



# ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
*of North Carolina*

A message from Executive Director James Smith  
December 2021

Dear ACEC/NC Member,

December is upon us, and this month brings with it both the holiday spirit and the spirit of reflection. Though 2021 has brought with it continued struggles due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic, it has also seen a significant amount of learning and growth for our organization. Truly, the past two years have taught our team numerous lessons and new ways to present content that will continue to pay dividends for the future.

As we take a look back at the year, I would be remiss if I didn't start with a huge THANK YOU! Thank you to our Board and committees for their hard work keeping the organization moving forward. Thank you to everyone who joined us for our first Annual Conference in two years and who showed up for all of our events this year. Whether in person or virtual, these events allowed us to remain connected even in this disconnected world. And last, but certainly not least, thank you to the great staff that I get the pleasure to work with every day. They are truly the glue of ACEC/NC and are the best in the business.

While I don't want to jinx anything before the final numbers are tallied—THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to ACEC/PAC this year. Because of your investment in our industry, we are on the precipice of our 10<sup>th</sup> straight year hitting our goal! And your investments are more important than ever, with the 2022 elections just around the corner. We will have final numbers in January, and you still have time to make your investments during this year's holiday receptions.

Speaking of holiday receptions, it was great to see so many of you at the holiday reception in Charlotte on December 9. We look forward to seeing everyone who can make it this Thursday night (December 16) in Raleigh.

On the policy and advocacy front, 2021 has been a year of great successes, as well as progress towards long-standing goals and needs to move our state forward. November saw the passage of the federal infrastructure legislation, as well as the first state budget in almost three years. While neither commits the long-term infrastructure funding we know we need, they both set things forward and lay the foundation for future success. We will continue our work with groups like the NC Ten Commission to support legislation in the short session to make additional changes. We know that the conversations from this week's ACEC/NCDOT Joint Transportation Conference have certainly spurred some new ideas as well.

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.

On behalf of the entire ACEC/NC team, we wish you Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

Stay well and be safe,  
Jim