



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Michigan's top engineering and surveying projects recognized at annual ACEC Excellence Awards Ceremony**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**LANSING, MI** – The American Council of Engineering Companies of Michigan (ACEC/M) recently honored firms for engineering and surveying excellence during the association's 49<sup>th</sup> annual Engineering and Surveying Excellence Awards ceremony. On February 22, design professionals and guests gathered at the JW Marriott in Grand Rapids to recognize outstanding Michigan engineering and surveying projects from the past year, as well as engineering professionals who have significantly contributed to the profession. The ACEC/M Awards Program recognizes outstanding efforts of professional design firms to solve clients' needs through exceptional projects, and offers the opportunity to showcase the year's best engineering and surveying achievements to an audience of peers, clients and decision makers at all levels.

"This program serves as the final celebration of Engineers Week," said Ron Brenke, PE, ACEC/M Executive Director. "The knowledge and expertise that filled the room on Saturday was astounding! The projects engineered by private sector firms have a profound effect on the quality of life for all Michigan residents. Their efforts result in quality roads and bridges, safe drinking water, and a clean environment for people to live, work and play."

This year's *engineering* Eminent Conceptor Award winner was **Fleis & VandenBrink Engineering, Inc.**, Grand Rapids, for the West Bay County Wastewater Treatment Facility upgrades. The \$8.2 million project expanded the plant to handle existing flows and add two new communities. Fleis & VandenBrink used an innovative hydraulic design, installed a high rate anaerobic digester which helped eliminate odors, decrease sludge volume, and captured greenhouse gas methane for energy use (thus reducing operating costs). Fleis & VandenBrink saved West Bay County millions of dollars while providing a sustainable design with increased plant capacity for years to come.

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### **Engineering/Surveying Excellence Awards**

The firm also took home the *surveying* Eminent Conceptor award for the Kalamazoo River Bank Stabilization. **Fleis & VandenBrink** utilized various surveying methods and laser technology to create a thorough site map and model used to stabilize an eroding bluff. Data proved crucial to quickly and accurately analyze the site and develop effective, sustainable solutions. The Eminent Conceptor Award is ACEC/M's top honor.

Four firms were honored with the Engineering Honorable Conceptor Award: **Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc.** for the Mackinac Island Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements (Mackinac Island); **HH Engineering LTD and G2 Consulting Group, LLC** for the I-94/Sargent Road Interchange Road Realignment and Bridge Replacement (Jackson); **Harley Ellis Devereaux** for the CHASS Southwest Center (Detroit); and **HNTB** for the Blue Water Bridge Plaza CBP Primary Inspection Booth Expansion (Port Huron).

Engineering Merit Awards were presented to **Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, Inc.** for the Ember Oaks Drain Drainage District (Ingham County); **Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc.** for the M-20 over Schrader Creek Design/Build project (Mecosta County); **Parsons Brinckerhoff, Inc.** for the East Stadium Ann Arbor Bridges Replacement project (Ann Arbor); **OHM Advisors** for the DTW Deicing Runoff Pumping Station and Force Main project (Detroit); **HNTB** for the Blue Water Bridge Freeway Corridor Reconstruction (Port Huron); and **Byce & Associates** for the Bell's Brewery, Inc., Brewhouse Expansion and Renovation project (Galesburg).

Surveying Merit Awards were presented to **Abonmarche Consultants, Inc.** for the South Haven Maintenance Dredging Project (South Haven) and **Surveying Solutions, Inc.** for the M-1 Rail Data Fusion Project (Detroit).

The Judges' Choice Award for Board Design was given to **Spalding DeDecker Associates, Inc.**, for the project board designed to 'tell the story' of the Veterans Memorial Pointe Enhancement project (Rochester Hills).

This year's ACEC/M Vernon B. Spalding Leadership Award was presented to Melvin 'Ernie' Orchard, PE, founder and past president of **OHM Advisors** to honor his outstanding leadership roles in ACEC and several community organizations. The ACEC/M Felix A. Anderson Image Award was presented to **Richard Anderson, PE**, of Somat Engineering, Inc. for his actions and contributions to enhance the image of the profession.

The Eminent and Honorable Conceptor award winners are eligible to compete at the National ACEC engineering competition in Washington, D.C. For more information on the projects and award winners, please contact ACEC/M at (517) 332-2066 or visit their web site at [www.acecmi.org](http://www.acecmi.org).

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## **Engineering/Surveying Excellence Awards**

*The American Council of Engineering Companies of Michigan is the voice of Michigan's engineering industry. Council members – numbering nearly 100 firms throughout the state – are engaged in a wide range of engineering/architectural/surveying works that propel the state's economy, and enhance and safeguard Michigan's quality of life. These works allow people to drink clean water, enjoy a healthy life, take advantage of new technologies, and travel safely and efficiently. The Council's mission is to contribute to Michigan's prosperity and welfare by advancing the business interests of member firms.*

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