

I trust this newsletter finds you well. Thank you all for the warm welcome over the past months and your patience while I get my legs under me.

It is with (nervous) energy that I reach out to you as we embark on a new chapter of strategic growth. I am honored to represent a group that so selflessly works alongside each other to elevate our industry. There is so much opportunity, the sky really is the limit!

A few items to touch on ...

Our logo was outdated, and 'North Carolina' was not very recognizable, so a reboot was in order. We asked our member firms to create a refreshing new logo and boy, did the membership deliver! Congratulations to Chris Bushnell with The Wooten Company who created our new logo! See more on the winner in this newsletter.

We launched a brand new "Voices" Quarterly Membership networking and info exchange on March 28th with a short primer on the Mini-Brooks Act. Wes Tripp and Andrew Ritter from the NC Board of Examiners for Engineers and Land Surveyors (NCBELS) shared details about the act and recent changes that are affecting bids in our marketplace. The rest of the meeting was a veritable 'open mic' night allowing folks to share info, rumors and ask questions of staff and leaders. The next "Voices" meeting will be held June 27th (time TBD) with in-person and virtual options.

To See Wes Tripp's full presentation, go to our [mini brooks section](#) under Advocacy on the acecnc.org website. We look forward to hosting these Member Voices Quarterly!

We are working to align our committee and volunteer engagement to deliver impactful value to our members. We recently got approval to create a brand-new Multi-modal subcommittee within Transportation, connecting Rail, Ferry, Public Transportation, Bike, and Pedestrian modes. The subcommittee will be a platform for facilitating dialogue between the AEC industry and Multi-Modal Leadership. Please watch your ACEC/NC emails for more details as this subcommittee gets fleshed out. A special thanks to Radha Swayampakala for his hard work getting this up and running.

I mentioned in the January newsletter we would amplify our advocacy efforts. The engineering landscape is quickly evolving, and ACEC/NC is poised to provide legislative and regulatory initiatives to help your firms succeed. Although we are actively lobbying now in the Legislative short session, we are excited about opportunities that exist for the long session in 2025 too. Our priorities include the following:

Highlighting the Value of the Engineering industry through a comprehensive PR campaign.

Establishing a Multi-channel Workforce Development Strategy.

Promoting Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) Legislation to protect projects from further exemptions.

Building Lasting Relationships with Regulators and Partners to Benefit Engineers.

Advocate for Transportation Funding Modernization.

Enhancing Educational Opportunities in Legislative Committee Meetings; and Supporting National Initiatives that provide a more stable and predictable environment for our firms.

Membership has been growing but stronger market penetration will bring forth new and diverse voices strengthening our expertise and scope of reach. ACEC plans on a new alignment of resources allowing us to focus on member growth as well as more sophisticated communications and even higher member value at our events. Yes, our goals are bold, but why shouldn't they be? Our members deserve the very best we can deliver.

I hope you can escape your offices and enjoy the amazing spring weather that our state is known for and feel empowered about the part you play in making this state an amazing place to live and work.

Consider joining us in Wilmington on May 9th for a themed social and special farewell party for Meredith Houston who is heading off to start an incredible new opportunity in association management.

Warmest Regards,

Tara Robbins
Executive Director ACEC/NC