

Meet

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by being out in front of all major issues
that have not only an impact on our business,
but also an impact on our society as a whole."*

ACEC National Chairman Ted Williams



MEET features a strategic partner of ACEC/CO. In this issue we introduce you to Ted Williams, ACEC national chairman. He shares his perspectives on the issues affecting the industry and offers advice for our future leaders.

ACEC/CO: Tell us how you got to where you are today as Chairman.

TW: I became very involved many years ago at the State level serving as chairman of three different Committees before serving in each of the Officer positions. After serving as National director for three years and attending multiple National Conferences, I realized how important the National organization was to each and every firm of ACEC, whether large or small, whether involved in transportation, structural, electrical/mechanical, surveying, etc, and how each of us must be willing to volunteer for leadership roles. I placed my name in nomination for a Vice Chairman and after serving two years realized that I should take the opportunity to share my knowledge and leadership skills by placing my name in nomination for Chairman. I was lucky enough to be endorsed by the Nominating Committee and elected by the Board of Directors to become the 2012-2013 Chairman.

ACEC/CO: What are the challenges for our industry in the near term and in the future? How can we, as an industry, respond to these challenges?

TW: I believe that one of our major challenges for both industry and ACEC in the near term and future is the insourcing of design services by public agencies. We are constantly seeing incidents where agencies whether Local, State or Federal are trying to do more and more design services in house versus allowing the private sector to provide these services. We must continue our efforts to promote the use of the private sector in performing design services as it has been proven over and over again that the private sector can provide these services at a less overall cost as compared to the private sector.

ACEC/CO: What are your thoughts on achieving sustainable and adequate infrastructure spending?

TW: I truly believe that we can achieve sustainable and adequate infrastructure spending within the next five to ten years, but only if the general public joins the efforts of ACEC and other like organizations in demanding that adequate funding is provided to restore our infrastructure to the top in the world. It has been proven in the recent past when local referendums for infrastructure investment have been proposed, that voters will approve if the spending is targeted to projects that are necessary to maintain the quality life and support sound economic growth. ACEC has been a large supporter of these types of efforts and we must continue to do so in the future.

ACEC/CO: How do you see the recovery of private sector development?

TW: The private sector is showing signs of life in some areas of the Country I believe that we will continue to see a slow recovery over the next couple of years which will be more sustainable for our businesses versus fast growth that occurred over the previous decade.

ACEC/CO: What is the new normal to look like?

TW: The new normal is what we are currently experiencing. The demand by owners to provide services faster and more cost effective, with competition for new projects being extremely high. This will require our firms to take advantage of every new technology to perform our services. We will also need to become more involved with helping our clients secure funding/financing for there projects and be willing participants in P3 projects.

ACEC/CO: Do you have any words of wisdom for the future leaders of our industry?

TW: My advice is our future leaders of ACEC is to stay the course by being out in front of all major issues that have not only an impact on our business, but also an impact on our society as a whole. As we have stated, "what we do is all around you." ●