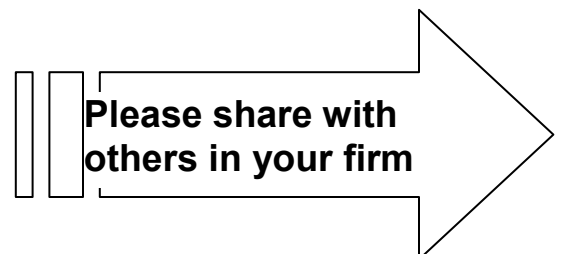




AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
*of Iowa*

# *Call To Excellence*

Engineering Excellence  
Awards – **2021**



# Call to Excellence

The overall goal of the Engineering Excellence Awards program remains the same: to recognize outstanding engineering achievements in Iowa, and to provide an opportunity for recognition for your firm, your employees and your clients.

Entries will compete in five project categories (see Categories of Entry). To correlate with ACEC national competition requirements, the percentages under Criteria for Judging shown match those of ACEC.

Winners and their clients will be honored at an **awards banquet** during the American Council of Engineering Companies of Iowa's annual conference.

## Criteria for Judging

Entries will be judged on the criteria below. (See Attachment E for more details.)

- Uniqueness &/or Innovative Application of New or Existing Techniques....20%
- Future Value to the Engineering Profession & Perception by the Public.....20%
- Social, Economic, and Sustainable Development Considerations.....20%
- Complexity .....20%
- Successful Fulfillment of Client/Owner Needs.....20%

Total: 100%

## Entry Deadlines:

<b><u>October 1, 2020</u></b>	Submit the Intent to Enter form (Attachment D)
<b><u>October 29, 2020</u></b>	Submit Entry Fee and Four Project Flash Drives loaded with appropriate files (See Entry Requirements - Attachment B)
<b><u>December 3, 2020</u></b>	Notification of ACEC/Iowa Winners <i>(If you are submitting to ACEC National, please contact ACEC/Iowa for letter of endorsement.)</i>
<b><u>January 8, 2021</u></b>	ACEC national competition entry deadline <i>(<a href="http://www.acec.org/awardprograms/engineering-excellence-awards">http://www.acec.org/awardprograms/engineering-excellence-awards</a>)</i>
<b><u>April 27, 2021</u></b>	ACEC Awards Gala, Washington, DC <i>(Honoring national entries)</i>
<b><u>TBD</u></b>	ACEC/Iowa Annual Meeting Awards Banquet <i>(Honoring Iowa entries)</i>

# Categories of Entry

Applicants will identify the category in which their project belongs, but judges will have the prerogative of moving the entry to a more appropriate category if necessary. *Select the one Category you think most appropriate to the best features of each project. If a single project is of a scope to warrant entry in more than one Category, each entry must sufficiently focus on the distinguishing features of its specific Category, with little if any overlap between entries.*

All entries will be judged in one of the following five categories:

## A. Transportation

- Railroads
- Highways
- Airports
- Marine
- Public transit
- Freight
- Intermodal facilities
- Bridges

## B. Water & Wastewater

- Water supply/distribution/treatment
- Wastewater collection/treatment & disposal
- Industrial waste
- Residuals Management

## C. Buildings & Systems

- Acoustics
- Buildings
- Communications
- Computer Technology
- Energy conservation
- Foundations
- Industrial processes/materials handling
- Software systems
- Sports facilities
- Towers

## D. Special Projects

- Air quality
- Dams
- Erosion control
- Hazardous waste
- Hydraulics & hydrology
- Irrigation
- Noise
- Recreational facilities
- Site development
- Studies
- Solid waste
- Storm water management
- Trails

## E. Energy Production

- Alternative energy
- Oil
- Gas
- Nuclear
- Coal
- Energy distribution

# Awards to be Presented

If sufficient entries are received, the following awards will be presented:

1. A single Grand Conceptor Award will be presented to the one project that stands out above all the other entries, regardless of project category.
2. A Grand Place Award will be presented to at least one project in all five categories.
3. An Honor Award will be presented to at least one project in all five categories.
4. An Engineering Achievement Award will be awarded to as many entries in each category as determined by the judges.

Both the consulting engineering firm and their owner/client will receive awards. Plaques for the Grand Conceptor Award, Grand Place Awards and Honor Awards will be presented at the ACEC/Iowa Awards Banquet. Engineering Achievement Awards are announced at the Awards Banquet but will not be presented, at that time.

Firms may purchase additional plaques for themselves or their clients by contacting the ACEC/Iowa office. Additional award certificates may also be obtained.

# Notification of Winners

All award winners will be notified by **December 3, 2020**. Winners will be given the opportunity to invite their employees and clients to attend the Awards Banquet that will be held at the American Council of Engineering Companies of Iowa's annual meeting. Banquet RSVP forms are sent along with the awards notifications.

Note: Firms are responsible for inviting client representatives to the Banquet, and for paying their meal costs. The Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board has advised ACEC/Iowa this type expenditure is allowed under Iowa law for public officials attending an award ceremony. Public officials attending the award ceremony will be given an opportunity to comment on the project.

## To Enter-

**ALL Entries will be submitted in an electronic format on USB flash drives!**

To participate in the Engineering Excellence Awards competition, entrants must submit the items below. **See Entry Requirements (Attachment B) for specifics.**

1. Submit the **Intent to Enter form (Attachment D)**. Please include the project's main Category. Note: Returning this form does not obligate a firm to enter. The purpose is to help ACEC/Iowa select appropriate judges for the competition based on the types of projects mentioned. **The Intent to Enter form must be received back at ACEC/Iowa by October 1, 2020.**
2. Submit **FOUR Project USB Flash Drives** meeting the specifications listed in the Entry Requirements (Attachment B). The Folders on the Flash Drives must include a file with a completed Entry Form (Attachment A) and a signed Client Release Letter (Attachment C), along with photographs and/or graphics with captions, and various written descriptions of the project. Also include a separate "Publicity Folder" on the Flash Drives to include the project press release and media list (optional).
3. Submit payment of the **Entry Fee** of **\$195** for ACEC/Iowa members, or **\$545** for non-members. Save \$20 by submitting electronically at [www.cec-iowa.org](http://www.cec-iowa.org).

**The completed Project USB Flash Drives and Entry Fee (Items 2-3 above) must be RECEIVED by 5:00 pm Central Time at ACEC/Iowa by Thursday, October 29, 2020.**

# Entry Form

# Attachment A

## **American Council of Engineering Companies of IA 2021 Engineering Excellence Awards**

To be **RECEIVED** by  
**October 29, 2020**

**\* Mail Entries to: ACEC/Iowa (*by October 29, 2020*)  
1080 Jordan Creek Pkwy, Suite 106C  
West Des Moines, IA 50266**

### **Entry Checklist:**

- **Enclosed are the four Project USB Flash Drives loaded with appropriate files**
- **Enclosed is the Entry Fee check payable to ACEC/Iowa in the amount of  
\$195 for ACEC/Iowa members or \$545 for non-members- Save \$20 by submitting electronically at  
[www.cec-iowa.org](http://www.cec-iowa.org).**

### **Firm Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

Project Contact Person (*Use PE suffix if applicable*): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Project: \_\_\_\_\_

**Owner/Client Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

Owner/Client Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Other Consultants:** (*If other consulting firms participated in this project to a significant degree they may submit their own entry. Firms may also enter a project jointly.*) \_\_\_\_\_

**Check the Category of Entry below.** See the listing on Page 3 of this flyer for more specifics. All entries will be judged in one of the following five categories.

- **A. Transportation**
- **B. Water or Wastewater**
- **C. Buildings and Systems**
- **D. Special Projects**
- **E. Energy Production**

## Entry Requirements

## Attachment B

Projects may have been executed anywhere in the world. The entering firm must have an office in Iowa, but does not have to be a member of ACEC/Iowa. ~ Studies (submitted under Category D. Special Projects) must have been publicly disclosed by the client between **November 1, 2018** and **October 31, 2020**. Construction of all other projects must have been substantially completed and ready for use between **November 1, 2018** and **October 31, 2020**.

The following items **must** be submitted for all entries. All items **must** be **RECEIVED** by **October 29, 2020**.

**I. PROJECT USB Flash Drives:** Each entry must include **four identical Project USB Flash Drives formatted to be readable on any Windows PC and labeled on the outside with the firm name, project name and category**. Each flash drive must contain **FIVE separate folders (labeled as below) with the following files/items labeled and in the proper folder**. Only USB flash drives will be considered. No display boards or notebooks will be reviewed.

- 1) **Project Forms Folder** should include:
  - a) A completed ACEC/Iowa **Entry Form** (Attachment A)
  - b) A signed **Client Release Letter** (Attachment C) – Photocopies are acceptable.
- 2) **Project Description Folder** to include the four separate documents, as follows:
  - a) Project description (may include graphs & photos if relevant to the description)
  - b) Role of your firm in the project
  - c) Role of other engineers or architects
  - d) Description of how your project addresses Judging Criteria A-E. (see Attachment E) (may include graphs & photos if relevant to the description)
- 3) **Key Participants Folder:** An Excel spreadsheet with the list of key participants on the project including fields with firm name, address, phone number, website and email address for each participant.
- 4) **Project Photographs or Graphics Folder:** Please provide up to six different photographs and/or graphics with captions, to give an initial overview of the project.
  - a) Name the files Image 1, Image 2, etc. and provide a Word document linking the image number and the caption that corresponds to it. These overview images should be of high enough resolution so they may be shown in a presentation or possible publication on the website. Image file formats can be .jpg, .tif, .pdf, or any combination thereof.
  - b) Include a single file in Microsoft Word or similar text format (do not pdf, please) with the **captions for the images, listed with the corresponding image number**, as mentioned above. A thumbnail of the image is helpful but not required.
- 5) **Publicity Folder:**
  - a) Include a project **Press Release** in Microsoft Word or other similar text format (do not pdf) that should not exceed 500 words and clearly and concisely describe the project, your firm's role in the project, and focus on the five factors listed in the Judging Criteria (see Attachment E). Include the value of the project to the community and identify the number of people served, cost savings, etc. Write the press release for a non-engineer audience. Award specifics will be added by ACEC/Iowa once final results are available. ~ ACEC/Iowa sends out press releases after the awards are officially presented at the banquet. (Please include your press release in this file, even if you prefer sending it out yourselves.)
  - b) **Optional:** If you would like ACEC/Iowa to send press releases on behalf of your firm, include your **media list**. It **must** be formatted as an **Excel File** and must include an **E-mail Address for each Company Name**. Include a **separate row** for each media contact, and **separate columns** for Company Name, E-mail Address, and any additional fields you like such as contact's First and Last Name (if known), etc.

**II. ENTRY FEE:** Enclose a check payable to ACEC/Iowa in the amount of **\$195** for ACEC/Iowa member firms, or **\$545** for non-member firms. Save \$20 by submitting electronically at [www.cec-iowa.org](http://www.cec-iowa.org).

Client Release Letter

**A signed Client's Release Letter must be scanned and included in the file on each USB Flash Drive for each project entered. Retain the original letter for your records.**

*Suggested wording for this letter is shown below:*

"As client (owner), I (we) believe the work of (name of firm) meets the intended uses and expectations of the project. I (we) hereby grant permission to enter this project in the American Council of Engineering Companies of Iowa's 2020 Engineering Excellence Awards competition. I (we) authorize publication of its outstanding features, unique aspects or innovations, and confirm that the project was substantially completed and ready for use between November 1, 2018 and October 31, 2020."

## Letter of Intent to Enter

## Attachment D

Please return this form by October 1, 2020

To help us better select judges for the entries, please let us know if you intend to enter a project, and what type of project you are considering. Please submit a separate "Intent to Enter" form for each project your firm may enter.

### Returning this form does not obligate you to enter

Firm Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Project Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Category of Entry

Please check the appropriate Project Category below:

- A. Transportation
- B. Water and Wastewater
- C. Buildings and Systems
- D. Special Projects
- E. Energy Production

Submit form by October 1, 2020 to:

[www.cec-iowa.org](http://www.cec-iowa.org)

American Council of Engineering Companies of Iowa

1080 Jordan Creek Pkwy, Suite 106C

West Des Moines, IA 50266

[info@cec-iowa.org](mailto:info@cec-iowa.org) / 515-284-7055



## Definition of Judging Criteria

### **A. Uniqueness &/or Innovative Application of New or Existing Techniques (20%):**

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

### **B. Future Value to the Engineering Profession and Perception by the Public (20%):**

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

### **C. Social, Economic, and Sustainable Design Considerations (20%):**

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

### **D. Complexity (20%):**

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

### **E. Successful Fulfillment of Client/Owner Needs (20%):**

1. Did the engineer or entrant successfully engage the client/owner in the overall project development process?
2. What was the entrant's role in the project?
3. Was it an economical and cost-effective solution?
4. How did final cost compare to original budget estimate?
5. How closely does the entrant's solution meet the total goals of the client/owner?
6. Did the entrant meet the client's time schedule?