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Michigan's Top Engineering and Surveying Projects Recognized at Annual ACEC/M Excellence Awards Gala

LANSING, MI – The American Council of Engineering Companies of Michigan (ACEC/M) recently honored firms for engineering and surveying excellence during the association's annual Engineering and Surveying Excellence Awards Gala. On February 26, design professionals and guests gathered virtually 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.

"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," said Ronald Brenke, PE, ACEC/M Executive Director.

This year's most prestigious award – the **Engineering Eminent Conceptor Award** – went to **Quandel Consultants, Inc.** for the Michigan Accelerated Rail Project, which enhances mobility in Michigan through rail infrastructure improvements between Dearborn and Kalamazoo. Quandel Consultants served as a program management consultant for MDOT's Office of Rail. The project team successfully managed a \$400 million budget over eight years to enhance state-supported Amtrak by increasing train speeds up to 110mph.

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ACEC/M Engineering & Surveying Excellence Awards

Six firms were honored with an Engineering Honorable Conceptor Award for their work on the following:

- **AECOM** (Traverse City) and **Inter-Fluve** (Lodi, WI) – Boardman River Dams Ecosystem Restoration in Traverse City
- **Bergmann** (Lansing) – Allen Creek Berm Opening in Ann Arbor
- **SME** (Plymouth) – Frank Rewold & Sons, Inc. Headquarters in Rochester
- **SmithGroup** (Detroit) – First Automotive Works Group Research & Development Campus in China
- **SmithGroup** (Detroit) – Zeiss Regional Headquarters in Wixom
- **Wade Trim** (Detroit) – Ford Dearborn Central Energy Plant Site in Dearborn

Engineering Merit Awards were presented to:

- **C&S Companies** (Livonia) – Terminal Apron Reconstruction and Expansion in Grand Rapids for the Gerald R. Ford International Airport Authority
- **Fleis & VandenBrink** (Grand Rapids) – Clean Water A Flush Away for West Shore Community College in Scottville
- **Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc.** (Bloomfield Hills) – DTW Emergency Retaining Wall Repairs in Romulus for the Wayne County Airport Authority
- **Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc.** (Bloomfield Hills) – Innovation Hills project for the City of Rochester Hills
- **NTH Consultants, Ltd.** (Northville) – Livernois “Avenue of Fashion” Make-Over for the City of Detroit, Department of Public Works
- **OHM Advisors** (Livonia) – Auburn Road Reconstruction & Streetscape in Rochester Hills
- **OHM Advisors** (Livonia) – Utility Restructuring for Long-Term Success project in Taylor for the Downriver Utility Wastewater Authority
- **Progressive AE** (Grand Rapids), **Moore + Bruggink** (Grand Rapids) and **Speck & Associates** (Brookline, MA) – Envision Ada project for Ada Township
- **Spicer Group, Inc.** (Saginaw) – Universal Pump Station in Carrollton for the Saginaw County Public Works Commissioner
- **Tetra Tech** (Ann Arbor) – WRRF Headworks and Interceptor Improvements for the City of Saline
- **Wightman** (Kalamazoo) – Halbert Road Culvert in Battle Creek for the Calhoun County Road Department

This year’s **Surveying Eminent Conceptor Award** went to **Fishbeck** (Grand Rapids) and **Tetra Tech** (Ann Arbor) for their 8-1/2 Mile Relief Drain In-System Storage Scan project, which included scan and survey of a 4.5-mile municipal pipe to identify its location and elevation, determine invert elevation, and establish the size of taps and leads entering the pipe. The gathered data will be used to place in-system storage devices to store flow in the pipe during large rain events.

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ACEC/M Engineering & Surveying Excellence Awards

A Surveying Honorable Conceptor Award was presented to **Spalding DeDecker** (Rochester Hills) for the US-31 Bascule Bridge Design Survey in Manistee for the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Surveying Merit Awards were presented to:

- **Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, Inc.** (Shelby Township) – UAW Solidarity House Terrestrial & Aerial Scanning project in Detroit
- **Surveying Solutions, Inc.** (Standish) – UAV LiDAR: Expansive Topographic Monitoring project in Ontonagan County for the Michigan Department of Transportation

The Board Design Award went to **AECOM** (Traverse City) and **Inter-Fluve** (Lodi, WI) for their board designed to ‘tell the story’ of the Boardman River Dams Ecosystem Restoration in Traverse City.

This year’s ACEC/M Vernon B. Spalding Leadership Award was presented to **Keith M. Swaffar, PE**, of **NTH Consultants, Ltd.** to honor his outstanding leadership roles in ACEC and several community organizations. The ACEC/M Felix A. Anderson Image Award was presented to **Kimberly K. Nowack, PE**, of the **Mackinac Bridge Authority** for her 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. The recording of the awards gala can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/GcWFXP013Wk>.

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Michigan is the voice of Michigan's engineering industry. Council members – numbering over 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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