IOWA ENGINEERING CONFERENCE
MAY 22-23, 2024
MARRIOTT - WEST DES MOINES, IOWA

FULL SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

9:00
WELCOME REMARKS

9:05-9:55
Indemnify, Hold Harmless and Duty to Defend

Words that should raise a red flag in your contracts and language that seems to be appearing more frequently. This program will advise you on what you should do when this language appears in a contract and what risk you may expect if you sign the contract. The program will also cover what protection Iowa law provides and does not provide.

Presenters: Nick Maletta, Client Executive and Andrew Patton, A&E Technical Consultant and attorney with Holmes Murphy and Associates.

10:00-11:00
Artificial Intelligence – Someone in your firm is using it whether you know it or not

You may not know it, but it's likely someone in your firm is using AI. Or they will be. Do you have a policy on how your employees may or may not use this emerging tool. There's no doubt AI will introduce both significant change and new risk. Artificial intelligence is proving to be a powerful tool for a broad range of engineering disciplines, offering highly streamlined processes and work products, and providing invaluable insights for industry leaders, so why are some companies instituting bans on using the tool? This presentation will look at the pitfalls of AI, discuss experience needed, unrealistic expectations, data challenges and lack of verifiability.

Presenters: Nick Maletta, Client Executive and Andrew Patton, A&E Technical Consultant and attorney with Holmes Murphy and Associates

ACEC
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Iowa

IES Iowa Engineering Society
Professional Engineering
Advocacy, Education and Recognition

11:00-12:00
Qualifications Based Selection in Iowa – What Iowa law prohibits and how your firm can educate your clients

"Fee-based selection of an architect, landscape architect, or engineer for a public improvement shall be prohibited." That's the law ACEC passed in Iowa, but some owners are still asking for price. This presentation will include the ACEC Iowa presentation we have and will continue to present to client organizations. The presentation will include research on QBS conducted by the ACEC Research Institute demonstrating the advantages to the client selecting based on QBS. ACEC will provide you with the necessary tools to educate both your clients and your marketers.

Presenters: David Dougherty, with HR Green and Bryan Bross with Klinger and Associates. Both Dougherty and Bross are past presidents of ACEC and have been working over the past 12 months to educate clients and consultants on the benefits to QBS.

1:00-1:30
What has ACEC Done for you lately?

Officers will discuss challenges and activities ACEC/Iowa have undertaken on behalf of the business of consulting engineering at the state and federal level. ACEC Regional Vice President Dan Meckes

1:30 – 2:30
Ethics – A Presentation Inspired by Real Events

This is an interactive program featuring real-life scenarios for engineers who have found themselves in situations – sometimes through their own fault and sometimes inadvertently. The audience will be asked to determine if these real-life scenarios pose an ethical dilemma and what the engineer should do to protect the public's safety, health and welfare.

Presenters: David Dougherty with HR Green and Dave Moeller with Snyder and Associates.

2:45-3:45
It's Not the Engineering that Keeps Me Up at Night – It's People

Everything you're afraid to ask about personnel issues and the law. We will identify challenges and pitfalls of managing exempt and non-exempt employees or what you can expect if you are one and how off-site work hours are blurred for those who are always "plugged" into technology. Here to answer your questions and keep you out of trouble is an expert in employment law.

Presenter: Erin Nathan is an attorney with Simmons Perrine in Cedar Rapids. The firm has one of the largest employment law practices in Iowa with extensive experience in workplace counseling, workers' compensation, business management and employment litigation. Ms. Nathan is well versed in issues involving discrimination and harassment in the workplace. Title VII, ADA, ADEA, PDA, FMLA. Retaliatory discharge, defamation, fraud, breach of contract and wage and hour violations. She is prepared to provide practical advice on negotiating employment contracts, independent contractor agreements and non-compete and non-solicitation agreements.

4:00-5:00
Create a Culture of Belonging

In a world shaped by diverse perspectives, Melinda DeCarlo will guide participants through the nuances of fostering a culture that goes beyond mere inclusion. Exploring into the fitting in vs belonging paradigm, she will share insights on how organizations can move from surface-level diversity to genuine belonging, where each individual feels a sense of connection and purpose. Understanding the perspectives of others, fitting in vs belonging, the factors of success and the qualities of an inclusive leader will be explored.

Presenter: Melinda DeCarlo with 6585 Consulting

Thursday, May 18, 2023

8:00-12:00
Ten Tips on Empowerment Leadership- The Power of People First

Ten Tips to Empowerment Leadership includes servant leadership, why personal values matter, challenging bad behaviors, how to build healthy work relationships, how to increase engagement and listening well. Whether a seasoned or first-time leader, learning to become an Empowerment Leader is both timely and necessary in today's highly competitive business world. The days of the my-way-or-the-highway bosses are not only antiquated and barbaric, but inefficient, de-motivating, and lead to high turnover rates and disengagement. Our presenter will personal leadership experiences combined with TEN practical TIPS to become an effective EMPOWERMENT LEADER. Learning to serve your team, building close working relationships, increasing engagement and inclusion, and leading with authenticity is not only empowering to your team, but to you as their Empowerment Leader!
Presenter: Jeff Gross with Gro-Nova. Jeff spoke to ACEC Iowa last year and received some of the best reviews any of speaker at our meetings has ever received.