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Engineering Awards Presented

Staff
April 30, 2007
Michigan Contractor and Builder

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Michigan (ACEC/M) presented the ACEC/M Firm of the Year award, its highest firm honor, on February 24, during its annual Engineering & Surveying Excellence Awards Banquet at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in Mt. Pleasant. Firms are judged, not only for their stature as respected members of the consulting community, but specifically for their professional leadership in ACEC/M and the communities that they service. Since the inception of this award, ACEC/M has had a small firm category for firms with less than 30 employees, and a large firm category for firms with greater than 30 employees.

RS Engineering, based in Lansing, was awarded ACEC/M Small Firm of the Year. RS Engineering is in its third year of business providing professional consulting services on civil, structural and traffic-related engineering projects for the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), various local governments and the private sector.

"Robert Rayl and Thomas Sereseroz are an inspiration to any engineer who has aspirations of becoming an owner of a firm," stated ACEC/M Executive Director Ronald W. Brenke, P.E. "They have done everything right to grow their firm, achieve the respect of their peers and run a successful business." RS Engineering is active on several ACEC/M committees and has shown excellent leadership through the formation of a joint Design Technology Committee between ACEC/M and the MDOT. Co-owner Robert Rayl states, "RS Engineering believes that not only have they contributed to the success of ACEC/M, but ACEC/M has in turn contributed to the success of RS Engineering."

Livonia-based Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment (OHM) was honored with ACEC/M's Large Firm of the Year award. OHM is very active in ACEC/M, with Dan Fredendall currently serving on the board of directors as past president and nine other employees serving on 10 ACEC/M committees.

"Dan Fredendall's leadership at ACEC/M has ignited our Government and Political Affairs program," Brenke said. "He knows how to motivate people and has significantly elevated the status of our legislative program in Michigan." OHM's mission statement "Helping Build Better Communities" reflects its commitment to community involvement. OHM serves more than 55 community organizations with volunteers, donations and fundraising. This is the second time OHM has been awarded ACEC/M Firm of the Year.

ACEC/M and the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE) honored outstanding projects in Michigan.

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An Eminent Conceptor award recipient was chosen for the best engineering and surveying project submitted. This year's engineering Eminent Conceptor recipient was Southfield-based Harley Ellis Devereaux for designing the new three-story A. Alfred Taubman Student Services Center at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield. The 42,000-square-foot Taubman Center places students at the physical heart of the campus and at the core of the university's mission and delivery of services. The surveying Eminent Conceptor award recipient was Saginaw-based Spicer Group for creation of a computer-based information management system for the Saginaw Midland Municipal Water Supply Corporation's 100-mile pipeline that delivers raw drinking water to the Saginaw and Midland area.

The Honorable Conceptor award is the second-highest award that can be achieved. Four Honorable Conceptor awards were presented, three for engineering and one for surveying. The engineering awards went to Detroit-based Hazen and Sawyer for design of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department's new Conner Creek combined sewer overflow (CSO) control facility; Hubbell, Roth & Clark based in Bloomfield Hills for design of the new South Lyon Wastewater Treatment Plant; and to Ann Arbor based Tetra Tech, Inc. for design of a world-class biosolids incinerator for the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority. The surveying Honorable Conceptor award went to Spalding DeDecker Associates, based in Rochester Hills, for providing surveying control for the East Side Water Main Phase II tunnel crossing beneath the Maumee River in Toledo, Ohio.

Two Merit awards were given for outstanding engineering projects. The engineering Merit awards went to: Tetra Tech, for improvements to the George W. Kuhn Drain Retention Treatment Facility in Madison Heights, which added 31 million gallons of storage; and Wilcox Professional Services, based in Cadillac, for designing improvements to Interstate 94 in Dearborn from the Rouge River to Wyoming Avenue in advance of Super Bowl XL held at Detroit's Ford Field.

The Judge's Choice Award for Board Design was given to Wightman & Associates of Benton Harbor for its Pokagonek E'dawat project entry. While creating its display board, Wightman & Associates used graphics and text in a clear and concise manner that allowed viewers to quickly understand the project story.

The 2007 Engineering and Surveying Excellence Program offers the opportunity to showcase the year's best engineering and surveying achievements to an audience of peers, clients and decision-makers at all levels. Eminent and Honorable Conceptor award recipients have gone on to compete at the national ACEC competition in Washington, D.C.

Also, \$10,000 was awarded to five students in the annual ACEC/M Scholarship Awards Competition. The first-place award of \$4,500 went to Pierre Fuller, a senior civil engineering student at Lawrence Technological University, Southfield. A \$2,500 award for second place was given to Jessica Robinson, a senior environmental engineering student at Michigan Technological University in Houghton. The \$2,000 third-place award went to Thomas DeHondt, a senior civil engineering student at the University of Detroit-Mercy in Detroit. Cara Lynn Parks, a Michigan State University junior majoring in civil engineering, and Steven Roznowski, a Michigan Technological University junior civil engineering student, were tied for fourth place and each were the recipients of a \$500 scholarship grant.

ACEC/M hosts an annual Scholarship Golf Outing and a Silent Auction, as well as a yearly raffle, to raise funds for these scholarship grants.

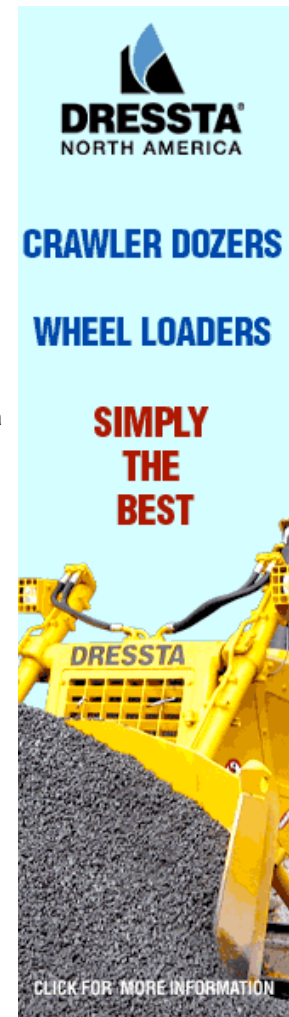
As part of the scholarship requirements each applicant must have worked part time for an established private consulting engineering or surveying firm. This year's scholarship recipients gained engineering experience by being employed at the following ACEC/M member firms: Spicer Group, of St. Johns and Saginaw; Ruby & Associates, of Farmington Hills; Hubbell, Roth & Clark, of Pontiac; Wilcox Professional Services, of Saginaw; and Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment, of Livonia.

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