



Newsletter

American Society of Civil Engineers

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Director's Corner



Edward Stafford, PE, F.ASCE

It is my privilege and honor to have been elected by this region as a Society Director and to have started my role at the 2019 Annual Meeting in Miami. Our previous Society Director, Marsia Geldert-Murphey, left large shoes to fill and I want to express

my thanks and appreciation for her service in this role over the past 3 years. I look forward to working with everyone in Region 7 and encourage you to contact me or any of the Region Governors if you have questions, need help with your local ASCE unit or just want to provide ideas and feedback for Society.

My term started with the excitement of the Annual Conference last October in Miami Florida. During this great event the first of the concepts for Future World Vision, the Floating City, was released and attendees had the opportunity to explore what the future may look like in an immersive virtual reality setting. Future World Vision is an exciting opportunity for the future of civil engineering and the world. If you have not had a chance to check it out, I encourage you to visit the website at www.futureworldvision.org.

January also marks the kick-off of the Member Get a Member referral program and as a part of that a friendly competition



among the regions and sections. Sustaining and growing our membership is important to the future of our Society and directly impacts the many programs and services of ASCE. While we have a variety of large scale campaigns that will be a part of this year's recruitment activities, we also know that the best tool is

Region 7 Board of Governors



Our Region 7 Board of Governors is here to connect you, the ASCE members of Region 7, to ASCE at the Society level. You can learn more about each of us on the "Contacts" tab of our [Region 7 Website](#), and you can contact us via the contact form at the bottom of the "About" tab on the website. We want to hear from you!

- Marsia Geldert-Murphey, P.E., F.ASCE, Outgoing Director/Chair
- Edward Stafford, P.E., F.ASCE, Incoming Director/Chair
- Shawanna Erter, P.E., M.ASCE
- Jennifer Jacka-Taylor, P.E., M.ASCE
- Serkan Sengul, P.E., M.ASCE
- Erin Steever, P.E., M.ASCE
- Elizabeth Staten, P.E., M.ASCE
- Marlee Walton, P.E., M.ASCE
- Jeffrey Young, P.E., M.ASCE

personal contact and work of mouth. If you have friends and colleagues that are not a part of the ASCE please encourage them to join. Use the website, info.asce.org/mgam to provide direct referrals and remember that for each referral that joins ASCE makes you and your Section eligible for prizes.



The start of 2020 has been a busy one for Region 7. During the first week of January I had the opportunity to meet some of you at our Multi-Region Leadership conference that was held in Detroit. This event included leaders from our Student Chapters, Sections, Branches, Institutes and Younger Member Groups and always leaves me excited for the next year and overwhelmed by the many leaders in our Society.

While in Detroit we had the first Society Board of Direction meeting of the year and a meeting of the Region 7 Board of Governors. To read about the activity at the Board of Direction meeting visit <https://news.asce.org/tag/board-of-direction/>. You can read all about the nominating committee's selection of this year's President Elect candidates, proposed constitutional amendments that will appear on the May ballot, and the creation of a new Government Engineers Council.

The Colorado Section recently completed an update to the state's Infrastructure Report Card, and I had the honor of attending their release ceremony at the state capital in January. For more information on this and other report cards visit www.infrastructurereportcard.org/.

The Wyoming Section recently participated in the 100th Wyoming Engineering Society meeting in early February in Cheyenne. This event included engineers from throughout Wyoming (and a few from other states) and ASCE had a prominent role in the event. The University of Wyoming Student Chapter provided a number of volunteers for the event, while the Section also hosted a half day of continuing education sessions at the end of the conference. Thanks for inviting me to participate, I had a great time meeting and catching up with many of our Wyoming members.

When I first wrote this message in early February we were in a different world and time pre Coronavirus. At that time I was excited to share my passion in ASCE with our students and encourage everyone to get involved with our great student chapters. In 2020 Region 7 was going to have 3 Student Chapters hosting student conferences, Colorado School of Mines hosting the Rocky Mountain Student Conference, University of Missouri–Columbia hosting the Mid-Continent Student Conference, and Dordt University hosting the Midwest Student Conference. Unfortunately the response to the Coronavirus required ASCE to cancel these student conferences and multiple student competitions so we could better support our student members needs associated with moving to on-line learning, having limited access to their campuses and many of them having to move back home. While we will not be called upon to support the conferences and competitions, this does not mean that our student members don't need our support. Please consider reaching out to these students, many of whom have had internships or jobs lost, complete changes in their life, had to transition to a new way of learning and many other changes. Now is the time to show them how civil engineers support each other.

If there is anything that I or the other members of the Region 7 Board of Governors can do to support your ASCE group please reach out to us. We are here to help!

ASCE Covid-19 Resources

Whether you're employed by a large firm or are a practice of one, the COVID-19 coronavirus crisis likely has you working from home.

The civil engineering profession looks a lot different today than it did a month ago or even a week ago.

With government agencies and state and local officials across the nation recommending extreme social distancing measures because of the coronavirus pandemic, many civil engineers are working from home.

But how does that work?

Amid unprecedented circumstances, civil engineering firms and civil engineers are creating the playbook for this new reality as they go.



ASCE has set up a Resources page and it can be found at: <https://collaborate.asce.org/covid-19/home>

Multi-Region Leadership Conference, January 2020

This 2020 Multi-Region Leadership Conference (MRLC) for Regions 3, 6, and 7 was held in Detroit, MI on January 10&11, 2020. Our Region 7 Sections, Branches, Younger Members, and Student Chapters sent delegates to the meeting for collaboration, leadership training, and information sharing.

2020 ASCE Report Card

On January 30, at the Colorado State Capitol, the ASCE Colorado Section unveiled its Infrastructure Report Card, grading 14 categories of infrastructure for an overall 'C-.' Infrastructure categories included aviation, roads, bridges, energy, schools, hazardous waste, drinking water, and more. Schools received one of the lowest grades (D+), exhibiting needs that far exceed the funding available for necessary replacements, repairs or upgrades – adding up to an approximately \$14 billion funding gap.

The effort in Colorado began in March 2019, when 30+ civil engineers (students, young professionals, mid-career professionals, executives, and retirees), came together to learn how to put together the Report Card. Over the past year, these volunteers have worked with state agencies, collecting publicly available data to analyze and grade.

Recommendations to raise the grades include, but are not limited to:

- Prioritizing infrastructure during state and local budget discussions and in elections to help connect disparate parts of the state, strengthen the economy and alleviate challenges associated with a quickly growing population, especially in rural and low-income communities.
- Use life-cycle costs assessments to clearly distinguish a project's true cost over its lifetime and to better evaluate projects across the state that will provide the greatest benefit/cost ratio.
- Focus on robust transit and multi-modal planning and funding to create viable transportation alternatives and help combat congestion and pollution, especially in metropolitan areas.
- Establish performance standards for Colorado levees that are consistent with other hazards faced by state residents, rather than relying on the federal default protection for 1 in 100-year floods.



- Continue developing and implementing technologies geared towards improving wastewater treatment with a focus on improved efficiency, sustainability, and nutrient and emerging contaminant removal.



Report Card team members and other volunteers across the state are now spreading the news with presentations at organization meetings and conferences, discussions with legislators and community leaders, and media interviews and features. Contact Report Card Chair [Peyton Gibson](#) or Government Affairs Chair [Sarah Klarich](#) for more information or to set an event up or learn how to incorporate the Report Card into events already taking place.

ASCE State and Regional Infrastructure Report Cards are modeled after the national [Infrastructure Report Card](#), which gave America's infrastructure a grade of 'D+' in 2017. Find out more about specific Colorado infrastructure categories and read the full report [here](#).

2019 Awards

The ASCE Region 7 Awards program is a great opportunity to recognize the dedicated volunteers in your sections and branches. We hope you will take the time to recognize those hard working individuals within your Section and Branches who are deserving of these awards. Every Section is encouraged to submit one or multiple nominations for each category. Deadline to submit for 2020 is April 30th. A formal call for nominations will hit your inboxes soon.

ASCE Region 7 Awards for the following categories:

- Outstanding Younger Member
- Outstanding Faculty/Practitioner Advisor
- Lifetime Achievement

The forms are posted to the ASCE Region 7 site <http://regions.asce.org/region7/awards>

To date, 2019 Region 7 Grant awardees include:

- Carey Bretsch; Lifetime Achievement; South Dakota Section, Easter Branch
- James Guthrie; Lifetime Achievement; Kansas City Section
- Rick Fosse; Outstanding Faculty Advisor/Practitioner; Iowa Section
- Zachary Gutzmer; Outstanding Faculty Advisor/Practitioner; South Dakota Section
- Nichole Witushynsky; Outstanding Younger Member; Kansas Section - Wichita Branch
- Andrew Robertson; Outstanding Younger Member; Kansas City Section
- Mariah Schroeder; Outstanding Younger Member; Kansas City Section

Region 7 Board of Governor Elections and At-Large Appointment

Region Governors serve 3-year terms. Two elected Governor positions in Wyoming/Nebraska and Kansas City open for the next election cycle this fall. Please submit your name for consideration to the Region's

nominating committee before **November 1, 2020**. Any ASCE member who had been a Section or Branch officer or Committee Chair may become a Region Governor.

Governor At-Large Expressions of Interest

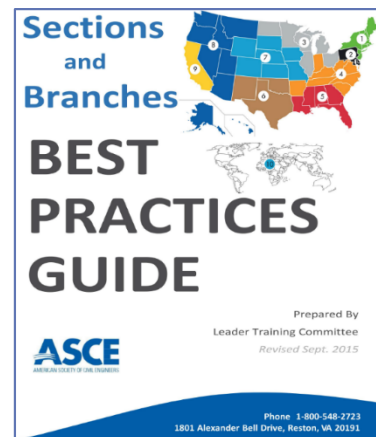
If you would like to express interest in the appointed Governor At-Large position, which is appointed, please send a maximum 200-word Vision Statement and a maximum 200-word Biographical Statement to Put Region 7 Email address here **by April 1**. The Region can provide interested candidates with templates for these documents upon request.

To create global leaders, it is important that diversity and inclusion are at the forefront. I recently heard someone say that diversity is not a trending topic. I strongly agree with this statement and believe that ASCE recognizes this fact. Focusing on diversity and inclusion strategies plays a key role in attracting new engineers and retaining engineers. It helps to create leaders that can challenge the status quo based on their experiences – personally and professionally. It is our intention to inspire diversity and inclusion in the profession and ASCE. A diverse workforce and inclusive environment will create a sustainable organization and profession.

Section & Branch Best Practice Resources

Did you know that a Best Practices Manual is available at the Geographic Services Region, Section, and Branch Resources page, courtesy of ASCE's Leader Training Committee? A series of recorded webinars on [Best Practices](#) is available on the resources page (scroll down to "Best Practices") along with the [Section and Branch Best Practices Guide](#). Did you know that you can also [submit your own best practices](#) to be included in the guide? This is a great way to share your successes with other Sections and Branches.

The Iowa Section awarded two members who renewed their membership by December 1 with gift cards, drawn at random. What a great idea! Do you have ideas to share? Let us know!



Student Conferences and Competitions in Region 7

ASCE has decided to cancel all remaining Student Conference activities and we are announcing the cancellation of the ASCE 2020 National Concrete Canoe Competition, Sustainable Solutions Competition, and Blue Sky Competition. Including cancelling the ASCE Surveying Competition and Society-wide finals taking place at the UESI Surveying & Geomatics Conference. Finally, ASCE cancelled the Student Regional Innovation Contest. These measures are so that faculty and students may focus fully on completing their semesters remotely and in full consideration of their health, safety, and welfare while doing so. As difficult as these decisions were to make, we do not want to add further hardship to ASCE students during these uncertain times.

Join us on ASCE Collaborate

ASCE Collaborate, a new online forum exclusively for Society members, is now live and starting to percolate with member comments, questions, and networking. ASCE Collaborate allows members to connect with other members, participate in discussions with subject matter experts; access a library of resources; and post images, videos and documents to share with others

ASCE Collaborate's success hinges on member participation. Please explore the forum and its benefits. Logging in is easy – members just input their ASCE username and password at asce.org or directly at collaborate.asce.org. For questions about the ASCE Collaborate experience, contact ASCE Online Community Manager Veronique Nguyen at vnguyen@asce.org.

NOMINATE A WORTHY REPRESENTATIVE TO RECEIVE A REGION 7 AWARD BY APRIL 30TH

Region 7 would like to recognize those members for the categories of Outstanding Faculty/Practitioner Advisor, Younger Member, and Lifetime Achievement. Please submit a nomination for yourself or your peers.

For more information contact:

Jennifer Jacka-Taylor, P.E - ASCE Region 7 Awards Committee, jctaylor@burnsmcd.com or 816-823-6252.

The nomination forms can be accessed at: <http://regions.asce.org/region7/awards>

We want to hear from you!

To contribute to the Region 7 newsletter, send articles edited exactly as you'd like them to appear, in Microsoft Word format, to liz.staten@hdrinc.com. Include R7 Newsletter in your subject line.