

## Happy New Year from the ACEC/NC Junior Board of Directors!

As we begin 2025, we're excited to share our plans for the year ahead. We remain dedicated to promoting diverse industry involvement and leadership within ACEC/NC, with a continued focus on creating opportunities for young professionals across different demographics, disciplines, and geographies within the engineering community.

Before diving into our 2025 initiatives, we want to recognize the incredible efforts of ACEC/NC companies in the rebuilding of Western North Carolina following Hurricane Helene. Many of our members have dedicated countless hours to restoring communities and infrastructure. To our friends in Western NC, we want you to know that we are here to support you and we admire your resilience during this challenging time. Your hard work is helping to rebuild not just homes and businesses, but the very strength of the region. Thank you to all who have contributed to this ongoing recovery.

This year, we are excited to continue the success of DP Connect (Developing Professionals Connect), which is halfway through its first full year. Launched as a peer-to-peer mentoring program, DP Connect has already created valuable connections across North Carolina. As we move into the second half of the year, we are eager to expand the program and continue building these impactful relationships. The new cycle of DP Connect will begin this summer—be on the lookout for more details!

In addition to DP Connect, we will continue to host our social events in Raleigh and Charlotte. These informal gatherings will provide opportunities to meet fellow ACEC/NC peers, expand your network, build lasting relationships in a relaxed setting, learn more about what ACEC/NC does for our industry, and how to get involved. We're excited to host our next event on February 6<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to come and join us in Raleigh or Charlotte to learn about current ACEC/NC Legislative and PAC initiatives.

We're also excited to continue our Lunch and Learn series which is focused on developing essential soft skills that are key to career growth. These virtual sessions will provide valuable insights to help you grow both personally and professionally. Be sure to watch for invitations to these upcoming events!

Finally, we are thrilled to announce the inaugural ACEC/NC Junior Board of Directors Gala this summer. This special event will give us the chance to thank our sponsors who make our efforts possible. It will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our collective achievements and connect with industry colleagues.

These events and programs are made possible by our generous sponsors. We look forward to a busy and successful year ahead. Stay tuned for upcoming events, and we hope to see you soon!