, last published in 2008, to address selection processes, contract negotiation, and program management issues.
- Minuteman Fund supported successful ballot initiatives in Wisconsin and Maryland to safeguard state transportation funding; our effort in Massachusetts to defeat a ballot initiative to repeal gas tax increases came up short but contributed to increased public awareness of this issue.
- Minuteman helped ACEC/Idaho win a major victory in the Idaho Supreme Court to protect the priority of lien rights of engineering companies against liens filed afterward by mortgage companies and other financial institutions.
- Awarded Minuteman Fund grant to ACEC/New York to support the MO's efforts to secure use of state surplus revenues for infrastructure.



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