ACEC/NC Junior Board Quarterly Newsletter

The ACEC/NC Junior Board continues its 2025–2026 term with strong engagement, growing programs, and new opportunities for emerging professionals across North Carolina.

Lunch & Learn Series

The Junior Board's Virtual Lunch & Learn series features a mix of soft-skill development and timely topics of interest to developing professionals as they navigate the early stages of their careers.

In December we hosted *AI in Action: What Engineers Need to Know* with **Cody Pennetti, PhD, PE, PMP** of Dewberry. Cody introduced key AI concepts and shared practical examples of how AI is streamlining engineering workflows.

Up next, we'll hold *Generations at Work* on **March 11, 2026**, featuring **Cyndi Vaughn** of CG Consulting & Training. She will discuss what drives each of the five generations in today's workforce and offer strategies for improving communication and collaboration across teams. Don't miss this fascinating conversation! Register here: Event Registration - American Council of Engineering Companies of North Carolina

Winter Social & PAC Introduction

The Socials hosted by the Junior Board provide valuable opportunities for young professionals to connect with peers across the consulting engineering industry while learning more about ACEC/NC and its mission.





This quarter's **Winter Social** at Seven Saturdays Taproom in Raleigh, and Olde Mecklenburg Brewery in Charlotte offered members a chance to connect while learning about the **CECNC-PAC** and the **ACEC PAC**. Attendees heard how both PACs promote the causes and initiatives important to our industry and support state and federal candidates who advocate for the consulting engineering industry. These events create a welcoming environment for emerging professionals to build relationships and increase their awareness of the broader policy issues shaping the industry.

Peer Connections Program Continues to Grow

In addition to our Socials, the Junior Board's **Peer Connections** program offers another meaningful way for young professionals to engage with colleagues across the industry through self-regulated groups. The program continues to grow and this year we're excited to see:

- **New groups** forming in Wilmington, Asheville, and the Triad
- **Returning participants** who have remained engaged for multiple years
- **Continued interest** with new individuals requesting to join midterm. If you are interested in getting involved, feel free to reach out to any Junior Board member and we will find a group for you!

Together with our Socials, Peer Connections strengthens professional networks and encourages collaboration across member firms.

Junior Board Nominations Opening Soon

The call for nominations for the **2026–2027 Junior Board term** will open soon. If you or someone in your firm is interested in supporting professional development and engagement across the engineering community, stay tuned for details on how to submit a nomination and participate in upcoming information sessions.

Second Annual Junior Board Gala – June 2026

As always, we are grateful to our Partner Firms for their continued support of the Junior Board's work. We are excited to share that planning is underway



for our **2nd Annual Partners Gala**, scheduled for June. This event will celebrate our Partner Firms and recognize outstanding young professionals from across North Carolina. More details will be announced soon—mark your calendars!