



Director's Corner

Marsia Geldert Murphey, PE, F.ASCE

We are quickly approaching the transition to our new Board. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve you all in Region 7. My mission while serving you all in this role was to provide excellent service, inspiration and engagement. I hope I was able to come close to that mission.

It really is a very exciting time for all of us in ASCE and I will highlight some milestones we have reached and will reach in the very near future that prompts my enthusiasm.

Our first impressive milestone is the release of movie Dream Big on Netflix this summer along with every school in the United States receiving a DVD copy of the movie and an educational tool box program associated with Dream Big that includes a robust K-12 outreach program, lesson plans and fun engineering activities for the classroom and after school program. Contact the school districts in your area and offer to volunteer to present the activities and lesson plans.

The next upcoming milestone is part of ASCE Future World Vision initiative, which is to develop a bold comprehensive scenario-planning tool that will allow civil engineers to strategize for potential future outcomes and how our designs can evolve to adapt or accommodate to a wide variety of future outcomes. This month at the convention in Miami the Floating City scenario, the first installment of Future World Vision will be debuted. The year is 2070, imagine the sea-level rise has so altered coastal infrastructure that the water level has forced cities offshore, to developments that float on the ocean. What new infrastructure will be needed to support this development to keep it functioning safe and resilient. Come to the convention in Miami and get a peak of living in that possibility.

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



Last month we held our Region 7 annual assembly at the University of Nebraska in Omaha. We were fortunate to have assembly representatives from the following Sections: Nebraska, Iowa, Colorado, Kansas, Kansas City, St. Louis, Wyoming, South Dakota-Black Hills Branch. Each Section presented on the activities, the challenges and the headwinds they are experiencing. Dr. Dan Linzell presented on the exciting new student competitions program, Nancy Berson and Aaron Frits presented on the Leadership Training Committee and Geographic Services resources and tools available and Maria Matthews

presented on resources and tools available for advocacy and grassroots involved. We also took a field trip to the recently installed Civil Engineering Landmark plaque in honor of the Union Pacific Railroad and its role in the westward expansion of the United States.

Every four years since 1988 ASCE conducts an all-inclusive assessment of current infrastructure conditions and needs, assigns a grade, and makes recommendations on solutions to raise the grades. The most recent report card was updated in 2017. The media attention and mentions of the ASCE report card are considerable. The Report Card has an app that you can download and links to the state report cards for the states that have prepared them. This provides our members a very effective tool when we meet with state and federal legislators to advocate for improving our nation's infrastructure.

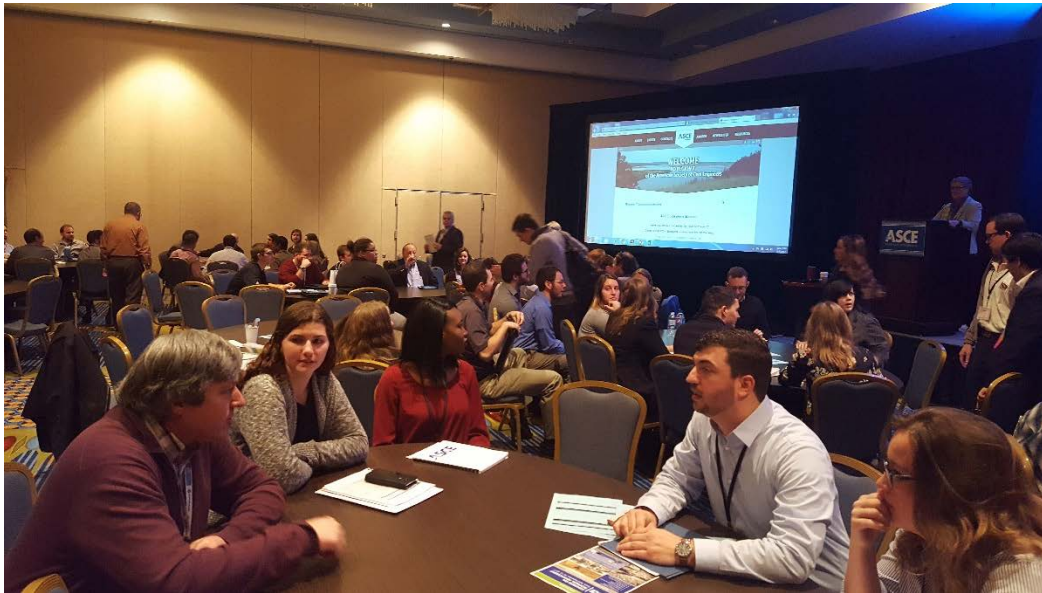


Please contact me or any of the Governors and let us know what we can do to more effectively support you at the Sections, Branches or Student Chapters. Our purpose at ASCE is to Help you Matter More and Enable you to Make a Bigger Difference!

Marsia Geldert Murphey, Region 7 Director

Multi-Region Leadership Conference, January 2020

SAVE THE DATE! This coming year's 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 will be sending delegates to the meeting for collaboration, leadership training, and information sharing. Invitations will be coming out in November for the hotel reservation block. See you there.



Region 7 Breakout Session at MRLC

2019 ASCE Presidents and Governors Forum

On September 22-23, 2019, 107 Section and Branch Presidents, Region Governors and Society Directors from across the country and abroad attended the annual Presidents and Governors Forum (PGF) in Reston, VA at ASCE Headquarters. This Leader Training Committee sponsored event provided opportunities for attendees to learn about ASCE resources, network with other ASCE leaders, and develop skills that would benefit their Sections and Branches.

The program began on Sunday, with an icebreaker followed by several sessions including an "Introduction to your Presidency," "How to Utilize your Governors," "An Introduction to Region 10," "Leadership in the Century of Disruption" by ASCE Distinguished Member Gerald Galloway, Ph.D., P.E., Hon.D.WRE, Dist.M.ASCE; "Legal Issues for



Sections and Branches" and the "Philadelphia Section Mentoring Program." President-Elect Kancheepuram Gunalan, Ph.D., P.E., D.GE, F.ASCE and Executive Director Tom Smith, CAE, ENV SP, F.ASCE shared their thoughts and experiences on Society activities. On Sunday evening, the attendees attended a networking social and dinner in Reston Town Center.

Monday continued with additional Best Practice sessions on Struggling Sections and Branches; Developing a State Infrastructure Report Card; Student Transition Strategies; Running a Successful Section/Branch; and Creating a Successful Website and the Effective Use of Social Media. Some of the attendees also attended breakout sessions on becoming a Region Governor and learning about ASCE Institutes. The program continued with a Roundtable Discussion sharing measurable goals for their Section/Branch and Resource Breakouts from Society Staff members, followed by a competitive game of JeopardASCE. Closing remarks were made by President-Elect Jean-Louis Briaud, Ph.D., P.E., D.GE, Dist.M.ASCE.

After two solid days spent with ASCE, attendees left with new knowledge that will be useful in their upcoming year as a Section or Branch leader.

For more information about the PGF, please visit LTC's website at: <http://regions.asce.org/leader-training-committee/pgf>

2020 ASCE Report Card

The ASCE Colorado Section kicked off their 2020 Report Card back in February 2019. Over 30 volunteers from across the state have been working together to prepare the report for release on January 30, 2020 at the Colorado State Capitol in Denver. This release will mark the first Colorado Report Card in over a decade. The group recently submitted their first draft to the ASCE Government Relations Staff and Committee on America's Infrastructure for editing and peer review. We are expecting to get comments back within the next two weeks and are excited to keep pushing forward with the report! Many of our volunteers have been active in getting out to local town halls and other events to get the word out to local legislators who are all excited to get involved in building a better Colorado.



2019 Grant Awards

Region 7 is excited to support Student, Section and Branch, and Younger Member activities throughout the Region. The grant program's key focus is on one-time events that provide value to our ASCE membership, and we applaud all the work that our Region members do throughout the year to advance the profession of Civil Engineering.

To date, 2019 Region 7 Grant awardees include:

- 2019 MRLC funding for the Dallas Branch
- The Student Chapter at University of Iowa for the Midwest Student Conference Concrete Canoe and Mead Paper
- The Colorado Section for their 2020 Report Card
- The Southern Colorado Branch for a K-12 STEM Egg Crash Student Contest
- Colorado State University Student Chapter for Tailgating and a Golf Tournament
- Colorado School of Mines Student Chapter for hosting the 2020 Rocky Mountain Regional Student Competition
- Kansas City Section Younger Members Group for STEM University Outreach including a Soil Stability Test Chamber and Flood Demonstration
- St Louis Section for hosting a STEM day at local grade schools
- Nebraska Section for dedicating the Union Pacific Railroad as a Historic Landmark
- University of Wyoming Student Chapter for their ASCE display
- Wyoming Section for travel to the student Golf Tournament at the University of Wyoming

Region 7 Board of Governor Elections and At-Large Appointment

Region Governors serve 3-year terms. Two elected Governor positions in St. Louis and Colorado are open for the next election cycle, please submit your name for consideration to the Region's nominating committee before **November 1, 2019**. 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

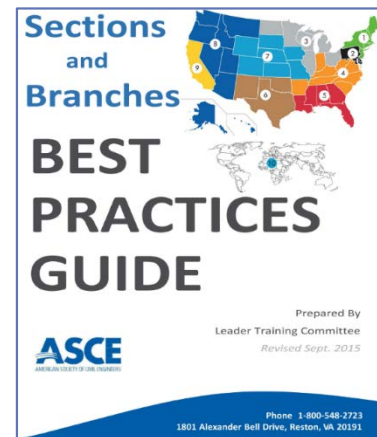
If you would like to express interest in the appointed Governor At-Large position, which is appointed, please send a maximum 200-word Vision Statement and a maximum 200-word Biographical Statement to Put Region 7 Email address here **by April 1**. The Region can provide interested candidates with templates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

Student conferences include a business meeting, professional/technical presentations, competitions (technical papers, concrete canoe, geowall), social activities, and an awards banquet. Visit www.asce.org/student_conferences/ to learn more and to find contact information for volunteering!

Conferences in or near Region 7 that include our very own Region 7 Students include:

Mid-Continent: University of Missouri-Columbia, April 16-17, 2020

Midwest: Dordt College, Sioux City, Iowa, Date TBD 2020

Rocky Mountain: Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO, April 2-4, 2020

Meet our Region 7 Leaders

Region 7 relies on volunteers at many levels—students, sections, branches, younger member groups, and our Board of Governors. This issue will focus on the Governor from the St. Louis Section, Shawanna Erter.

Shawanna Erter, PE, DGE, M.ASCE Region 7 Governor St Louis



Shawanna Erter was appointed as the Region 7 Governor in 2019 to finish the final year of Melantha Norton's term. She was recently appointed to start serving the first year of her 3-year term. Shawanna graduated from Missouri University of Science & Technology (MS&T) with a Bachelor of Science degree in Geological Engineering in 2000 and a minor in geology. Shawanna was also a 4-year letterman in softball at the University and twice named All-Conference. She later completed her Masters of Engineering in Geotechnical Engineering at MS&T in 2013 and her Diplomate of Geotechnical Engineering certification in 2019. She has worked for SCI Engineering, Inc. for nearly 20 years where she held numerous roles and is currently a Vice President. As a registered Professional Engineer in 13 states, Shawanna conducts geotechnical investigations and evaluations, provides supervision of geotechnical and construction projects as well as authors and reviews geotechnical reports and provides technical guidance to staff located in 4 offices across the Midwest.

Shawanna has been active in ASCE since starting at SCI in 2001 and was named the St. Louis Section's Outstanding Younger Member in 2005 and was part of the Geotechnical Institute Section named the 2019 Best Chapter. Shawanna was recently upgraded to a Fellow within ASCE as well. After serving as a committee chair for both the Younger Member group and Geo-Institute St Louis Section, she moved through the ranks within the St. Louis Section Board of Direction, ultimately serving as President in 2014/2015. She is also a member of the Geo-Institutes Site Characterization & Ground Modification Committee. Beyond ASCE, Shawanna holds two committee positions within ACEC Missouri, has served on the Board of Directors for the HBA and currently sits on two active committees for the HBA, as well being a member of APWA St Louis. Shawanna is currently assisting her local ASCE community through teaming with PLTW in St Charles County and providing Dream Big presentations at local elementary and middle schools.

Shawanna lives in Weldon Spring, Missouri with her husband of 19 years, Sam, who is an Electrical Engineer, and their 4 kids ranging in age from 6 to 14. Most of her time away from work and ASCE is filled with kids sports and school, both of which she is deeply passionate about. When the family has free-time, they enjoy hiking, biking, camping and really anything outdoors. Their greatest passion, however, is vacationing and seeing new countries and cities filled with new adventures as much as possible.

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.