



— 2025 —
ENGINEERING
EXCELLENCE
AWARDS

2025 PROJECT: CALL FOR ENTRIES

Submit by: November 12, 2024
Prescreening: November 14, 2024
Judging: November 22, 2024
Awards Gala: February 27, 2025

2025 PROJECT: CALL FOR ENTRIES

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois (ACEC Illinois) Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) program annually recognizes consulting engineering firms for projects that demonstrate an exceptional degree of innovation, complexity, achievement, and value. Although the ACEC Illinois EEA program generally follows entry guidelines established for the ACEC National EEA program, ACEC Illinois' rules are different; therefore, please review ACEC Illinois Official Rules thoroughly. Projects being entered must be substantially completed and ready for use from November 1, 2022 – October 31, 2024.

ENTRY FEES

ACEC Illinois Member Firm: \$700

Non-member Firm: \$1400

(Note: Each entered project requires a separate entry fee. Each entry fee is non-refundable and nontransferable, regardless of whether entry material is submitted for a project.)

*Please request a credit card link by emailing: info@acecil.org

*Mail a check by November 12th: 5221 S. 6th St. Rd., Springfield, IL 62703

ACEC Illinois members are considered members if their 2024-2025 dues have been paid prior to October 31, 2024. Please contact info@acecil.org with questions.

ELIGIBILITY

Any Illinois engineering or surveying firm is eligible to enter the EEA program, regardless of whether the firm is an ACEC Illinois member. Projects entered into the ACEC Illinois competition may have been executed anywhere in the world; however, to be eligible, at least *50 percent of the project work must have been done by the entering firm's Illinois office*. Construction of projects entered into the 2025 competition must have been substantially completed and ready for use between November 1, 2022 – October 31, 2024. Noncompliance with the Official Rules may disqualify an entry. The ACEC Illinois Awards Committee reserves the right to determine the eligibility for all entries. Entries must meet the judges' rating guidelines found in the Official Rules.

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AWARD DESCRIPTIONS

All submissions are considered ACEC IL Award Winners: Honors, Special Achievement or Merit Awards.

The panel of judges will select all awards at their discretion. A Lincoln's Grand Conceptor Award will be selected as the top project from the Honor Award winners. The Lincoln's Grand Conceptor Award will be announced at the Gala as the top ACEC Illinois winner selected by the judges, whose decisions on all awards are final. This award recognizes an engineering achievement which demonstrates a high degree of merit, is original and innovative, adds future value to the engineering profession & public perception, has economic & sustainable design considerations, demonstrates complexity and exceeds owner/client needs. Awards will be presented to the clients/owners and entering firms submitting the winning entries.

Awards Given

Judges Choice Awards: One winner from each category, announced at the Gala.

Outstanding Graphics Award: One overall graphics winner chosen from all submittals, by the judges.

Crowd's Choice Award: Chosen by the ACEC Illinois members. Voting conducted through the 2025 EEA Website.

Honor Awards: Honor Awards are given for projects which are recognized for exceptional engineering that meet the needs of the client and benefit the public welfare.

Special Achievement Awards: Special Achievement Awards are given for projects worthy of special recognition of the engineer and the owner/client for achieving engineering excellence.

Merit Awards: Merit awards are given for projects worthy of recognition of the engineer and the owner/client for achieving engineering excellence.

JUDGING

Entries are judged for overall engineering excellence based on work performed by only the entering engineering firm and according to the rating guidelines listed. For the state competition, as well as the national competition, each project is judged and rated on its own merit, regardless of what the national category classification is for the project. Each year, a diverse panel of judges is convened and typically consists of leadership of allied organizations, public and private sector, industry professionals, educational, and media personnel. Each of these distinguished judges evaluates entries using a standard rating process to determine award winners. The Illinois judging is based on review of all the contents submitted.

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RATING GUIDELINES

1.ORIGINAL OR INNOVATIVE APPLICATION OF NEW OR EXISTING TECHNIQUES:

- Does the entry demonstrate the use of a new science or a breakthrough in the general knowledge of engineering?
- Does the entry represent a unique application of new or existing technology, techniques, materials, or equipment?

2.FUTURE VALUE TO THE ENGINEERING PROFESSION AND PERCEPTION BY THE PUBLIC

- Will the entry redefine current engineering thinking?
- Does the entry advance a positive public image of engineering excellence?

3.SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND SUSTAINABLE DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

- Do the solutions identified produce secondary benefits of value to the community environment?
- Does the entrant's approach provide society with social, economic or sustainable development benefits?
- Does the entrant's contribution to the project improve the health, safety or welfare of the public or affected environment?

4.COMPLEXITY

- Did the entry successfully address very complex criteria or unique problems?
- Were extraordinary problems of site, location, hazardous conditions, project requirements, or similar elements present?
- Does the entry require the use of out-of-the-ordinary technology or ingenuity for achievement of project's goals?

5.EXCEEDING OWNER NEEDS

- Did the engineer or entrant successfully engage the client/owner in the overall project development process?
- Is it an economical and cost-effective solution?
- How did final cost relate to original budget estimate?
- How closely does the entrant's solution meet the total goals of the client/owner?
- Did the entrant meet the client's time schedule?

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DELIVERABLES

Once your firm decides to enter the ACEC Illinois 2025 EEA competition, you will prepare the submittal material below as individual documents to upload here: <https://eea.acec.org/illinois>

NOTE: No QR Codes or embedded links are permitted in any portion of the award submittal. Judges may not seek any additional information or conduct research; therefore, only the information submitted is used in the judging process.

SIGNED OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM (page 7)

- Form should be signed by both the entrant and the client/owner (senior executive/officials).
- Accepted file format is PDF.

CLIENT/OWNER LETTER

- Accepted file format is PDF.
- Letter addressed to ACEC Illinois on the owners letterhead describing the relationship of the client/owner and entrant in the development of the project and how it exceeded the client/owner's needs.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Accepted file format is PDF.
- This is the overview of project. Describe the problem and solution.
- Project title and entry category must appear at the top of the page.
- Specifications: 8.5" x 11", 1" side margins; single-spaced text; 12 pt. minimum size font; PDF format.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- Accepted file format is PDF.
- Entrants may use text, photos, graphics, or charts as needed.
- Specifications: 8.5" x 11"; 1" side margins; single-spaced text; minimum 12 pt. font size.
- Project Description, tells the story of the project, text must include:
 1. a. Role of entrant's firm in the project
 2. b. Role of other consultants participating in the project
 3. c. Entrant's contribution to the project (i.e., address "Rating Guideline Definitions" section)
 4. d. Total project budgeted cost, total project actual cost, entrant's portion of the budgeted cost, entrant's portion of the actual cost, scheduled and actual dates of completion
 5. e. Closing summary of project in layman's terms about why this project is worthy of special recognition (minimum 100 words, maximum 500). Explain all factors that comprise the project's uniqueness and complexity, such as innovative engineering, challenges faced and overall social impact. Remember: Please do not leave unanswered questions for the judges (e.g., "Why did you go over budget?", "What happened to the waste stream that the project produced?") in your project description.

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KEY PARTICIPANTS

- Accepted file formats are Excel XLS and XLSX.
- Include name, physical mailing address, firm/organization name and e-mail address for each.
- Include contractors, subcontractors, other engineering firms, architects and other designers.

SIX PHOTOS:

- Accepted file formats are JPEG or PNG.
- Upload six files.
- Five different photos or graphics with captions describing the subject matter. Each must adhere to these guidelines:
- The sixth photo should be labeled “project display” this photo will be used for the presentation during the event.

PRESS RELEASE

- Double spaced, 8.5" x 11", One pages maximum.
- Accepted file format is PDF.
- Press release clearly and concisely describes the project and the entrant’s participation, based on information presented in the Project Description.
- Also describe the value of the project to the community including information such as the number of people served, cost savings, etc.
- Do not reference other awards the project has won.

SIGNED PHOTO RELEASE (page 9)

- Accepted file format is PDF.

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF ILLINOIS

ANNUAL ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

2025 OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Project Name

50 characters

A. Studies, Research and Consulting
B. Building/Technology Systems
C. Structural Systems
D. Surveying & Mapping Technology

E. Environmental
F. Waste and Storm Water
G. Water Resources
H. Transportation

I. Special Projects
J. Small Projects
K. Energy
L. Industrial and Manufacturing Processes and Facilities

M. Innovative and effective Use of
Construction Materials
N. Public Engagement & Communications

FIRM AUTHORIZATION

I hereby authorize submission of this project into the ACEC-Illinois Engineering Excellence Awards competition.

Entering firm Senior
Executive/Principal

Title

Signature

Date

PROJECT OWNER(S) AUTHORIZATION

* electronic signatures are accepted for all signature boxes

I believe the work of the engineer meets the intended uses and expectations for the project and hereby grant permission to enter this project in the ACEC Illinois Engineering Excellence Awards competition. I authorize publication of its outstanding features, unique aspects and innovations, including photographs. I confirm that the project was completed and ready for use between November 1, 2022 and October 31, 2024.

Project Owner(s) (Entity)			
Representative's Name		Title	
City/State			
Signature			

PROJECT CATEGORIES

CATEGORY A: Studies, Research and Consulting Engineering Services *Non-design services, projects not involving the preparation of construction documents consisting of but not limited to the following types of projects:*

- ♦ New Products, Materials and Technologies
- ♦ Expert Testimony
- ♦ Basic Research and Studies
- ♦ Computer/Software Technology
- ♦ Technical Papers
- ♦ Public Outreach / Involvement
- ♦ Water Conservation
- ♦ Security Plans
- ♦ Project Feasibility Studies/Economic Risk
- ♦ Value Engineering
- ♦ NEPA Documents

CATEGORY B: Building/Technology Systems

- ♦ Mechanical/Electrical / Plumbing
- ♦ Computer/Technology
- ♦ Communications
- ♦ Acoustics
- ♦ Software Systems
- ♦ Sustainability or Carbon Neutrality
- ♦ Efficiency Certification Standards, e.g. LEED
- ♦ Energy Efficiency (New and Retrofit)
- ♦ Secure Facilities (military, research, correctional)

CATEGORY C: Structural Systems

- ♦ Foundations
- ♦ Tunnels
- ♦ Buildings
- ♦ Seismic Design
- ♦ Towers
- ♦ Bridges
- ♦ Stadiums

CATEGORY D: Surveying and Mapping Technology

- ♦ Geometrics, ALTA, Land Title and Rights Surveys
- ♦ Control, GPS, Monitoring, or Construction Surveying
- ♦ Survey Mapping, GIS/LIS, Photogrammetry

CATEGORY E: Environmental

- ♦ Hazardous Waste
- ♦ Solid Waste
- ♦ Restoration/Reclamation/Remediation
- ♦ Air Quality
- ♦ Noise
- ♦ Recycling
- ♦ Waste Pond Management
- ♦ Carbon Sequestration and Trading
- ♦ Mitigation

CATEGORY F: Waste and Storm Water

- ♦ Wastewater Collection/Treatment and Disposal
- ♦ Residuals Management and Reuse
- ♦ Graywater Systems
- ♦ CSOs
- ♦ Mine Tailings
- ♦ Agricultural
- ♦ Storm Water Management
- ♦ Erosion Control

CATEGORY G: Water Resources

- ♦ Hydraulics, Hydrology
- ♦ Surface and Groundwater Supply Development
- ♦ Treatment
- ♦ Transmission, Distribution and Storage
- ♦ Watershed Management
- ♦ Water Use Reduction
- ♦ Flood Risk Management
- ♦ Climate Adaptation
- ♦ Coastal and Eco-System Restoration
- ♦ Locks/Dams/Water Control Structures
- ♦ Irrigation

CATEGORY H: Transportation

- ♦ Highways
- ♦ Rail
- ♦ Airports
- ♦ Marine/Ports
- ♦ Public Transit
- ♦ Intermodal Facilities

CATEGORY I: Special Projects

- ♦ Safety and Security
- ♦ Corrosion Protection / Cathodic Protection
- ♦ Program and Construction Management
- ♦ Land Development
- ♦ Trenchless Technologies/Directional Boring
- ♦ Recreational Facilities
- ♦ Subsurface Engineering
- ♦ Construction Engineering and Inspection

CATEGORY J: Small Projects

Total project construction budget does not exceed \$2.5 million. At the entrant's discretion, except for entries in Category A, projects under \$2.5 million are not limited to this category.

CATEGORY K: Energy

- ♦ Transmission and Distribution
- ♦ Power Generation
- ♦ Renewable Energy
- ♦ Cogeneration
- ♦ Energy Storage Technologies
- ♦ Energy Use Reduction Programs
- ♦ Demand Side Management

CATEGORY L: Industrial and Manufacturing Processes & Facilities

- ♦ Petrochemical
- ♦ Biotech
- ♦ Manufacturing
- ♦ Heavy Industry
- ♦ Industrial Waste
- ♦ Materials Handling
- ♦ Mining, Metallurgy and Mineralogy

CATEGORY M: Innovative & Effective Use of Construction Materials

- Innovative or new to the industry
- Lower Life cycle costs
- Sustainable
- Experimental feature implementation
- Repurposing of alternate materials
- New construction technology

CATEGORY N: Public Engagement and Communications

- Stakeholder Engagement
- Public Input and Communication
- Paid Media (traditional, digital and social)
- Social Media
- Earned Media
- Communications Technology and Innovation



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PHOTO RELEASE FORM

Project Name:

Entering Firm:

Owner:

I hereby grant ACEC Illinois permission to use photos submitted with our 2025 Engineering Excellence Awards project. As well as, photos taken throughout the 2025 Engineering Excellence Awards Gala. We allow ACEC Illinois to use video and audio recordings for promotion, underwriting, public relations and general programming uses either with or without reference to the project and firm.

Date:

Signature: