



Kurt Zebley (R), JMT, accepts the Pinnacle Award from Jeff Lighthiser, ACEC Virginia President

## Saving Lives & Money Wins Engineering Award

The Pinnacle Award, the top recognition in ACEC Virginia's 2019 Engineering Excellence Awards Competition, went to **Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson (JMT) of Richmond** for devising a method for safely extending maximum weight capacity on rural bridges so emergency vehicles could use them in route to an emergency. Weight restrictions vary per bridge but typically don't allow anything larger than an ambulance. JMT standardized weight capacity testing by testing the abutments at the end of the bridges as well as the superstructures or bridge spans to get a true reading of weight capacity. The hope is that the same method will be applied nationwide so emergency

responders can take the quickest route and localities won't have to spend millions building new emergency response stations to ensure optimum response time. The project will save lives and money.

The coveted Pinnacle Award was presented at the Jefferson Hotel on February 7. Fifteen Virginia engineering firms, showcasing 18 projects, entered the statewide competition. JMT was one of three firms which received the Grand Award, and then went on to compete for the Pinnacle.

### Grand Award Recipients

**Mason and Hanger of Richmond** received a Grand Award for the new U.S. Compound in Islamabad,

*Engineering Excellence Awards continued on page 2*

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### February 20, 2019

IT Forum  
EDSI, Roanoke Office

### February 21, 2019

ACE Virginia - Local  
Governments Forum  
Richmond OMNI

### March 4 - 6, 2019

VA Engineers Conference  
Newport News City Center  
Marriott

### May 20, 2019

Engineering Companies of VA  
PAC Golf Classic (ECVPAC)  
The Foundry Golf Club

### June 19 - 21, 2019

Annual Conference  
Kingsmill Resort, Williamsburg

CHECK OUT ALL EVENTS AT  
[WWW.ACECVA.ORG/EVENTS](http://WWW.ACECVA.ORG/EVENTS)

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Thank you for volunteering  
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### Take Advantage of your Firm's ACEC Membership!

It's an honor to serve as the President of ACEC Virginia and at the half-way point through this year-long role, my best advice to you is to get involved and stay involved! The adage that you get more out of an experience the more you put in is certainly true for the varied and meaningful opportunities that this organization offers its members.

I've been an active member in ACEC Virginia for more than a decade now and can testify to the fact that the value I personally have received, my firm has received, and the engineering profession receives far outweighs the investments in time and money in ACEC.

A primary focus of ACEC is to advocate for the engineering profession at the state and federal levels. Members serve on the front lines of this advocacy and can make lasting impacts on our legislators. For example, I've been to Capitol

Hill on multiple occasions to meet with Senators, Representatives and their aides to discuss issues that impact engineers and the communities we serve. At the state level, ACEC Virginia remains an active force diligently representing our industry, often relating to the Qualifications-Based Selection process and protection of the public's health and safety. In 2018, we received funding from the ACEC MinuteMan Fund to educate legislative members in leadership and key committees to support our efforts to strengthen Virginia's professional services procurement law. Our state lobbyists orchestrated the introduction of a bill that will close a loophole in the QBS law and hopefully sail through the General Assembly. Members of ACEC Virginia have spent the last few months meeting with elected officials across the state to educate them about the need for this legislation. Please stay vigilant as we share updates on this important matter because we may need your help as this bill advances. This effort provides a direct opportunity for members to engage with ACEC Virginia and protect our profession.

Helping to Build Your Business is another key goal of ACEC. There are a multitude of educational opportunities, both local and nationally, that are tailored to the challenges that we all face in the delivery of engineering services. If you don't see something you



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER *CONTINUED*

need, please contact someone on the ACEC *Virginia* Education Committee. In yet another example, our Transportation Committee is coordinating with the Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance (VTCA) and VDOT to work on procurement and contractual issues pertaining to transportation projects in the Commonwealth. In addition, taking advantage of the benefits offered through the ACEC Business Insurance, Life and Health Insurance or Retirement Program Trusts may save your firm money.

Lastly, the opportunity to network and share with your peers allows our members to learn how others tackle issues that we all must address. While sometimes we do compete against each other, more often we're forming relationships that result in stronger teams to win and execute great projects. ACEC provides us all the chance to support and grow our chosen profession as a unified force. I strongly urge you to get involved early in your career and stay involved for the long haul. I can assure you that you won't regret engaging with this incredible association. As you look back on your career, you'll be grateful for the benefits received and relationships forged through ACEC!



Jeffrey N. Lighthiser, PE  
President  
ACEC *Virginia*

## ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS *CONTINUED FROM COVER*



Pakistan. This \$1 billion project houses more than 2,500 people on 43 acres and is the largest U.S. Embassy in the world. The compound, which is designed to withstand natural or manmade disasters, includes a chancery building, a three-level parking garage, community structure, support annex, warehouse, utility building, Marine security guard residence and three multi-story residential high-rises.



**HDR of Newport News** received the Grand Award for designing and building the largest pump station in the Hampton Roads Sanitation District to correct recurring sanitary sewer overflows due to aging equipment and insufficient capacity. A new 16.56 million per day replacement pump station was built on Hampton's waterfront area. HDR addressed multiple challenges presented by the site including flood concerns, architectural blending, limited property area and a compressed design and construction schedule. The pump station allows downtown Hampton to grow and

thrive and offers a unique new design standard for future pump stations.

### Honor Award Recipients



**A. Morton Thomas and Associates Inc. (AMT) of Chantilly** received an Honor Award for redesigning the Southgate Drive/US 460 Bypass Interchange, the gateway to Virginia Tech's campus which accommodates 40,000 vehicles a day. AMT's innovative solution eliminated significant backups during the morning and evening peak hours and during major events on the Virginia Tech campus. AMT also built a diverging diamond interchange southeast of the existing intersection; dual bridges over the bypass and realigned Southgate Drive from US 460 to Duck Pond Drive, two new roundabout intersections along the realignment and realigned one mile of the Huckleberry Trail.



**Clark Nexsen Inc. of Virginia Beach** received an Honor Award for building a Central Vehicle Wash Facility at Fort Leonard Wood in Kansas City, Missouri. The old facility built in 1967 could no longer accommodate the size

# ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

of modern military vehicles. In addition to a vehicle wash facility, the complex included an administrative building, oil and lubricant storage buildings, hazardous waste buildings and large oil separators to protect the environment from spills and leaks.



**CHA Consulting Inc. of Richmond** received Honor Awards for two different projects. The firm designed an innovative solution for the Accomack County Turf Landfill utilizing ClosureTurf® versus traditional soil, which is projected to reduce maintenance costs by approximately 90 percent over the 30-year life of the landfill. Accomack County landfill is one of two landfills in the Commonwealth using ClosureTurf®.

CHA also received an Honor Award for developing Glover Park in Henrico County. Glover Park is a world-class sports complex consisting of ten multipurpose athletic fields, a championship stadium, walking trails, restrooms and other supporting infrastructure.



**Draper Aden Associates of Richmond** received an Honor Award for Hardywood West Creek Brewery in Goochland County. The 55,000-square-foot destination

brewery sits on 24 acres and includes a public taproom with a built-in stage, a mezzanine-level private event space with conference room and balcony, an outdoor patio and beer garden and a food truck plaza.



**STV Inc. of Fairfax** received an Honor Award for designing the Pulse Bus Rapid Transit System from Richmond's Willow Lawn in the West End to Rockets Landing in the East End. The 7.6 mile transit system provides a quick ride consisting of 14 stops in the most populous locations and a hassle free alternative to parking in Richmond's crowded downtown.



**VHB of Williamsburg** received an Honor Award for restoring one of Virginia's most famous landmarks, Carter's Grove Plantation in Williamsburg. VHB improved one mile of internal roads in the 486-acre historic landmark and added a sophisticated storm drain system and stormwater management system to efficiently handle runoff. Through natural channel design principles, VHB blended this restoration with the property's natural beauty.



**WSP of Virginia Beach** received an Honor Award for widening a two-mile stretch of Dominion Boulevard off of

Interstate 64 between Chesapeake, Virginia and the North Carolina state line to a four-lane road. Due to steep slopes on both sides of the road, widening the two lanes into four was a significant challenge and a potential safety risk for the 15,000 vehicles using the road daily. To accomplish the widening, WSP added two northbound lanes, modified the two existing lanes as the southbound lanes, and designed a 16-foot-wide, dual purpose median containing stormwater management facilities.

## Merit Award Recipients



**Burns & McDonnell of Chesapeake** received a Merit Award for designing the two story, 40,000 square foot Atlantic Shores Christian School in just seven weeks. In mid-2017, the School was informed that it would not be able to continue using its building after the end of the following year. Burns & McDonnell rose to the challenge and designed a top-tier learning institution for 400 students



# ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

in seven weeks. Under normal circumstances, it would have taken eight months to a year.



**Dewberry of Glen Allen** received a Merit Award for moving powerlines underground, decreasing power outages faced by the University of Virginia Health System and UVA

Foundation by 90 percent. In the first 10 months following completion of the project, in spite of snow and wind storms, Dewberry's solution resulted in zero power outages.



**Dewberry Engineers Inc. of Fairfax** received a Merit Award for widening a five-mile stretch of I-64 in Newport News to six lanes. Dewberry kept this key route from Virginia Beach to North Carolina's Outer Banks open during construction, accommodating 100,000 vehicles a day during periods of the peak vacation season.



**DJG Inc. of Williamsburg and SGH of Washington DC** received a Merit Award for renovating the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) historic 1907 Raleigh Building, converting it to the central office for VCU's Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs. Following Virginia Department of Historic Resource Guidelines, DJG/SGH renovated the building, converting it into a state-of-the-art headquarters. They also added a highly efficient HVAC system, created a sanitary/waste system to counteract flooding, made structural reinforcement modifications, and installed a PVC roof system to waterproof the historic building.



**JMT of Richmond** won two Merit Awards including one for widening a 225-foot section of Chesterfield County's Arch Road into a four-lane cross section improving lane continuity to Midlothian Turnpike and constructing a roundabout at the intersection of Arch and Arboretum Parkway.



JMT received a second Merit Award for improvements to Odd Fellows Road in Lynchburg, resulting in the design and construction of a tight diamond interchange between Odd Fellows Road and US 460/29. JMT widened and reconstructed 1.3 miles of Odd Fellows Road, creating a 10-foot shared use path, reconstructing and widening a bridge over the Norfolk southern railroad and constructing three roundabouts along Odd Fellows Road.



**Whitman Requardt and Associates Inc. (WRA) of Richmond** received a Merit Award for its two-mile I-95 Southern Terminus Extension Project in Stafford County. WRA extended the express lanes beyond the Exit 143 interchange, improving operations within the weave approach to Exit 143 and increasing capacity of the merge between the southbound general purpose lanes and the terminus of the express lanes.

## LEGISLATORS HONORED BY ACEC VIRGINIA

*Pictured L to R:  
Sen. Scott Surovell,  
Patrick Cushing,  
Williams Mullen,  
Jeffrey Lighthiser,  
President ACEC  
Virginia*



*Pictured L to R: Del.  
Chris Peace, Reggie  
Jones, Williams  
Mullen, Jeffrey  
Lighthiser, President  
ACEC Virginia*



Two Virginia legislators, who have been engaged in Virginia transportation issues and other key state issues for a combined total of 20 years, were chosen as Legislators of the Year by ACEC Virginia. Del. Christopher Peace from the 97th District and Sen. Scott Surovell from the 36th District were honored at our annual Engineering Excellence Awards Gala. Legislators of the Year are honored by ACEC Virginia for their commitment to economic development, good governance and solving the state's transportation problems.

"Some of the most pressing problems we face in Virginia involve transportation and procurement issues," noted Nancy Israel, executive director of ACEC Virginia. "These legislators are contributing solutions to solving the issue of our crowded roads and to building a quality environment. Both men represent leadership when it is badly needed."

## ACEC VIRGINIA PRESENTS RISING STAR AWARDS

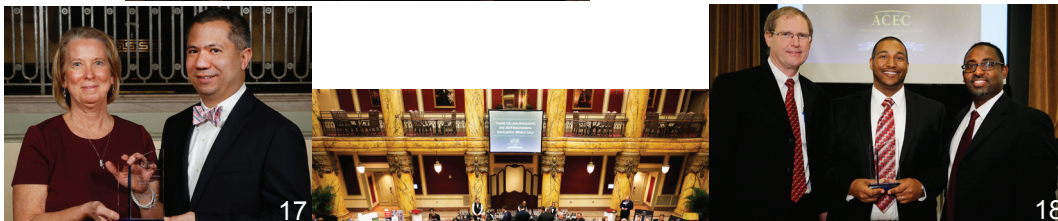
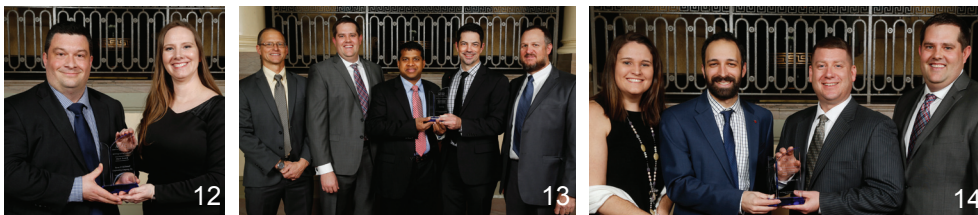
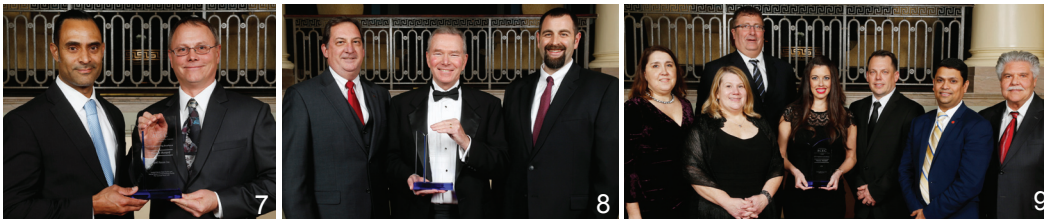
Two Virginia engineers—one, the mother of twins, a private airplane pilot and former Peace Corps volunteer; the other, the former owner of a professional photography company and the author of a book on the relationship between pets and their owners—were recognized as Rising Stars in the engineering profession by ACEC Virginia. Tara Eschenfelder with Delta Airport Consultants and Lindsay Swain with CHA Consulting received their awards at ACEC Virginia's 2019 Engineering Excellence Awards Gala in February.



*Pictured L to R: Augie Kahsar, Tara Eschenfelder, Delta  
Airport Consultants, Inc., Lindsay Swain, CHA Consulting,  
Inc., Jeffrey Lighthiser, President ACEC Virginia, Jenni Szabo*



# ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS



THE JEFFERSON  
HOTEL

FEBRUARY 7, 2019

## GRAND WINNERS

1. HDR for HRSD Bridge Street Pump Station in Hampton, VA
2. Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc. for Weight Restricted Bridge Crossings in Chesterfield County
3. Mason & Hanger for New US Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan

## HONOR WINNERS

4. A. Morton Thomas and Associates, Inc. for Southgate Drive/US460 Interchange in Blacksburg, VA
5. CHA Consulting, Inc. for ClosureTurf® Landfill Closure in Accomac County, VA
6. CHA Consulting, Inc. for Glover Park in Henrico, VA
7. Clark Nexsen, Inc. for Central Vehicle Wash Facility and Tactical Equipment Maintenance Facility at Fort Leonard Wood, MO
8. Draper Aden Associates for Hardywood West Creek in Goochland County, VA
9. STV for The Pulse BRT Design-Build in Richmond, VA
10. VHB for Carter's Grove Plantation in Williamsburg, VA
11. WSP USA Inc. for Dominion Boulevard South Widening in Chesapeake, VA

## MERIT WINNERS

12. Burns & McDonnell for Atlantic Shores Christian School in Chesapeake, VA
13. Dewberry for UVA 35kV Routing Study and Design in Charlottesville, VA
14. Dewberry Engineers Inc. for I-64 Capacity Improvement, Segment I in Newport News, VA
15. DJG, Inc. & SGH for Raleigh Building Renovation in Richmond, VA
16. Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc. for Odd Fellows Road Interchange in City of Lynchburg, VA
17. Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc. for Arch Road Widening in Chesterfield County, VA
18. Whitman, Requardt & Associates, LLP for VDOT I-95 Express Lanes – STE in Stafford County, VA

# ACEC VIRGINIA CLOSES THE YEAR ON ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR PACS

Thank you! More than seventy individuals helped push Virginia over its National PAC goal of \$21,794 for 2018 by raising \$22,025. Your involvement in ACEC Virginia and its Advocacy mission is irreplaceable as we all strive to create laws, regulations, and a business environment where we can grow, thrive, and provide greater value to the clients and communities we serve.

Through these individual contributions, Congress knows who ACEC is and the value the Consulting Engineering community brings to the almost 8.5 million Virginians each day.

For 2018, over 150% of every dollar Virginia helped to raise was returned to a Representative or Senator from Virginia. With this return on our investment in the ACEC/PAC, it is easy to see how our voice is heard when key issues arise in Washington DC.

ACEC/PAC offers congratulations and a VERY BIG thank you to the 45 states that made their ACEC/PAC goal in 2018. Total fundraising receipts climbed to \$1,090,683 -- an all-time best. This collective effort demonstrates that it takes all of us pushing towards this goal each year to earn a seat at the table and have our voices heard when interests of the Consulting Engineering Community arise in Washington.

We challenge every one of you to help increase the participation level in the National PAC to double its current participation. This would result in a report in January of 2020 that we secured participation from over 150 individuals. Help us by getting involved today with our voice in Washington.

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#### TRANSYSTEMS CORPORATION PAC

Each year ACEC *Virginia* set a goal to raise at least \$50,000. We disburse about that same amount of funds to state legislators, including key committee members and leadership. In 2018 we raised \$46,488.

We ask each of you to make a personal commitment to get

involved in our Annual Conference Silent Auction and our Annual Golf Outing, two of the primary fundraisers for the ECV PAC. These funds help keep our voice constant in Richmond; defending QBS annually from attack; and maintaining fair and equitable allocations of risk on the design professionals throughout the state.

## ECV PAC

ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF VIRGINIA  
*Political Action Committee*

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# WHEN PREPARATION MEETS OPPORTUNITY

BY TIM GROOVER, PE, ADVOCACY CHAIR

ACEC *Virginia* began the 2019 General Assembly Session in early January by tracking about 50 different Bills. As of the writing of this report, we are currently actively tracking 7 Bills and monitoring an additional 17 Bills. These Bills generally fall into one of the following main categories:

- **Procurement:** This has been a good Session relative to defending QBS. Bills deemed to be a threat to QBS did not gain traction and did not make it out of committee. Of particular note is our Bill, HB 2198, which will close the loophole that has allowed municipalities to negotiate professional services. The Bill requires any county, city, school board or town with a population greater than 3,500 to comply with QBS. The Bill flew through the House essentially unopposed and is now in the Senate.
- **Small Business Definition and Procurement Participation Goals:** ACEC *Virginia* continues to be neutral relative to proposed changes in the definition of a small business. We continue to watch and share concerns relative to legislation that appears to set arbitrary goals for small business participation on professional service contracts. Our concern is that unachievable arbitrary goals result in the possibility of the more qualified firms not being able to compete which in turn weakens QBS and could result in some risk to the life, health, and safety of the public.
- **Public School Building Security:** AIA of Virginia is taking the lead relative to legislation that would require public school designs to incorporate CPTED (Crime Prevention Through

Environmental Design) strategies.

- **Water Quality and Dam Safety:** No General Assembly Session would be complete without a handful of Bills that attempt to address water quality (potable, storm, sewage) and dam safety. None of these have yet risen to a high level of concern.

Quoting Nancy Israel's comment from our January 25 JLC (Joint Legislative Committee) weekly meeting, "we've been damn lucky so far this Session." It was the Roman philosopher Seneca who is credited as saying "Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity." In that vein, I'd like to give a huge "shout out" to the following:

- **Nancy Israel** – Nancy has carried the lead for the JLC this year and done an amazing job. She had the JLC well prepared for the start of the Session and has kept everyone exceptionally well informed. She respects the time of the volunteer participants and keeps us all on task.
- **Patrick Cushing and Reggie Jones of Williams Mullen** - We are very fortunate to have Patrick and Reggie on our team as lobbyists. Their hard work last fall preparing for the 2019 Session laid the foundation for the success we are seeing today. I had the pleasure recently of visiting several Delegates with Patrick. Every single Delegate we visited welcomed Patrick warmly and carefully listened to what he had to share. There wasn't even a hint that he was there to twist their arms or argue with them. He (we) were there to inform and enlighten. Several of them even complimented Patrick on an

Tim Groover, PE



extemporaneous explanation he gave in General Laws Committee on one of the more contentious issues that was received very positively.

- **The ACEC *Virginia* Members of the JLC** (Glenn Rehberger, Eric Burke, Chris Stone) – These folks spend many hours of their time advocating for ACEC *Virginia*, particularly during the weeks when the General Assembly is in Session.
- **ACEC National** – Much of the preparation for the 2019 Session was made possible by funds provided to ACEC *Virginia* from the ACEC National Minuteman Fund.

As I write this, the General Assembly has just moved into "crossover." This is when the House Bills go to the Senate and the Senate Bills go to the House. We know there are still some surprises in store for the remainder of the Session. Hopefully the hard work put in to date has prepared us for whatever might lie ahead.

And finally, although we do not expect it to affect ACEC *Virginia* directly, we watch with great interest and concern the drama unfolding regarding the three top offices in the Executive Branch. This truly is shaping up as an historic year for politics in the Commonwealth. And not in a good way. Stay tuned!



# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

## AFFILIATE MEMBERS

### JLL

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ACEC *Virginia* works hard to provide the services that engineering firms need and want. We welcome our 2018 new members to the ACEC *Virginia* family. Please welcome them so they get to know you.

## REGULAR MEMBERS

### 2RW CONSULTANTS, INC.

Bob Crowell  
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## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE EEA PINACLE AWARD WINNER



Throughout Chesterfield County, Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs) were unable to use specific routes when responding to emergencies due to weight restricted bridges. The weight restrictions varied per bridge but typically wouldn't allow anything larger than an ambulance to cross the bridge. JMT developed load test criteria and test procedures from scratch to analyze the bridges. After coordinating the load tests with multiple agencies, JMT submitted a permit for each bridge so that ERVs could cross. For the first bridge, the emergency response time was reduced by 90 seconds for 16 residential parcels and \$6.5 M of property.

*Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc.,  
Weight Restricted Bridge Crossings,  
Chesterfield County, VA*