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**ASCE Illinois Section**

# News

Vol. 63, No.4  
Winter 2022

## Training Programs Help Develop the Next Generation of Engineers

*Written by Matt Gazdziak, P.E., Younger Member Group Chair & Trevor Cannon, Younger Member Group Director of Outreach*

As engineers, many of us learn best by doing. It can be challenging to fully grasp a new concept by only learning about it in the theoretical sense. Blending theoretical knowledge with a firsthand observation in the physical world can lead to a more comprehensive understanding of a new concept. Students in undergraduate engineering programs often see this throughout their coursework. For example, a materials science course may blend classroom learning about the properties of concrete with a laboratory component where sample concrete mixes are made and cylinders are broken. This process of deliberate firsthand exposure to new concepts (or different parts of the civil engineering industry) in the academic setting needs to be paired with similar exposure in the non-academic setting to help develop the next generation of engineers.

Within the civil engineering industry, some employers have dedicated training programs to formalize the process of exposing younger engineers to different areas of the field early in their career. These programs can help broaden a younger engineer's frame of reference and set them up for long-term success by empowering them to find the area of the industry that best fits their interest and skillset. One such program exists at the Illinois Tollway, where younger engineers can gain priceless firsthand experiences at highway construction sites. One student currently taking advantage of this opportunity is Dafne Henriquez, a senior at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Dafne has participated in a co-op with the Illinois Tollway since June 2022, as she approached the final semester of her bachelor's degree in engineering. The select group that participates in this program gains real-life experience on construction (Continued on page 9)

## President's Notes

Sandra Homola, P.E., CFM



I am truly honored to serve as the ASCE Illinois Section President for 2022-2023, and I look forward to serving our members over the next year. I would like to start by thanking a few people. To Past President Andrew Walton, thank you for your leadership and dedication over the past year. To the Annual Dinner Committee, the Awards Committee, and our Executive Secretary Sarah Harbaugh, thank you for making our first Annual Dinner in 3 years a huge success. It was wonderful to see so many of our members and celebrate our award winners in person.

As we commence the 107<sup>th</sup> year of Illinois Section operations, we will focus on three initiatives:

1. Supporting, reinvigorating, and increasing our membership,
2. Expanding student outreach to encourage a new generation of civil engineers, and
3. Supporting several key Society initiatives.

Membership has been down a bit the last few years. To help rectify this I challenge all of our active members to invite someone new to attend a Section or Institute event or meeting with you. Share the value you get from your membership, and ask them to get involved.

Companies can also join the ASCE Partner Program. There are programs for both large and small companies, and partnership can provide employers with discounted memberships, training opportunities, and recruiting services. You can sign up for the program here.: <https://www.asce.org/membership/corporate-engagement/organization-partners>

Over the next year we will be reaching out to work more closely with our local student chapters, hoping to get them more involved so that we can better understand and address their needs. We will also be continuing our Mentorship Program which pairs students with young engineers in industry to help students obtain their goals and ease their transition to industry.

We also need to engage and capture the imagination of younger students, getting them interested in engineering through our participation in STEM activities. One way we can do this is by supporting ASCE's Future World Vision initiative which takes a look at what our communities might look like in 2070. The first envisioned city – the Mega City - is available now on the ASCE website. In fall of 2023, the Society plans to launch an IMAX film to introduce grade school students to Future World Vision. Stay tuned for a launch event at the Museum of Science and Industry in the fall.

And lastly, we are excited to have the ASCE 2023 Convention in Chicago next October. The Section is forming a local programs committee to help with planning. Please contact me at [sandra.homola@exp.com](mailto:sandra.homola@exp.com) if you are interested in helping.

On behalf of the Illinois Section, I wish you a happy holiday season, and look forward to seeing you in 2023!

Yours sincerely,

Sandra Homola, P.E., CFM  
ASCE Illinois Section President  
2022-2023

## ASCE Illinois Section News

### ILLINOIS SECTION NEWSLETTER

E-Mailed to all ASCE-IS dues-paying members  
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Section - Region 3

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# Transforming Communities Through Project Readiness

*Written by Brian Umbright, P.E., S.E..*

Despite the investment in infrastructure from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and Rebuild Illinois (RBI), the competition for project funding will continue to be fierce. There is an exponential need for projects and funding associated with IIJA is through a competitive grant process. To improve project success and advance infrastructure projects throughout communities, various tactics can be employed including project readiness.

## **Project Readiness**

With available funding, the argument is, “project readiness” is critical for implementing agencies to understand. Projects that are ready for their next phase or construction will attract funding by the very nature of showing progress and putting money towards projects that are real. As transportation agencies, it is important to be innova-

## **Project Readiness Drives Success.**

tive and creative in identifying how early investments can have significant impacts on accelerating project delivery. The Village of Franklin Park is an example of this success and can serve as a model for other agencies.

## **Franklin Avenue Background**

As part of Illinois Tollway’s \$3.4B Elgin O’Hare Western Access

Corridor, the Illinois Tollway and Village of Franklin Park spent several years coordinating a new interchange between I-490 and Franklin Avenue/Green Street. While the interchange was to have many positive impacts for the Village, limited improvements to Franklin Av-

## **Project Readiness Allows Funding.**

enue to the east of the new interchange would be a limiting factor in maximizing benefits and realizing the Village’s goal of significant industrial development in the area. A project sponsor was needed to reconstruct and widen nearly two additional miles of Franklin Avenue to fully realize the Village’s vision and take advantage of the new interchange and the economic benefits of the new I-490 corridor.

## **Early Coordination is Key**

As far back as 2015, Cook County began to promote the idea of providing funding to municipalities to be their own implementers of infrastructure improvements. Through numerous meetings and ongoing coordination, the Village was able to obtain a funding commitment from the County and the West Central Municipal Conference (WCMC). Combined with their own seed capital, they were able to begin a Phase I Study of the needed improvements.

## **Starting**

Initially the Phase I Study took several years, but by early 2018 the study phase began although no mechanism to fund the project had been developed. However, starting the Phase I process allowed the Village to submit for Illinois’ first Competitive Freight Grant Funding call. Having the necessary data and stakeholder support from the initial stages of the Phase I study allowed the team to assemble a highly competitive grant application that received the highest score from 24 applicants and was the other project that received 100% of its requested funding. Securing the grant created momentum and very specific deadlines that allowed Phase I approval to be obtained in 15 months.

## **Opportunistic and Flexible**

Obtaining the Illinois Competitive Freight Grant was a game changer for the Village and the Project.

## **Project Readiness Elevates Project in a Competitive Landscape**

However, for projects to be successful they need a “cocktail of funding.” An important lesson to be learned from the Village is that they proactively continued to seek other funding sources for this project as the implementation unfolded. Their continued efforts to be opportunistic resulted in ad- (Continued on page 11)

# IDOT's New Program-Innovative Project Delivery

Written by Michael Kowalski, P.E.

The State of Illinois received an overall grade of C- on ASCE's 2022 Infrastructure Report card, more specifically a D+ for their Roadway. One of the recommendations to raise the grade was to evaluate the adoption of alternative delivery methods.

On June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Governor Pritzker signed into law Senate Bill 2981-Innoviations for Transportation Infrastructure Act. This legislation allows for the implementation of alternative delivery methods to be used on IDOT and Tollway projects. The new delivery methods will include Design Build, Progressive Design Build and Construction Manager/General Contractor.

## WHAT IS DESIGN BUILD/PROGRESSIVE DESIGN BUILD/CMGC?

**Design Build (DB)** is an alternative delivery method that is new to the State of Illinois transportation sector but has become one of the fastest growing and most popular delivery methods used on construction projects in America over the past few decades. The DB delivery method results in the owner managing only one contract with a single point of responsibility. The designer and contractor work together from the beginning, as a team, to provide a product that reflects the owner's scope, schedule, and budget. The collaborative

effort of this delivery method amongst the owner, designer and contractor often leads to innovative approaches to the infrastructure projects.

Over the past several years, a newer version of the Design Build delivery method has been developed, called **Progressive Design Build (PDB)**. This delivery method is similar in structure to DB, however, it aims to have the owner and the design-build team share the risk and responsibility during the development of the design and improves the accuracy of the contract price.

In the DB delivery method, the design-build team gets selected and takes full responsibility for design and construction when the design is about 30 percent complete. The owner selects the design-build team based on their bid, either purely based on cost or cost and qualifications (Best Value bid). With PDB, the design build team is again selected when preliminary (30%) plans are completed, but the

final price is determined later in the process. The owner and the design-build team stay involved in the development of design from this stage until the plans are 50 percent to 75 percent completed. At that stage a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) is agreed upon between the design-build team and the owner. This method provides a selection process that is based more on qualification and eliminates the risk of change orders once the GMP is agreed to.

**Construction Manager/General Contract (CMGC)**, also referred to as Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR), is a hybrid of design-build and design-bid-build delivery methods. In this delivery method, a Construction Manager (CM) is selected by the owner during the design phase. The CM provides input throughout the design process on Construction aspects of the projects including constructability, scheduling, pricing, and phasing. A GMP is then agreed upon between the owner and the (Continued on page 9)





# Utility Engineering & Surveying Institute – Illinois Chapter

The Utility Engineering & Surveying Institute (UESI) offers professionals working within the utility, pipeline engineering, and surveying/geomatics communities the opportunity to network with others and shape the future of the industry by participating in technical activities, conferences, and the development of internationally recognized standards. There are four divisions within UESI including Pipelines, Utility Risk Management, Surveying and Geomatics, and Asset Management. Each of these divisions focuses on areas of practice that affect the engineering, surveying, construction, and management of these elements.

On a national and international level, ASCE has created a forum for the exchange of technical and professional ideas. The institute helps to identify and disseminate developing technologies and research. It also develops and promotes asset management best practices. The big goal is to enhance collaboration among ASCE's technical, professional, and educational groups. We hope to bring these activities locally here in Northern Illinois.

For add'l info contact any of the following volunteers: Steve Rienks, P.E., PMP, American Surveying & Engineering, P.C., 708.997.1690 or ([s.rienks@americansurvey.com](mailto:s.rienks@americansurvey.com)); Joel Koenig,

P.E., Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc., 630.336.2027 or ([jkoenig@cmtengr.com](mailto:jkoenig@cmtengr.com)); Bethany Turk, P.E., hbk Engineering, LLC, 847.962.3056 or ([bturk@hbkengineering.com](mailto:bturk@hbkengineering.com)); Steve Jandick, P.E., V3 Companies, 630.639.6184 or ([sjandick@v3co.com](mailto:sjandick@v3co.com)); Brian

Castro, with d'Escoto, Inc., 872.202.1145 or ([bcastro@des-cotoinc.com](mailto:bcastro@des-cotoinc.com)) and Vinod Thanki, P.E., Globetrotters Engineering Corp., 630.827.1503, or ([vthanki@gmail.com](mailto:vthanki@gmail.com)).



**UTILITY ENGINEERING  
& SURVEYING  
INSTITUTE**

**Illinois Chapter**



# 104<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Dinner

## Highlights

*Written by Zachary Pucel, P.E., Tina Revzin, P.E., S.E., Jeana Gowin, P.E., CFM and Irsilia Colletti, P.E., S.E.*

The ASCE Illinois Section celebrated its 104th Annual Awards Dinner at the Sheraton Grand Chicago Riverwalk on the evening of October 13, 2022, after a two-year hiatus. With over



*2022-2023 IL Section ASCE Board Members*

350 people in attendance, including consultants, contractors, local agency and city officials, and students from Chicagoland Universities, the event was a tremendous success. In addition to celebrating our 2022 award winners, we were also able to honor our 2020 and 2021 award winners and the new life



*2022-2023 IL Section ASCE Executive Board*

members from 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Special guests included staff from local agencies including the Illinois Tollway, Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT), Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (CCDOH), Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA), Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD), and Lake County Stormwater

Management.

The evening began with hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, and networking in the Promenade. All guests were then escorted into the Ballroom where WGN morning news anchor and stand-up comedian Pat Tomasulo served as guest emcee to the event. Mr. Tomasulo did a fantastic job keeping the awards presentation moving along while at the same time ensuring that the guests were engaged and entertained during the evening's program.

The ASCE Illinois Section honored 23 Life members at the 104th Annual Awards, 11 of which were

able to attend in person. A Life Member is an individual who has made a lifetime commitment to ASCE and the civil engineering



*2023 President Elect Marsia Geldert-Murphy swore in the 2022-2023 IL Section Board*



*WGN News Anchor Pat Tomasulo was the Guest Emcee for the Evening*

profession by remaining a member for the full length of their  
(Continued on page 11)

# The Benefits of a Rigorous Utility Investigation for Project Development

Written by Steven M. Rienks, P.E., PMP & James H. Anspach, P.G.(r)

There are several risks that might prevent a project from being completed in a safe manner, on time and within the construction budget. These risks typically include permits, right-of-way acquisitions, unsecured construction easements, unexpected or changing site conditions, and utility conflicts and protection. This article will emphasize a way to mitigate the risks associated with utility conflicts and protection.

Proper utility identification during design and inclusion as part of the bid package can facilitate projects being constructed safely, on time, within the construction budget and with minimal disruptions to the services provided by the utility companies. ASCE has published two separate standards regarding utilities to assist in project delivery. *ASCE/CI/UESI 38-22 Standard Guideline for Investigating and Documenting Existing Utilities* is an update to the 38-02 standard reflecting the updated changes in practice, technologies, and research for detecting/documenting the uncertainties of locations of underground utilities and other infrastructure. *ASCE/CI/UESI 75 Standard Guideline for Recording and Exchanging Utility*

*Infrastructure Data* establishes minimum, optional, and conditional elements of spatial and non-spatial attribute data associated with utility infrastructure. The standard guideline also provides recommendations for effective practices to facilitate data exchange among project stakeholders. It is essentially a “how to specify the creation of a utility certified record drawing” so that individual

**You might remember the old oil Fram commercial, “You can pay me more now, or you can pay me more later”.**

utility owners’ facilities and project utilities have standardization rather than literally hundreds of differing formats and accuracies and amounts of details about the new or relocated utilities within a project’s limits. The guideline is critical to capture, document, and exchange utility data for project scoping, planning, design, construction, operation, and long-term management of utility systems as well as the management of public right-of-way and properties throughout which utility infrastructure are installed. It is also beneficial to facilitate the

interaction among stakeholders for managing utility and other civil infrastructure.

Although each project is different and warrants its own procedures, there are some common practices that lead to an efficient useful investigation that provides data in time for the designers to use it effectively. The first practice is to collect utility information as early as possible in project development. Early decisions such as line and grade, deep versus shallow drainage systems, siting of bridge foundations or structure footings, right-of-way requirements, and more are expensive to redo or change if a utility requiring a long lead time or high cost for relocation is discovered late in the process. Since it is well established that utility records are many times incorrect, difficult to obtain, or unavailable, comprehensive geophysics are typically applied within the project footprint, and the results of the geophysics synthesized with existing records and visual evidence. Communicating these data to individual task designers along with ramifications of cost and schedule implications if conflicts cannot be avoided fosters good design decisions.

(Continued on page 8)



# The Benefits of a Rigorous Utility Investigation for Project Development

(Continued from 7)

How to synthesize and display the geophysical, visual, and record data is described in ASCE 38-22. Utilities within a project's limits are not static; new ones are added, the project may relocate some early, and there may be other changes. A mechanism to keep the utility data current throughout project development is an essential practice. As new data is added to the project, communication of those changes to the task designers becomes important. Hence, fees and lines of communication for this service must be established. Geophysics, visual evidence and records are uncertain and require professional judgment. If a potential conflict is identified between the utility data and the design, exposure and accurate measurements of what is discovered in the excavation should be made. These results may change the judgments of the previous work, so provisions should be made to update this data so that the snapshot in time is as reliable as possible. So, the process of investigating and documenting existing utilities on a project is iterative and requires continual communication between the project parties.

Utility coordination typically includes, but is not limited to, these tasks: utility conflict identification; meeting set-up and management between design consultants, utility owners, and permit agencies; determination of prior rights; sequencing of utility construction; relocation routing; relocation design; salvage value; utility plans

and estimates review and approvals; determination of and securing of required utility easements and temporary construction easements; scheduling; writing special provisions; agreement development; securing policy exceptions; developing design alternatives, costs, time versus utility relocation; and performing municipal water and sewer design.

This process involves the utility owner early in the project which is sometimes a challenge. For preventing damages during project development, a budget needs to be established. This amount is not widely known nor shared in the A/E/C industry for a complete SUE Investigation. The industry standard is 0.5% to 2% of the construction value. Breaking this down further, assume 0.5% to 1% for rural projects and 1% to 2% for urban projects. These numbers are for budgeting purposes and might have to be doubled given the individual nature of each project. Let us encourage our fellow A/E/C professionals, clients, and utility owners that a complete SUE investigation, QL B (which will likely contain QL C and QL D depictions) and QL A test holes, if needed, be performed as part of the engineering plans that are advertised for bid or negotiated for bid and can be shared with the applicable utility owners. We feel that utility identification at this stage of planning and design development helps to prevent utility damages and service disruptions to the utility companies and their customers.

With this process, the utility locators responding to the excavation tickets during the construction phase will have the best available information to ensure that what they identify on the ground is the same as what is shown on the final construction plans. If not, then the Contractor is not to proceed until a resolution has been agreed to by the various stakeholders. This proposed method will not eliminate risk, but it can go a long way to minimizing the risks in a potentially dangerous business. What happens if a complete SUE investigation is not performed? The contractor files a claim for delay, and the cost of the delay might be more than the consultant's fee. Nonetheless for the consultant, there is the potential loss of goodwill and reputation with the client.

You might remember the old Fram oil filter commercial, "You can pay me more now, or you can pay me more later?" But today we might add, "Either way, you are going to pay more!" The question that the Consultant, Client and/or the Utility Owner needs to ask themselves is, "Which dollars are cheaper, today's or tomorrow's?"

**Author Bios:** Steven M. Rienks, P.E., PMP is the Director of Engineering/Senior Project Manager at American Surveying & Engineering. He is a registered Professional Engineer in several states, certified Project Management Professional, qualified and/or experienced. (Continued on page 10)



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# Training Programs Help Develop the Next Generation of Engineers

(Continued from page 1)

sites working with various Illinois Tollway Project Managers and consultant Construction Managers on the projects they are assigned to.

Dafne has participated in the co-op program in varying levels by working full-time during the summer when not taking classes and continuing on during the school year working between 20 and 40 hours a week. Through this extended working arrangement, she has been able to see progression on a bridge reconstruction project in the Chicagoland area. “The work consists of looking at the plans, and the contractor would send a schedule of the [tasks] they would be working on the day prior, and our job as a field engineer is to familiarize ourselves with where they are doing work on that day.” While on the construction site, Dafne performs tasks such as reviewing material tickets to compare against anticipated quantities. On slower days, Dafne can be found in the field office performing cost estimates. “The size of the projects are so massive that any and every

aspect of engineering school is sort of applied in this project,” recounts Dafne of the bridge reconstruction project. The arrangement has also provided her the opportunity to connect and network with consulting engineering firms also working on the project as potential employers when she graduates. The length of the co-op arrangement has provided her with exposure to a breadth and variety of engineering tasks, leading to a positive experience overall.

When a new engineering graduate begins their first full-time job, it is often the first time they are fully immersed on a real-life project for the long-term. If a younger engineer’s level of interest and skillset align with the scope and goals of a project, the project team can be elevated as the new staff member seamlessly fits in. If the level and interest and skillset are not as aligned, a project can be delayed as additional training efforts are needed to get the new staff member integrated into the project. Prior experience through co-ops or internships can help steer a younger

engineer toward an agency or firm that works on the type of projects they are interested in. Having a “test run” through a co-op or internship can help employers and prospective full-time employees evaluate each other, contributing to the ultimate goal of optimizing the match of new graduates with full-time opportunities. Optimizing this match can help employers reduce employee attrition, reduce recruitment effort and cost, and set projects up for success.

The civil engineering industry will be better served over the long-term with an embrace of programs and processes that expose younger engineers to different parts of the field early in their career.

**Author Bios:** **Matt Gazdziak**, P.E. is a transportation Project Manager at Strand Associates, Inc.

**Trevor Cannon** is a Civil Design Engineer at Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.

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## IDOT’s New Program-Innovative Project Delivery

(Continued from 4)

CM once the design is typically 60 percent to 90 percent complete. The designer and the CM work for the owner under separate contracts.

### IDOT’S PLAN TO IMPLEMENT THE LEGISLATION

The Innovations For Transportation Infrastructure Act allows the Illinois Department of Transportation to use Design Build/Progress

Design Build for \$400million of projects over any Multi-Year Program. It also allows the use of Construction Manager/General Contractor to be utilized on 2 projects every fiscal year.

(Continued on page 10)

## IDOT's New Program-Innovative Project Delivery

(Continued from 9)

To implement this legislation, IDOT is launching an innovative project delivery program. A manual of processes and guidelines are currently being developed by IDOT. Other State DOT's and engineering consultants, who have vast experience with DB/PDB/CMGC, are being utilized as sources to assist in developing the programs manual.

According to Holly Bieneman, The Director of IDOT'S Office of Planning and Programming, a five-chapter rough draft of the manual is anticipated to be completed in the winter of 2023. IDOT will be releasing the draft to the industry for review and feedback to complete a final draft in 2023. Included in this manual will be considerations of types of projects that would benefit from these delivery methods along with guidelines to properly procure and implement an alternative delivery method

contract through construction completion. By the time the manual is completed, IDOT hopes to identify several projects to utilize these innovative project delivery methods on in the next MYP. IDOT's goal is to have the first alternative delivery method projects out for procurement within the 2024 State Fiscal Year (7/1/23-6/30/24).

IDOT understands the process and effort that is required to develop and implement a new program successfully. The department does not want to rush into launching the program until they are certain of success. Holly Bieneman stated "We understand the excitement and urgency of this new program, but we want to make sure the program is a success. There are a lot of moving pieces to successfully launching a new program and we want to make sure all are considered to ensure a successful program."

Innovative project delivery methods can lead to more choices in funding and financing, increased cost efficiency, improved project quality, innovative design, and accelerated project delivery. The State of Illinois has a goal to become a national leader in the use of these delivery methods through the Innovative Project Delivery Program. If implemented and carried out correctly, this program will accelerate the improvement of State's transportation infrastructure.

**Author Bio: Michael Kowalski,** P.E. is a Senior Resident Engineer and Project Manager at Ciorba Group with approximately 10 years of experience in construction engineering and management. He currently serves as the Chair of the IS-ASCE Construction Institute.

## The Benefits of a Rigorous Utility Investigation for Project Development

(Continued from 8)

enced In Civil Engineering projects, but also mentors/coaches younger/enthusiastic Civil Engineers.

Steve is an ASCE Life Member, Chair for the UESI Illinois Chapter, Mentor in the ASCE Mentorship program, and Member at Large T&DI.

**James H. Anspach, P.G. (r)** is the Affiliate Assistant Professor at Iowa State University Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering. He has over 40 years of developing and leading the subsurface utility engineering profession and the utility engineering profession.

James is a Distinguished Member ASCE, Founding Governor & Presi-

dent 2018: ASCE Utility Engineering and Surveying Institute, Chair - ASCE Construction Standards Council, and Chair - ASCE 38-22 "Standard Guideline for Investigating and Documenting Existing Utilities", as well as a Member and Past Chair of the ASCE Codes & Standards Committee.

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## Transforming Communities Through Project Readiness

(Continued from [3](#))

ditional funding grants from Cook County – both Invest in Cook and Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Illinois Tollway, the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Illinois Department of Transportation. In addition, due to project readiness, the Village was able to capture additional unused Competitive Freight Grant funding from projects that were not ready.

Every project has twists and turns, and because the Village was flexible, they were able to implement the improvements over time and

under multiple construction contracts that took advantage of specific funding streams. This resulted in eased local traffic staging burdens and accommodated the land acquisition process. Using a phased approach instead of all-or-nothing showed readiness and allowed for implementation to proceed

The Village of Franklin Park is on schedule to see the completion of the \$35M Franklin Avenue Improvement project by the end of 2024 to coincide with the Illinois Tollway's new I-490 interchange.

These projects will signal the completion of more than a decade of planning efforts. This project will bring economic vitality to the Village and region. It also serves as a great example of how project readiness attracts funding for projects to go from an idea to completion!

**Author Bio: Brian Umbright, PE,** SE is Vice President of Transportation in EXP's Chicago office and has been involved in the transportation industry for over 25 years.

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## 104<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Dinner Highlights

(Continued from [6](#))



*ASCE Life Members Honored*

professional career and this status is bestowed on a member in recognition of his or her long-term support of the Society. Life Members are exempt from payment of membership dues.

Volunteers were recognized who gave their time and effort

throughout the year by serving on various committees, technical institutes, and the Section Board. The ASCE Illinois Section Board is composed of a President, Past President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, six directors who serve staggered 2-year terms, and the seven chairs from the technical institutes and Younger Member Group. ASCE Past President Andrew Walton welcomed all guests to the event, recognized the generous sponsors. President Sandra Homola spoke of the initiatives she has for the upcoming year as President of the Illinois Section.

The event included an open bar and hors d'oeuvres during the cocktail hour and wine service throughout the duration of the dinner program. Individual ticket pricing was kept affordable to encourage attendance and relied heavily on the generous sponsorship of industry leaders in engineering and construction. The sponsors made a commitment to support the industry and the engineering community by making financial contributions to support the ASCE Annual Awards Dinner at the Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze levels. We would like to thank all our generous sponsors with the following recognition in this newsletter:

(Continued on page [12](#))

# 104<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Dinner Highlights

(Continued from 11)



*The dinner service and the Awards program was held in the Sheraton Grand Chicago Riverwalk's Ballroom*

## 2022 Annual Awards Dinner Sponsors

**Platinum (\$2,500):** Alfred Benesch & Company, Christopher B.

Burke Engineering, Collins Engineers, EXP, GSG Consultants, Gannett Fleming/Gasperec Elberts Consulting, HDR Engineering, HNTB Corporation, Michael Baker International, Muller2/Jacobs, Rubinos & Mesia Engineers, Singh and Associates, Inc., Stanley Consultants, Stantec, TransSystems, V3 Companies

**Gold (\$2,000):** AECOM, Cotter, d'Escoto

**Silver (\$1,500):** Advance Drainage Systems, Bloom Companies, LLC, ACEC of Illinois, Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, WSP

**Bronze (\$500):** Horner Shifrin

The main event of the evening's program is the presentation of awards to the outstanding individuals and project winners in the Sustainability in Civil Engineering Achievement and Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement award categories. There were many deserving nominations, and the Awards Committee wishes to thank all those that participated by submitting a nomination. The Awards Selection Committee includes a member from each technical institute, and a minimum of two representatives from the Illinois Section Board of Directors. All award recipients are chosen by a vote of the Selection Committee. Following this vote by the committee, a vote of the Illinois Section Board is required to ratify the committee's selections. Below are the 2022 award recipients:

- **Civil Engineer of the Year:** John Lazzara, P.E., ENV SP (Stanley Consultants)
- **Government Civil Engineer of the Year:** Kurt Woolford, P.E., CFM, LEED AP. (Lake County Stormwater Management Commission)
- **Young Government Civil Engineer of the Year:** Michael Kowalczyk, P.E. (FHWA)
- **Young Civil Engineer of the Year:** Joe Kauzlarich, P.E., S.E. (Michael Baker International)
- **Construction Engineering Person of the Year:** Daniel Gross, P.E.
- **Private Sector Employer Recognition:** Alfred Benesch & Company
- **Sustainability in Civil Engineering Achievement:** Buffalo Creek Reservoir Expansion, MWRDGC, Lake County Forest Preserve and Village of Buffalo Grove
- **Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement (Under \$10 Million):** Lincoln Yards South Environmental Remediation, Sterling Bay
- **Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement (\$10-\$25 Million):** Irving Park Road over North Branch of the Chicago River, Chicago Department of Transportation
- **Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement (\$25-\$100 Million):** Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Bridge, Illinois Tollway

(Continued on page 13)



# 104<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Dinner Highlights

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- **Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement (over \$100 Million):** Midway International Airport Security Checkpoint Expansion, Chicago Department of Aviation



*2022-2023 IL Section  
President Homola Presents the  
Civil Engineer of the Year  
Award to Region 3 Governor  
John Lazarra*

Thank you to all who came to celebrate and support this very special Annual Awards Dinner and the exceptional people and projects that were recognized at it. The support our members provide for the Illinois Section through the generous sponsorships and attendance at events held throughout the year allow for ASCE to recognize and honor the profession and the



*2021-2022 ASCE IL Section  
President Andrew Walton hand  
over the gavel to 2022-2023  
President Sandra Homola*



*Members of the ISTHA and Project Team for the Outstanding  
Engineering Achievement between \$25-\$100M*

outstanding practitioners that advance it.

The Illinois Section also appreciates the Life Members who have committed themselves to the success of ASCE through their membership, support, and contribution to the Society, as well as the student members who keep the Illinois Section moving into the future as they enter the industry.

And finally, thank you to all the volunteers who dedicate their time and expertise to the Board and the individual institutes and committees that make up the Illinois Section. Their energy, dedication, and commitment to ASCE are the backbone of the organization and how the Illinois Section provides value to our members.

**Author Bios:** Zachary Pucel, P.E. is a Construction Manager at TranSystems. He served on the IS-ASCE Board as a Director to 2022 and

was Co-Chair of the 2022 Annual Awards Committee.

**Tina Revzin, P.E., S.E.** is a Structural Engineer at TranSystems. She serves on the IS-ASCE Board as a Director to 2023 and was Co-Chair of the 2022 Annual Awards Committee.

**Jeana Gowin, P.E., C.F.M.** is a Water Resources Project Manager at Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. She served on the IL-ASCE Board as a Director to 2022 and was Co-Chair of the 2022 Awards Dinner Committee.

**Irsilia Colletti, P.E., S.E.** is a Structural Engineer at HNTB Corporation. She serves on the IS-ASCE Board as a Director to 2023 and was Co-Chair of the 2022 Awards Dinner Committee.

**Photography By: Ashley Hamm Photography**

**Winter 2022**

To inform Illinois Section members of the discussions at monthly Board meetings, the Section Secretary contributes this article to the newsletter covering October 2022, November 2022, and December 2022. The Illinois Section Board Meetings offer in-person and virtual attendance options. Access to historical IS Board Meeting Minutes, Constitution, and Bylaws can be found on ASCE Collaborate at

<https://collaborate.asce.org/home>. Any questions or comments on the Board activities are welcome by contacting Secretary Monica Crinion at [monica.crinion@aec.com](mailto:monica.crinion@aec.com).

### ■ *Treasurer's Report & Meeting Minutes*

▲ A treasurer's report was presented and approved at the October 2022, November 2022, and December 2022 meetings. The September 2022, October 2022 and November 2022 Board Meeting minutes were approved.

### ■ *Highlights from Illinois Section Activities and Institute/Group Reports.*

▲ **Annual Awards Dinner** – After a two-year hiatus due to COVID 19, the Illinois Section held the Annual Awards Dinner in-person at the Sheraton Grand Chicago Riverwalk on Thursday, October 13, 2022. In addition to celebrating the [2022 Award Winners](#), the section honored the 2020 and 2021 award winners and the new life members from 2021, 2022 and 2023.

▲ **Incoming 2023 IS Board Members** – Three director to 2024 positions (Muhammad Ali, Rob Brzezson, and Saki Handa), the secretary position (Monica Crinion), and all new Institute/Group chairs were installed on October 13, 2022, at the Annual Dinner. 2023 ASCE President-Elect, Marsia Geldert-Murphey, installed the 2023 IS Board Members.

▲ **ASCE Society Convention** – The 2022 ASCE Convention was held in Anaheim, California from October 23<sup>rd</sup> through October 26<sup>th</sup>. Director to 2024, Muhammed Ali attended on behalf of the IS-ASCE. The ASCE 2023 Convention will be in Chicago, Illinois (October 23-27, 2023).

▲ **2023 Budget** – A draft of the 2023 IS budget was presented at the December IS Board meeting. The final FY23 budget will be discussed and voted on at the January 2023 Board meeting.

▲ **Route 66 Historic Landmark Nomination** – The Illinois Section, along with nine other ASCE sections, continues to support the nomination of Route 66 as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. Route 66 begins in Chicago and terminates in Los Angeles and will celebrate its centennial anniversary in 2026. The Illinois Section is currently preparing a resolution to support the nomination of this landmark. More information can be found at [www.route66nhcel.us](http://www.route66nhcel.us).

▲ **2023 Legislative Fly-In** – The 2023 legislative fly-in will be

March 1<sup>st</sup> thru March 3<sup>rd</sup> in Washington D.C. The Society will designate attendees from a pool of ASCE members who applied before November 18<sup>th</sup>. Several IS-ASCE members applied to attend on behalf of the Illinois Section.

▲ **Construction Institute (CI)** – The CI held their Board meetings on October 5<sup>th</sup>, November 1<sup>st</sup>, and December 8<sup>th</sup>. A site tour of the Wells-Wentworth Connector was held on November 2<sup>nd</sup> with 20 members in attendance. For more information or if interested in joining this institute, please contact CI Chair Michael Kowalski at [mkowalski@ciorba.com](mailto:mkowalski@ciorba.com).

▲ **Environmental & Water Resources Institute (EWRI)** – The EWRI held their Board meetings on October 11<sup>th</sup> and November 8<sup>th</sup>. Past EWRI Chair Saki Handa attended the EWRI Leadership Council Meeting from October 28<sup>th</sup> to October 29<sup>th</sup> at the ASCE Society Headquarters in Reston, Virginia. A Chicagoland Permitting Workshop was held on November 16<sup>th</sup> in Schaumburg. The all-day event included 12 presenters and 62 workshop attendees. Please contact EWRI Chair Joe Wilk with any questions or for information about EWRI activities at [jwilk@cbbel.com](mailto:jwilk@cbbel.com).

▲ **Geo-Institute (GI)** – A kick-off happy hour was held on October 19<sup>th</sup> at Recess in Fulton Market. The in-person GI dinner meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup> featured *A Case History of the Addison Creek Res-* (Continued on page 15)

# Secretary Report

(Continued from page 1414)

*ervoir Construction*. Please contact GI Chair Andrés Matos with any questions or for information about GI activities at [amatos@floodlabs.com](mailto:amatos@floodlabs.com).

▲ **Structural Engineering Institute (SEI)** – The SEI held their Board meetings on October 26<sup>th</sup> and November 30<sup>th</sup>. The Society level SEI Quarterly Call was held virtually on October 27<sup>th</sup> where the SEI Illinois Chapter presented on the SEI Fellowship Initiative and the Bridge the Gap Event held at IIT in September 2022. Please contact SEI Chair Chris Knipp with any questions or for information about SEI activities at [Christopher.Knipp@parsons.com](mailto:Christopher.Knipp@parsons.com).

▲ **Transportation & Development Institute (T&DI)** – The T&DI held their Board meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup>. A luncheon was held on November 17<sup>th</sup> featuring IDOT Region

2 Engineer, Masood Ahmad. Please contact T&DI Chair Michal Miczek with any questions or for more information at [michal.miczek@hdrinc.com](mailto:michal.miczek@hdrinc.com).

▲ **Utility Engineering and Surveying Institute (UESI)** – The newly formed UESI held their first Board meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup> to elect officers and approve the institute by-laws. For more information or if interested in joining this institute, please contact UESI Chair Steve Rienks at [s.rienks@AmericanSurvey.com](mailto:s.rienks@AmericanSurvey.com).

▲ **Younger Member Group (YMG)** – The YMG held their Board meeting on October 12<sup>th</sup>. The group hosted a Student Firm Crawl on October 5<sup>th</sup> for thirteen (13) IIT and UIC students to tour various engineering firm offices in Chicago. The YMG hosted a trivia night at Jefferson Tap on November 29<sup>th</sup>. For

more information about YMG activities or if interested in joining this group, please contact YMG Chair Matt Gazdziak at [matt.gazdziak@strand.com](mailto:matt.gazdziak@strand.com).

The Illinois Section Board Meetings are held the first Monday of the month, except for holidays. The next board meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2023 and will be in-person at EXP (205 N. Michigan Avenue). For any guests or Board Members that cannot attend in-person, a virtual option will be provided via MS Teams. If you are interested in attending these meetings, please contact President Sandra Homola at [sandra.homola@exp.com](mailto:sandra.homola@exp.com).

By Monica Crinion, PE  
ASCE Illinois Section Secretary  
2022-2024  
[monica.crinion@aec.com](mailto:monica.crinion@aec.com)

## Illinois Section

## Activities

### WTS/ASCE/ITE/ISPE/SAME Holiday Party

Date: Thursday, December 13

Time: 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Location: Francois Frankie,  
222 West Randolph,  
Chicago, IL 60622

Sign Up:

[http://events.constantcontact.com/  
register/event?llr=kn4qeajab&oei=  
dk=a07ejgwyrhme4c3929e](http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=kn4qeajab&oei=dk=a07ejgwyrhme4c3929e)

Cost: \$80, includes appetizers  
and open bar

Other: Please bring an  
unwrapped gift to donate  
to Toys for Tots

### ASCE/ACEC Professional Clothing Drive - Deadline to Drop Off Clothes

Date: Thursday, December 22

For the second year, ASCE will be competing with ACEC to collect professional clothing for donation. Now through December 22, you can drop off your unwanted, clean business attire at the offices of Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. in Rosemont (9575 W Higgins

Rd, Suite 600) to be donated to Bridge to Success (<https://www.thebridgetosuccess.org/>). ASCE members will arrange for the delivery of any donated items. Please contact Jeana Gowin ([jgowin@cbbel.com](mailto:jgowin@cbbel.com)) prior to dropping off clothing at CBBEL's Rosemont office. This drive is a great opportunity to go through your closets and gather those clean shirts, ties, suits, dresses, slacks, etc. that you no longer wear and bring them to Rosemont! Help ASCE win this challenge for a great cause. More information on each of the organization can be found on their website.

### Construction Institute Summit 2023 - St. Louis, Missouri

Date: Wednesday – Saturday,  
March 1-4, 2023

Creating Connections - Building our Infrastructure Together. Join contractors, owners, designers, and other construction industry stakeholders from all over the country to meet and share new developments and innovative practices in the construction

industry. Network with peers, earn PDHs, and expand your knowledge base to enhance the success of your projects.

For more information, please see:  
<https://www.cisummit.org/>

### ASCE's CI Student Days 2023 - Denver, CO

Date: Friday – Tuesday, August  
4-8, 2023

[Apply Today!](#)

CI Student Days will be hosted in Downtown Denver, August 4-8, 2023. We are looking forward to our annual student competition program and hope that you will join us! Our website is now live and we are accepting applications, and [encourage students to apply](#). For program details, please visit our [website](#).

Missed the CI Student Days 2022 program? [Read about our student competition](#) in ASCE's Civil Engineering Source.