



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of North Carolina

A message from Executive Director James Smith
January 2022

Dear ACEC/NC Member,

Happy 2022! Though the temperatures outside are cold, things are already heating up for ACEC/NC. Be on the lookout for a lot of great events over the coming months, including some that are highlighted in this month's newsletter.

Before I get too far into what's to come for the year, it's important that I provide you with a few updates from 2021. First and foremost, thank you to the more than 1,000 people who attended the ACEC/NCDOT Joint Transportation Conference in December. While we had to delay its occurrence, that didn't dampen the excitement and participation. Make sure to save November 30 and December 1, 2022, for next year's conference.

And, though we are still tallying the numbers, I am proud to say that we will hit our national ACEC PAC fundraising goal for a record TENTH consecutive year! Our \$42,000 in contributions is a record for ACEC/NC and ranks us seventh nationally in fundraising. We have also exceeded our expectations for the state PAC, and we will provide numbers soon.

We are kicking off our state PAC fundraising efforts on February 10 with our Love Your PAC event. Check out the details in this month's newsletter, and we hope to see many of you there.

So onto the new things for 2022. We have a refreshed website! Thank you to the entire team for giving our digital front door a much-needed makeover.

On the advocacy front, things are generally quiet as both legislative bodies get back to work after their holiday break.

Up on Capitol Hill, we are still hopeful that Congress will include the needed FAR Credits Clause fix to assist many of our member companies in an upcoming bill. ACEC has also monitored the ongoing discussion related to vaccination and mask mandates through OSHA. This topic has made its way to the US Supreme Court, which blocked implementation of the mandates for now.

On Jones Street, though the General Assembly remains in session, their agenda remains relatively light due to the continued uncertainty regarding the 2022 primaries. Our team has continued to have positive conversations regarding new transportation funding streams through groups like the NC FIRST Commission and Senator Vicki Sawyer's NC Ten Commission.

Finally, be on the lookout for information regarding how you can nominate a worthy colleague for the ACEC/NC Board of Directors. Member service is the lifeblood of our association, and we appreciate all of our leaders.

ACEC/NC continues to strengthen itself to serve as the premiere voice for the engineering community of North Carolina. On behalf of the Board of Directors and ACEC/NC staff, we thank you for your support and reiterate our commitment to serve your needs as members and make the ACEC/NC experience as rewarding as possible.

Stay well and be safe,
Jim