



Call for Entries

2026 Engineering Excellence Awards

Engineering Excellence
2025 Award Winner

McKim & Creed | *Charlotte, North Carolina*



Wake Tech East Public Safety Simulation Complex | *Wendell, North Carolina*

2025 Grand Conceptor Winner

McKim & Creed, Inc
Wake Tech Public Safety Simulation Complex
Wendell, North Carolina



2026 Call for Entries

The American Council of Engineering Companies of North Carolina (ACEC/NC) Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) is an annual competition that honors and recognizes engineering and surveying firms for projects which demonstrate the highest degree of achievement, value and ingenuity.

ELIGIBILITY

An engineering or surveying firm is eligible to enter the awards program as long as they hold current membership in ACEC/NC. Non-member firms are not eligible to submit.

GENERAL CRITERIA

- 1** Member engineering firms' entries must be submitted through ACEC/NC to qualify for the National Competition at ACEC.
- 2** Projects entered in the ACEC/NC competition must have be physically located in North Carolina and executed by a company physically located in North Carolina. The project team should be primarily based in North Carolina.
- 3** Planning & Mapping category must have been publicly disclosed by the clients between November 1, 2023 and October 31, 2025.
- 4** All other categories must have been substantially completed and ready for use between November 1, 2023 and October 31, 2025.
- 5** Engineering projects that have won awards in other state or national organizations' awards programs may be entered.
- 6** Applicants can submit one project per category. A project not receiving an award in one year may be resubmitted the following year in the same category provided all eligibility criteria are met.
- 7** Each entry must be submitted electronically in adherence with the specifications noted on page five of this document. Non-compliance with the rules will automatically disqualify an entry. Please read requirements thoroughly.

DATES TO REMEMBER

ACEC/NC schedule for submittals are as follows:

Deadline for Entries

September 4, 2025

Judging of Entries

September 8-19, 2025

Notification of Placement

September 22-23, 2025

Awards Ceremony

November 6, 2025

ACEC/NC grand winners may also re-submit to ACEC National's EEA Competition. (limit 10 entries)

ACEC National's schedule for submittals are as follows:

Deadline for Entries

January 7, 2026

Judging of Submittals

February 20-22, 2026

EEA Gala - Washington, DC

May 5, 2026

JUDGING

Entries are to be judged (by an outside panel of judges) on the basis of overall engineering excellence in each of twelve practice areas, based only on the work performed by the entering firm and scored in accordance with the guidelines listed below. Based on each project's overall score, projects can receive one of the following awards: Honors Award (85 - 90 points), Grand Award (91 - 100 points). One of the Grand Awards will be the Grand Conceptor (highest points awarded by the judges). Once the judging has been completed, entrants will be notified as to whether or not their project will be honored with an award, but the specific level of the award the project will receive will not be announced until the ACEC/NC Engineering Excellence Awards Gala on November 6, 2025 at The Maxwell in Raleigh, NC.

25%

Original or Innovative Application of New or Existing Techniques:

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

20%

Future Value to the Engineering Profession:

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

15%

Social, Economic & 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?
- Is the public health, safety or welfare significantly improved as a result of entrant's and/or the affected environment's, contribution to the project?

20%

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?
- Did the entry require out-of-the-ordinary technology and ingenuity for achievement of project goals?

20%

Exceeding Client / 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?



GRAND CONCEPTOR AWARD



<div><div>Water & Environment</div><div>Constructed water & environmental projects</div></div>	<div><div>Planning & Mapping</div><div>Planning and mapping projects not associated with a constructed project</div></div>	<div><div>Vertical</div><div>Constructed building or building systems projects</div></div>	<div><div>Energy & Utility</div><div>Constructed energy & utility projects</div></div>	<div><div>Transportation</div><div>Constructed linear projects associated with any transportation mode or element</div></div>	<div><div>Site Design</div><div>Constructed site projects from any sector of the built environment</div></div>
<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Storm Water Management• Erosion Control• Hydraulics, Hydrology• Surface & Groundwater Supply Development• Water Treatment, Transmission, Distribution & Storage• Watershed Management• Water Use Reduction• Flood Risk Management• Climate Adaptation• Coastal & Eco-system Restoration• Locks/Dams/Water Control Structures• Irrigation</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Products, Materials & Technologies• Expert Testimony• Basic Research & Studies• Computer/Software Technology• Technical Papers• Public Outreach/Involvement• Water Conservation• Security Plans• Project Feasibility Studies/ Economic/Risk• Value Engineering• Geometrics, ALTA, Land Title & Rights Surveys• Control, GPS, Monitoring or Construction Surveying• Survey Mapping, GIS/LIS, Photogrammetry</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building/Technology Systems• Mechanical/Electrical/Plumbing• Acoustics• Sustainability or Carbon Neutrality, Efficiency Certification Standards, e.g, LEED• New & Retrofit, Secure Facilities (Military, Research, Correctional)• Structural Systems, Foundations, Buildings, Seismic Design• Towers• Stadiums</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transmission & Distribution• Power Generation, Renewable energy, Cogeneration• Energy Storage Technologies• Energy Usage Reduction Programs• Demand Side Management• Subsurface Engineering• Hazardous Waste• Solid Waste• Restoration/ Reclamation/ Remediation, Air Quality, Noise• Recycling, Waste Pond Management, Carbon Sequestration & Trading, Mitigation• Wastewater Collection/ Treatment & Disposal• Residuals Management & Reuse• Graywater Systems• CSOs• Mine Tailings• Agricultural</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highways• Airports• Rail• Marine/Ports• Public Transit• Intermodal Facilities• Bridges• Tunnels</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Industrial• Residential• Commercial• Parks and Recreation• Urban Design• Petrochemical• Biotech• Manufacturing• Heavy industry• Industrial waste• Materials handling• Mining, metallurgy, mineralogy</div>

HOW TO SUBMIT AN ENTRY :

- 1** Upload Entry Form along with items 2 through 5 in the online portal.
- 2** A 100-word summary of the project clearly and concisely describing the project and the entrant's participation in the project on firm's letterhead.
- 3** If you are not the Prime Consultant, you must have an endorsement/approval letter from the Prime Consultant and the client indicating concurrence with your submittal. If you are the Prime Consultant, you must have an endorsement/approval letter from client indicating concurrence with your submittal.
- 4** THREE 8" x 10" HIGH RESOLUTION photographs representing various visual aspects of the project. Each photograph should be followed by a brief description of the photo within the PDF or MS Word document submitted. Photo descriptions should not exceed three sentences (approximately 75 words or less). Please submit the three (3) HIGH RESOLUTION jpegs.
- 5** One compiled copy of the following, not to exceed 1500 words total:
 - Role of the entrant's firm in the project
 - Role of other consultants participating in the project
 - Brief description of the entrant's contribution to the project addressing each of the following:
 - Original or Innovative Application of New or Existing Techniques
 - Future Value to Engineering Profession
 - Social/Economic and sustainable design Considerations
 - Complexity
 - Exceeding Owner/Client Needs
- 6** Please contact Tammy Bromley at tbromley@acecnc.org to receive link to the portal for submitted items.
- 7** An entry fee of \$800 for ACEC/NC members must be paid and received no later than September 4, 2025.

Entry Form

2026 Engineering Excellence Awards

This year entries will be submitted electronically. The information listed below will need to be completed online when you submit the entry. Please be prepared to furnish all the information requested below for each entry. Please limit the project name to 45 characters.

Please contact Tammy Bromley at (919) 781-7934 or tbromley@acecnc.org to establish a username to upload your submission(s) in the online portal by 3 pm (EST) September 4, 2025

PROJECT PRACTICE AREA (place an X in one box):

☐ Water & Environment

☐ Energy & Utility

☐ Planning & Mapping

☐ Transportation

☐ Vertical

☐ Site Design

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Name of Project: _____

Project Location: _____

Owner/Client Address: _____

Entering Firm Name: _____

Firm _____ Contact: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____ Email: _____

Budgeted Project Cost: _____ Actual Project Cost: _____

Scheduled Date of Completion: _____ Actual Date of Completion: _____

If your project entry is a winner please indicate your plans to re-submit to ACEC for national competition:

_____ Will re-submit _____ Will not re-submit

ENTRY FEES:

\$800 per entry for ACEC/NC Members only

Checks in the appropriate amount due (made payable to ACEC/NC) must be received at the ACEC/NC office no later than September 4, 2025.

**The ACEC/NC office is located at:
American Council of Engineering Companies of North Carolina
150 Fayetteville Street, Ste. 1340
Raleigh, NC 27601**

Questions? Please contact [Tammy Bromley](mailto:tbromley@acecnc.org) or the ACEC/NC office at 919-781-7934.