



2021 OUTSTANDING SECTION / BRANCH AWARD NOMINATION FORM

INSTRUCTIONS

- An event/activity may only be used once and cannot be repeated throughout the application. Please select the most appropriate category. There are potential negative points for an event/activity that is repeated.
- Sections should NOT include activities completed by their Branches and Branches should NOT include activities completed by their Section.
- Applications are limited to 12 pages plus a copy of one newsletter.
- Point totals are listed under each category for a maximum of 115 points.
- Only list activities from October 1 – September 30 which can be either virtual or in-person.
- Please e-mail an electronic PDF file to Nancy Berson at ASCE: nberson@asce.org by **October 30, 2021**.

BASIC INFORMATION

Award Classification (check one):	☒ Very Large Section/Branch (> 2500 members) ☐ Large Section/Branch (1001-2500 members) ☐ Medium Section/Branch (501-1000 members) ☐ Small Section/Branch (< 500 members)
Section/Branch Nominee:	Texas Section
Name and Board Position of Contact Member:	Sean P. Merrell PE, PTOE, RAS, F.ASCE 2021 Texas Section President
ASCE Member ID:	353091
Address:	1524 S. IH-35, Suite 180, Austin, TX 78704
Telephone:	(214) 998-4330
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NOMINATION QUESTIONS/SCORING

115 points maximum

A. COMMUNICATION WITH MEMBERS (15 Points Maximum)

- **Newsletter** (1 point per issue, 5 points maximum):
Please include one electronic newsletter with the Award nomination package or include a link to an active website. Points will be given for the number of newsletters published on the website.

Number of Newsletters Published Annually:	Texas Section published 12 monthly newsletters during 2020-2021. Our most popular article during the year was Leah Moncure PE, Texas Civil Engineer (https://www.texasce.org/tce-news/leah-moncure/) which celebrates Women's History Month. To view the entire article or any additional articles, please view the weblink listed below.
Newsletter URL:	https://www.texasce.org/news/

- **Website** (5 points maximum): Verify that all links are active prior to submission.

Website URL:	www.TexasASCE.org
Discuss the content included on your website:	Texas Section's website, which won the ASCE Outstanding Section & Branch 2020 and 2019 Web Awards, provide users with easy access to helpful information and to highlight the Section's primary programs. On the main homepage, users are immediately presented with the Section's mission statement: <i>Texas civil engineers are leaders in their communities, building a better quality of life across the street and around the world.</i> The website's primary menu highlights Programs, News, Career Center, and Resources; it also provides a button for easy access to join/renew membership. The website footer provides quick access to society-level information, the Section's guidance and governance documents, and contact information for questions or additional assistance. The Texas Section's website also directs interested parties to the website of the Section's flagship annual conference, Texas Civil Engineering Conference (CECON) at www.TexasCECON.org , and other Section popular programs with dedicated landing pages, like the Texas Infrastructure Report Card, the annual Student Symposium, webinars, leadership & volunteer opportunities, and annual award recognitions.

- **Social Media Tools** (5 points maximum): Verify that all links are active prior to submission.

Discuss Social Media platforms used to communicate to the Texas Section:	The Texas Section maintains an active presence on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter. Each of these social media channels presents an opportunity to connect with current and prospective members and share exciting news and announcements. In addition, the Texas Section maintains a Flickr account to house event photos.
Social Media URL:	https://www.facebook.com/TEXASCE/ https://www.linkedin.com/company/texasce/ https://twitter.com/TEXASCEtweets https://www.instagram.com/asce_texassection/ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwBuULQdEco0bszUtyTFlow https://www.flickr.com/photos/texasce/albums

B. PROFESSIONAL / LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES, AWARDS / RECOGNITION, SCHOLARSHIPS AND MENTORING (20 Points Maximum)

- Professional / Leadership (Non-Technical) Activities (5 points maximum):

Professional / Leadership (Non-Technical) Committee Meetings (1 point each, 2 points max)

Professional Committee:	Number of Meetings:	Presentation Topic(s):
Strategic Planning	4	The Committee held a planning retreat June 4-5, 2021. Two subsequent meeting were held to finalize the goals and objectives. The goals were then presented for feedback in July to the incoming Section leadership. 2022 Texas Section President Patrick Beecher PE presented the final 2022-2026 Strategic Planning goals at the Fall 2021 Section Board of Direction meeting.
Texas Section Younger Member Committee	3	Discuss Section YM activities and CECON Awards Banquet planned by the YM's

Professional / Leadership (Non-Technical) Seminars (1 point each, 3 points max)

Date:	Approx. Attendees:	Presentation Topics / Describe Seminar:
September 16, 2021 Ethics General Session	260	An Engineering Ethics Breakfast: "Developing Your Moral (or is it "Ethical"?) Vocabulary" was presented during CECON 2021 by Carlos Bertha PhD, A.M.ASCE, Professor of Philosophy at the United States Air Force Academy.
July 7-9, 2021 Leadership Development Weekend	61	The Texas Section's annual Leadership Development Weekend (LDW) was held on July 9-11, 2021 and included a series of leadership labs and networking opportunities. Time was also set aside for incoming Texas Section officers and Committee Chairs to plan for the coming year. Topics at this year's LDW included an overview of ASCE, presentation of the new Strategic Plan for the Texas Section, Negotiation skills and Multi-level Leadership (presented by Lynn Price, author and professional speaker), membership recruitment, development, and engagement panel, and communication fundamentals.
Nov 2020 and March 2021 History and Heritage Seminars	30-40 each	Nov 2020 - Licensing and regulation in the US, Texas State University Civil Engineering Department March 2021 - Presentation to ASCE UP ASCE/Michigan Tech University, First Women Professional Engineers in the US

- Awards/Recognition (1 point each, 5 points maximum):

Awards Given by the Texas Section

Name of Award:	Recipient:	Describe:
Professional Service to Students Award	Heather Guillen, PE	This award was established by the Texas Section Board in October 1999. It is conferred on a subscribing member of the Texas Section for meritorious service to the Texas Section through service to one or more of the Texas/Mexico Regional Conference's Student Chapters.
Service to People Award	Joe Alvarez & Judge Eloy Vera	This award is presented to a civil engineer who has distinguished themselves with special service to people. The award recognizes civil engineers who bring credit to their profession through community activities visible to the general public.

Professional Service Award	Jonathan Brower, PE	This award is conferred on a subscribing member of the Texas Section for meritorious service to the Texas Section and to one or more of the Section's Branches upon recommendations of the Honors Committee
Government Civil Engineer Award	Mark Bouma, PE	This award is conferred on a subscribing member of the Texas Section employed by a governmental organization for meritorious service to the Texas Section and to one or more of the Section's Branches.
President's Special Recognition Award	2021 Beyond Storms Infrastructure Network Resilience Task Committee	This award may be presented by the President to recognize individuals or groups for their contributions to the Texas Section.
John A. Focht Jr Citizen Engineer Award	Robert Patton, PE	This Award was established by the Texas Section Board of Directors on October 11, 1990 to recognize John A. Focht, Jr.'s outstanding and continued dedication to the Texas Section of ASCE.
Award of Honor	LeAnne Napolillo, PE	The Award of Honor was established by the Texas Section to be presented to a limited number of members of the Texas Section "in recognition of service to the Texas Section and outstanding professional achievement in civil engineering."
Texas OCEA Award	Able Pump Station by City of Dallas Water Utilities and HDR	The Texas Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement (OCEA) Award may be given on annual basis to a completed project that demonstrates the greatest contribution to civil engineering progress and society as a whole. It must have been designed and/or built in Texas.
Texas Award of Merit	Mansfield Road Improvements Project by City of Cedar Hill, Jacobs & Dallas County	The Texas Award of Merit may be given annually to a completed project that demonstrates significant contribution to civil engineering progress and society as a whole. It must have been designed and/or built in Texas.

Society Awards Received by the Texas Section or its members

Name of Award:	Recipient:	Describe:
2020 ASCE Outstanding Section & Branch Website Award	ASCE Texas Section	The purpose of this award is to promote the use of a web site among the Sections and Branches of the American Society of Civil Engineers. This award was formally instituted by action of the Society in 2002 and was received by the Texas Section in 2021.
2020 ASCE Outstanding Section & Branch Award	ASCE Texas Section	The purpose of this award is to promote activity and program excellence among the Sections and Branches of the American Society of Civil Engineers. This award was formally instituted by action of the Society on October 23, 1993 and was received by the Texas Section in 2021.
2021 Advocate of the Year Award	Griselda Gonzales, P.E., ENV SP, M.ASCE	Annually recognizes the efforts of outstanding ASCE advocates who consistently promote ASCE legislative issues.
2022 Ralph B. Peck Award	Dr. Ellen M. Rathje, Ph.D., P.E., F.ASCE	Recognizing her advancements to seismic site response analysis through case histories, her development of case histories to inform regional seismic assessments, and her leadership promoting the electronic publishing of case history data.

- Scholarships (5 points maximum):

Scholarships to High School Students (1 point each)

Name of Scholarship:	Amount of Scholarship:	Describe:
TAME State STEM Competition Program Sponsorship	\$1,250	The Texas Section STEM Committee supports the annual Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering (TAME) State STEM Competition. The competition brings together thousands of high-performing middle and high school students from across the state to test their STEM skills through collaborative engineering challenges and individual timed tests. In 2021, the Texas Section STEM Committee budgeted \$1,250 to sponsor the competition in 2022.

Scholarships to College Students (1 point each)

Name of Scholarship:	Amount of Scholarship:	Describe:
John B. Hawley Memorial Fellowship (1)	\$5,000	The Texas Section's John B. Hawley Memorial Trust Fund had planned and budgeted to award three (3) scholarships in 2021. Due to unexpected challenges, the current trustee group plans to reconvene and has programmed the awarding of at least three (3) scholarships in 2022. Fellowships are awarded for graduate study and research in hydraulic and environmental engineering. This fellowship was initiated in 1961, and the Trust Fund has a total balance of \$387,900.
John B. Hawley Memorial Fellowship (2)	\$5,000	
John B. Hawley Memorial Fellowship (3)	\$5,000	
J. Walter Porter Memorial Fellowship	\$5,000	Trustees are meeting and planning to award a \$5,000 fellowship in 2022. Fellowships are awarded for graduate study and/or research in Water Resources Engineering to individuals who demonstrate outstanding ability and promise of excellence in engineering. This fellowship was initiated in 1978 and the Trust Fund has a total balance of \$84,325.

- Mentoring Activities of ASCE Members (5 points maximum):

Date:	Approx. Attendees:	Describe:
April 16, 2021	210	Texas Section active Younger Member Anali Martinez Gonzalez EIT gave a presentation to Texas Section student's on "Turning Failures into Success: My Civil Engineering Journey."
July 9, 2021	42	Five (5) past Texas Section Presidents spoke on a Q&A "Panel with ASCE Leaders", giving advice to incoming and outgoing Section leaders. Panelists included Robert (Bob) Stevens PE, PhD (2015); Lawrence (Larry) Goldberg PE, ENV SP, F.ASCE (2018); Tim Newton PE (2014); Sean P. Merrell PE, PTOE, RAS, F.ASCE (2021); and Susan K. Roth PE, PMP (2020).
Monthly	15 to 25	Texas Section President Sean Merrell held monthly teleconferences with Section Directors and Branch Presidents to exchange ideas and best practices for ASCE leadership.
August 10, 2021	34	The Texas Section hosted a webinar entitled " <i>What Makes an Engineer?</i> " that talked about developing young EIT's into becoming licensed engineers.
September 7, 2021	17	The Texas Section hosted a webinar entitled " <i>9 Critical Questions: Assessing Your Firm's Future Position</i> " to help young entrepreneurs who own a business.

C. TECHNICAL COMMITTEES AND ACTIVITIES (15 Points Maximum)

Texas Section Technical Committees or Institutes (minimum of 2 technical or virtual meetings per year; 1 point each, 5 points max)

Technical Committee:	Number of Meetings:	Presentation Topic(s):
VP Technical and Section Institute Leaders	11 Section Virtual Meetings	Held monthly calls with Section and Branch Institute leaders to discuss Institute activities including conferences, meetings, webinars, scholarships, and budgets.
VP Technical and UESI Institute Chapter Leaders	3 virtual meetings and numerous emails	UESI leaders met to work out details for the Statewide UESI Conference.
VP Technical and SEI Institute Chapter Leaders	4 Meetings and numerous emails	Between 11/20 and 5/21, virtual meetings and emails were used to discuss whether the Texas Section should or should not support the creation of SE licensure as requested by the SEAoT. The conclusion reached was to support a SE license for Texas in the Texas Legislature by giving SEAoT a letter of support.
VP Technical and UESI Institute Chapter Leaders	2 virtual meetings	UESI Chapter leaders met to discuss the merger of the Texas State Surveying and Engineering Boards and its impact on Licensed Surveyors and to Professional Engineers.
COPRI, EWRI, SEI and UESI Institute Leaders	5 virtual meetings	Section Institute Leaders meet with Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, and Houston Institute Chapters to help develop technical seminars and workshops virtually during the year at Branch meetings.

Texas Section Technical Seminars / Courses with PDHs (1 point each, 5 points max)

Date:	Approx. Attendees:	Describe:
Bi-Monthly starting 2021	Total attendees for all sessions was 966 Average attendance was 43.	<u>Texas Section Webinars:</u> October 2020: Project Management 101 November 2020: Risk Management for Underground Construction 1/12/2021: Challenges and the Future of Construction Materials in Civil Engineering Projects 1/26/2021: Texas Water Management - A Fourfold Solution 2/9/2021: Innovative Structural Solutions to Dallas Area Traffic Signals 2/23/2021: Flood Warning Systems 3/9/2021: Future Climate-Driven Drought Challenges for Texas: What Do We Really Need to Know? 3/23/2021: Texas' Disaster Recovery, Mitigation and Planning Programs 4/13/2021: FM 1960 Access Management Study: Driven By "Planning for Operations" 5/11/2021: System Redundancy of Steel Twin Tub Girder Bridges 5/25/2021: Survey Technical Data for Utility PS&E and Agreement 6/8/2021: Hard Rock Hotel Collapse 7/13/2021: Ethics A Different Approach 7/27/2021: Failure Is Not an Option: Intro to Dam Safety 8/24/2021: Ethics for Engineers 9/28/2021: Trinity Railway Express Crossing the Trinity River - Design & Construction Challenges

Other Technical / Educational Activities and Benefits for Texas Section Members (1 point each, 5 points max)

Describe other technical / educational activities and benefits for Texas Section members:	Texas Section's Flood Mitigation Advisory Task Committee provided comments to TWDB regarding their regional flood planning documents in April 2021.
	Texas Section's Residential Foundations Task Committee also entails the three subcommittees listed below. This committee is available to address questions from both the ASCE membership and the public; this committee is in the process of updating technical guidance documents.
	Residential Foundations Oversight Subcommittee this subcommittee is available to address questions from both the ASCE membership and the public; this subcommittee is in the process of updating technical guidance documents.
	Foundation Investigation & Design Subcommittee this subcommittee is available to address questions from both the ASCE membership and the public; this subcommittee is in the process of updating technical guidance documents.
	Evaluation & Repair of Residential Foundations Subcommittee this subcommittee is available to address questions from both the ASCE membership and the public; this subcommittee is in the process of updating technical guidance documents.

D. MEMBERSHIP (10 Points Maximum)

Describe efforts to transition Student Members to Associate Members (2 points):	Texas Section continued the work from last year in tracking graduating seniors from ASCE Student Chapters as well as their future residence/work contact information; with a goal of distributing this information to the branches, so they may directly contact/promote membership and involvement in ASCE.
	ASCE Texas Section President attended virtual meetings of affiliated Student Chapters promoting Section activities and benefits of professional membership.
Describe Member recruitment programs (2 points):	Texas Section Past Presidents recorded videos describing how they got involved in ASCE and how their volunteer service has advanced their career. These videos were promoted on the Section's social media platforms and in the Section's monthly email newsletter.
	Texas Section actively advanced our efforts to engage the employees of small, mid, and large sized companies by having our members serve as ASCE Champions; these members become the point person for their respective firms so that we have a direct connection for sending promotional material or presenting virtually/in-person on the benefits of being a member of ASCE.
	Brief mentions to subscribing and joining to continue to receive email Section emails and newsletters were added to all promotional emails, capitalizing on members forwarding messages to non-member colleagues.
Describe Member retention programs (2 points):	Texas Section rebooted a monthly email newsletter, <i>TexASCE Advisor</i> . This member resource offers important dates and deadlines to help members stay engaged in their TexASCE community and get the most from their valuable membership dollar.
	The Texas Civil Engineer (TCE) digital magazine newsletter with articles highlighting member benefits and membership information was expanded to include distribution to all members.

Describe any recognition programs for employers supporting ASCE (2 points):	Texas ASCE ensures that all speakers and volunteers have the name of their company announced and publicized during all webinars, technical sessions, and member engagement activities.
	Poster boards highlighting and thanking all the employers of the CECN leaders and volunteers was displayed during the 2021 CECN in September.
Describe other Membership Activities / Events (2 points):	A table or booth was set up and staffed at two affiliated events and partner organization events to promote the activities and benefits of ASCE and Texas Section membership.
	An innovative grass roots-type campaign was conducted in the past year where the ASCE Texas Section Membership Chair has organized a series of virtual awareness meetings directly with key civil engineering firms throughout Texas. Referring to it as the Corporate Ambassador Initiative, the chair has targeted representatives within four or more firms in months past and set up an educational presentation on "The Benefits of ASCE Membership".

E. PUBLIC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES (10 Points Maximum)

Describe outreach activities with elementary, middle, or high schools (1 point each, 5 points max):	Texas Section President Sean Merrell and Past Texas Section Director at Large Jonathan Brower briefed Section members numerous times on the status of the 2 CE Clubs created in the Dallas Branch. Material was distributed to all Section Directors and Branch Presidents across the state on ways to start their CE Club.
	The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee has developed a post COVID K-12 outreach program that makes students aware that people who look like them can become engineers.
	Texas Section Educational affairs committee assisted with planning a Balsa Bridge competition for high schoolers with the TxDOT Beaumont District.
Describe outreach activities via media outlets (1 point each, 3 points max):	Texas Section publishes a monthly full-page article within the Texas Contractor, a statewide publication received throughout the construction and engineering industries. Monthly content ranges from civil engineering history and heritage articles to event promotions, to Section leadership and award-winner recognitions. Section Board member Lindsay O'Leary PE, CAE served on the Advisory Board for the Texas Contractor and provides feedback regarding ideas for the publication's annual editorial calendar.
	Texas Section formally announced the release of the 2021 <i>Texas Infrastructure Report Card</i> at a virtual media event on February 11, 2021. Several state media outlets (TV & radio), newspapers, and publications logged on. The media coverage on this report continues with at least one mention per month since release.
	Texas Section leaders and Executive Director presented the 2020 ASCE Texas OCEA Award plaque at TxDOT Houston for their US 290 Program on July 9, 2021 and shared the news on social media; an in-person awards ceremony could not be held due to the pandemic.
Describe other public outreach or educational activities (1 point each, 2 points max):	Texas Section President Sean Merrell was interviewed by the Global ASCE staff for the Civil Engineering Magazine on why Texas is such a hot bed of growth and activity for Civil Engineers. His quotes were in the article published in "Best Places for Civil Engineers" article in the July/August 2021 edition.

Describe other public outreach or educational activities (1 point each, 2 points max) (cont.):	The 2021 <i>Texas Infrastructure Report Card</i> was released with digital summaries (<i>IRC Brief</i>) distributed via a media alert and news release for the public to read and use. The IRC Chair Mark Boyd made numerous presentations as follows: 7/28/2021 Talk+Water 1 hour Podcast with Dr. Todd Votteller (Editor in Chief Texas+Water and Texas Water Journal). https://texaspluswater.wp.txstate.edu/category/talk-water/ 8/19/2021 TxUESI Annual Conference (Virtual) 7/29/2021 North Central Texas Council of Governments Texas CRS Users & Elected Officials Flood Plain Seminar (Virtual) 5/30/2021 Texas Groundwater Conference in Austin 5/21/2021 DFW Association of Business Economics (Virtual)
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F. COLLEGE OUTREACH ACTIVITIES (10 Points Maximum)

1. Texas Section has ASCE College Student Chapters

Describe Student Interaction Activities between ASCE Student Chapters and the Texas Section (1 point each, 5 points max):	Texas Section organized a virtual Student/Professional Social on April 16, 2021 with over 90 participants and featured a series of moderated trivia breakout rooms. The Austin Branch YM Committee partnered with the University of Texas at Austin Chapter to coordinate this event.
	ASCE Texas Section Activities Committee Chair Heather Guillen PE coordinated with Student Planners to identify sponsors for the virtual Student Symposium and raised over \$25,000 to subsidize the cost of student registration. Students paid \$25 each to attend the multi-day event, which included a mailed swag box.
	Texas Section Board Members Lindsay O'Leary PE, CAE and Mike Sosa gave a Power Skills Presentation to more than 20 students on April 16, 2021, entitled ' <i>Email Etiquette</i> .'
	Texas Section President Sean Merrell, PE, PTOE, RAS gave a virtual Power Skills Presentation to Texas Section Students entitled ' <i>Networking for Young Engineers</i> ' on April 17, 2021.
	Kacey Paul PE, CFM moderated a virtual panel presentation with Texas Section students entitled ' <i>Preparing for FE and PE Exams & Importance of Licensure</i> ' on April 17, 2021.
Note current Practitioner Advisors (5 points):	Karyna Uribe – University of Texas at Arlington (UTA)
	Ricky Cribbs – Southern Methodist University (SMU)
	Steve Hrnecir and Manik Mitra – University of Houston (UH)
	Gilbert Portillo and Aaron Orozco – University of Texas at Tyler
	Robert Ramon and Marcelo DaSilva – University of Texas at Austin (UT)
	Craig Quadrato – University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA)
	Eduardo Anchondo and Daniel Carrera – University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP)
	Dora Marin-Robles – University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV)

G. COMMUNITY SERVICE, PUBLIC SERVICE, HISTORY & HERITAGE, SUSTAINABILITY, AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS (10 Points Maximum)

NOTE: ASCE also awards a History and Heritage Award. If you have such activities and want to be considered for that award, describe those activities here and submit a copy of this application directly to Jennifer Lawrence at jlawrence@asce.org.

Describe public service projects (2 points):	The Texas Government Affairs Committee reviewed and provided comments on five (5) legislative bills at the request of House Member Representatives in the spring and summer of 2021.
	On 5/21/2021 IRC Chair Mark Boyd gave a virtual presentation to the DFW Association of Business Economics on how they can use the Texas IRC in their line of work to improve infrastructure funding.
Describe History and Heritage Activities (2 points):	The Texas Section History and Heritage committee published 10 History and Heritage articles in 2021 in the TCE and answered questions via social media on the articles.
	The Texas Section History and Heritage committee assisted in landmark verification by making site visits and answered questions for the public via emails on civil engineering landmarks.
Describe Government Relations activities (2 points):	Texas Section GAC coordinated a virtual Legislative Panel discussion on September 16, 2021 with 3 legislatures in attendance and moderated by ASCE President Jean-Louis Briaud, PhD, PE, D.GE, DIST.M.ASCE.
	Hosting a virtual Government Relations University for over 25 members on 2/4/2021 and 2/19/2021
Describe Sustainability Seminars held by the Texas Section promoting the advancement of the principles of sustainable development (2 points):	Texas Section Members participated on the ASCE International Conference for Sustainable Infrastructure 2021 Texas Hospitality Subcommittee, to ensure local projects that employ sustainable design and construction are featured in the form of virtual video tours during the upcoming virtual event (Dec. 2021). Monthly planning meetings began in early 2021 and are ongoing.
	On 6/22/2021, the Texas Section hosted a webinar entitled "Green Alternatives to Hard Armor for Demanding Erosion Control Applications". 22 members attended.
Describe Community Service events (1 point each, 2 points max):	Texas Section VP-Professional Griselda Gonzales and other ASCE members attended a cleanup day for the Buffalo Bayou in Houston
	Texas Section President Sean Merrell and other ASCE members participated in the Dallas Construction competition that uses cans of food to build structures. Upon completion of the competition, his team donated over 3,000 cans of food to the North Texas Area Foodbank.

H. DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (15 Points Maximum)

ASCE supports and encourages the equitable opportunity for all people to participate within the civil engineering profession regardless of identity. ASCE's Committee on "Members of Society Advancing an Inclusive Culture" reviews this section to select Outstanding Section/Branches for their efforts in developing and implementing programs that promote an equitable and inclusive climate in the profession.

Describe Texas Section Diversity Seminars / Programs (1 point each, 5 points max):	The Texas Section Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee has a recurring feature article in the TCE magazine to discuss topics related to Diversity, Equity & Inclusion to educate our members.
	The Texas Section Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee features various members in the Texas Section who come from unique backgrounds to encourage minorities to get involved; the goal is to make them feel welcomed and provide an environment for all to express themselves.

Describe Texas Section Diversity Seminars / Programs (1 point each, 5 points max) (cont.):	Texas Section IRC Committee Chair Mark K. Boyd PhD, PE, CAPM, DWRE, M.ASCE was interviewed by two Spanish-speaking state media outlets regarding the release of the 2021 <i>Texas Infrastructure Report Card</i> . Several of these media outlets were also in attendance during the February 2021 IRC release event.
	Our strategic plan that was approved on Sep 15, 2021, ensured Diversity, Equity and Inclusion was one of the 5 overarching themes we focused on. <i>"ASCE – Texas Section is an organization dedicated to the advancement of Civil Engineering. The membership and profession are vast and diverse. Per the Oxford Languages Dictionary, diversity is the practice of including or involving people from a range of different social and ethnic backgrounds and of different genders, sexual orientations, etc.; Equity is the quality of being fair and impartial; Inclusion is the practice or policy of providing equal access to opportunities and resources for people who might otherwise be excluded or marginalized. To stay a leader in this profession, it is critical to maintain an environment where all engineers can feel welcome to join, collaborate and grow."</i>
	The newly established DEI Committee developed plans that were shared with Section leaders on how to promote and encourage diverse participation and how to be more inclusive in various events hosted by the Texas Section.
Describe Texas Section Diversity Committees and Diversity in Texas Section Leadership Positions (5 points):	The newly formed Texas Section Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, led by Dora Robles PE and Kate Osborn PE, met regularly throughout 2021. This 10-member committee comes from various ethnic backgrounds, gender, and branches throughout Texas. The Committee has adopted a Mission and Vision statement that is now shared with all membership on the website and various marketing materials.
	The 2020-2021 Texas Section Board is well represented with a diverse group of individuals from various ethnic backgrounds, gender, and areas across the state. The 26-person board was comprised of 10 females and 10 individuals from underrepresented ethnic and racial groups.
	The DEI committee provided letters to several Texas Section committees with proposals for including D&I initiatives into their annual activities and planning.
	The DEI committee penned an article introducing their committee and goals for the <i>Texas Civil Engineer</i> publication. This article encouraged participation by underrepresented groups in committees and leadership positions across the Texas Section.
	The Texas Section Nominations Committee has a rubric they use when selecting nominees for Section officer positions. This rubric includes such categories as race, ethnicity, and sex to ensure our criteria includes a diverse selection of nominees for Section leadership positions.
Describe participation in local community diversity programs (5 points):	The DEI committee has developed a plan and is working with the Student Symposium committee to host a mixer event during the Student Symposium in Houston where students from underrepresented groups and engineering minority associates will be invited to attend
	The DEI committee has developed a plan to create a hospitality position in each branch that can ensure new members feel welcome while also engaging various engineering minority associations during various events (SWE, TAME, SHPE).
	Texas Section moved its D&I statement on the Section's website to a prominent location in the website's footer. It states <i>"ASCE Texas Section supports and encourages the equitable opportunity for participation of all people within the civil engineering profession without regard to race, ethnicity, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, or physical challenges."</i>
	ASCE Texas Section Executive Director Lindsay O'Leary served as the Chair of UT Austin's Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering (CAEE) External Advisory Committee for the 2020-2021 school year.

I. ADDITIONAL TEXAS SECTION ACTIVITIES (10 Points Maximum)

Describe any other non-standard activities that are not covered under other sections of the nomination form that your Section or Branch has undertaken to promote or advance the Civil Engineering profession to either your members or the public. Note that Sections applying for the award should not include their Branch activities and vice versa for Branches. These can include other Community Service projects, hosting of Regional meetings, fundraising, mentoring, and other best practices. Describe the activity and give dates, locations and number in attendance. Also describe any activities relative to the creation of a Section / Branch strategic plan and/or efforts to support the Society's Strategic Initiatives (ie. sustainability efforts). These activities may also be eligible for the Leader Training Committee Best Practices Manual. A maximum of two (2) points will be given for each of up to five (5) non-standard activities.

Type of Activity/Event/Initiative:	Date (if applicable):	Describe:
Beyond Storms Infrastructure Network Resilience (INR) Task Committee meetings	February 26, 2021 – present	Formed as result of a post storm recommendations meeting following the extreme freezing 2021 Winter Storms in Texas. The Beyond Storms INR Task Committee held its first meeting March 17, 2021. The 21+ member committee divided up into 12 sub-committees with a target report release of November 2021 to the Texas Legislators.
CECON 2021	Planning: January 1, 2021 – October 30, 2021 Conference held on September 15-17, 2021 in San Marcos, TX	Texas Section CECON 2021 planning officially kicked-off on January 1, 2021 at the Texas Section office in Austin, Texas. The planning committee held monthly Zoom meetings, including a post-event “lessons learned” meeting. The committee members (18) were responsible for conference details -- programs, sponsors, keynote speakers (ASCE 2020 Pres. Guna, ASCE 2021 Pres. Briaud, Houston Public Works Director, Regional TxDOT leaders, state infrastructure agency leaders), legislative & TxDOT panels, tech tour, Region 6 assembly and the annual awards banquet, etc. Over 360 individuals attended our annual conference
Texas Infrastructure Report Card (IRC) Committee meeting, release, & promotion	January 26, 2021 – present	Texas Infrastructure Report Card (IRC) 2021 report card released Feb. 10, 2021, was promoted during the 2021 Texas Section Legislative Dial-In, and promoted monthly in Section newsletters, via social media posts, and an exhibit table & keynote session at CECON 2021. The 2021 Texas IRC focused on 12 infrastructure categories and the Section hired a consultant to assist with agency coordination (TxDOT, TWDB, TCEQ) for the initial data requests and final chapter review.
Texas Legislative “Dial-In” 2021	February 22-26, 2021	The 2021 Legislative Drive-In was hosted virtually over the course of a week in February during the 87 th Texas Legislative Session. Texas Section GAC coordinated this event beginning in November 2020. 21 Virtual Zoom & Teams meetings were scheduled by 45 key contacts with their legislators.
Younger Member Networking Shuffle	February 2021, June 2021 & September 2021	Texas Section Younger Member Committee (https://www.texasce.org/resources/younger-members/) conducted quarterly virtual networking opportunities. Interested YMs completed an online form, then a custom algorithm created by a committee member, was used to “match” participants (https://www.texasce.org/tce-news/ym-networking-shuffle-recap/)

Sean Merrell

From: Texas Civil Engineer (TCE) <office+texasce.org@ccsend.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:09 PM
To: Sean Merrell
Subject: Digital Image Correlation; ALICO Building; Student Chapter Award; and more!

TEXAS CIVIL ENGINEER

News from ASCE Texas Section

The *Texas Civil Engineer* (TCE) is a free online news publication of ASCE Texas Section (TexASCE), complete with monthly interactive articles, links, and archived content. Monthly articles cover everything from Technical Features and Section News to Programs, Member, and History & Heritage news. Advertising packages are also available!

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TECHNICAL FEATURE



by Principal Investigator Dr. Wassim Ghannoum and UTSA Team Members

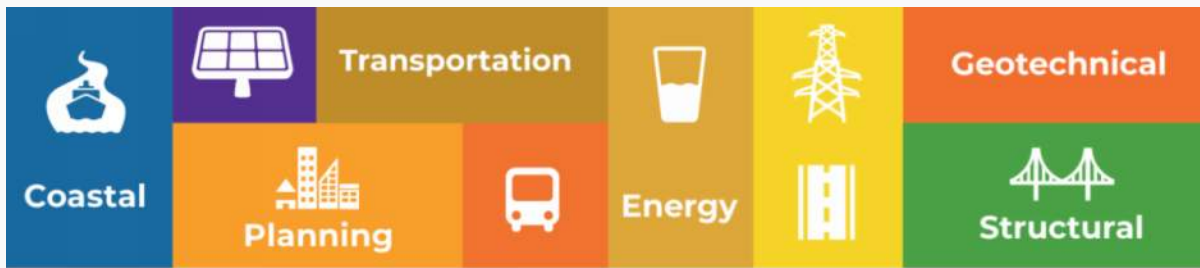
Advances in Bridge Evaluation Using Digital Image Correlation (DIC)

August 2021

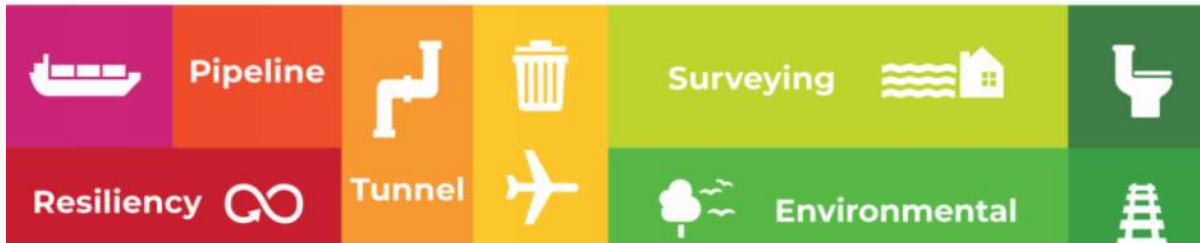
According to FHWA's 2020 National Bridge Inventory Data, 1.5% of bridges in Texas are Structurally Deficient (SD). In addition, 2,841 bridges in Texas are posted with load limits, which restrict the size and weight of vehicles and in turn the flow of goods and services in the state. The state of Texas has identified 11,704 bridges in need of retrofit or repair, at an estimated cost of \$6.3 billion.

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PROGRAMS



LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS OF SUSTAINABILITY



by Jennifer Bohlander PE | CECON Planning Committee Co-Chair

CECON 2021 Program Update

August 2021

The in-person, 2021 Texas Civil Engineering Conference (CECON) is only a few weeks away! Online registration is still open for conference attendees at www.TexasCECON.org.

The key focus of this year's conference, taking place September 15-17 in San Marcos, is Civil Engineering: Laying the Foundations of Sustainability.

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SECTION NEWS



President's Message

A message from ASCE Texas Section President Sean P. Merrell PE, PTOE, RAS, F.ASCE

August 2021

Howdy. It has been many months since I have reached out to our ASCE Texas Section members and a lot has been going on. The first thing I want to talk about is The Texas Civil Engineering Conference (CECON) happening September 15-17. The largest civil engineering conference in Texas offers a snapshot of the best in Texas civil engineering, . . .

It is great to see our ASCE members finally getting to meet in person after a year and a half. Last month I was able to play in the Austin YMF Golf Tournament at the beautiful Avery Ranch Golf Club. . .

[Read More](#)

MEMBERSHIP



by Luisa Cardona Suarez | UT Tyler 2020 ASCE Student Chapter President

UT Tyler's ASCE Student Chapter wins the 2021 Distinguished Chapter Award for the second year in a row

August 2021

Despite the pandemic, the University of Texas at Tyler's ASCE Student Chapter was recognized with the 2021 ASCE Distinguished Chapter Award for Region 6. The Committee on Student Members awards this distinction to the best chapter of each region based on the activities and involvement reported on the university's annual report.

[Read More](#)

HISTORY & HERITAGE



Melinda Luna PE | History & Heritage Committee Chair

Waco's ALICO Building

August 2021

If you travel Interstate 35 through Waco, you may notice a tall building with the letters ALICO in red letters. This building has a story that starts with the Amicable Life Insurance Company (ALICO) needing a building for a headquarters in August of 1910. The team of Sanquinet and Staats headquartered in Fort Worth . . .

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More News . . .

Meet the Board

[Meet Clay A. Forister PE, CFM \(Brazoria County, Assistant County Engineer\)](#)

Legislative News

[Legislative Update for August 2021](#)

[VIEW ALL](#)

Upcoming TexASCE Events & Deadlines

August 25, 2021

Webinar: *Ethics for Engineers*

[\[Learn More\]](#)

September 7, 2021

Webinar: *9 Critical Questions – Assessing Your Firm's Future Potential*

[\[Learn More\]](#)

September 15-17, 2021

CECON 2021: Laying the Foundations of Sustainability
San Marcos, TX

[\[Learn More\]](#)



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