Greetings from the Junior Board of Directors! With spring knocking on our door, the trees and flowers are blooming, the bees and bugs are making their way back up in the air; personally, it's my favorite time of the year. With every spring comes our call for applicants for the upcoming fiscal year of the Junior Board. We're very much looking forward to our new six members that will join us in July.

We're coming out of our winter season where we were able to help contribute $2,500 to the national PAC, doing our part to help exceed our contribution goal for ACEC/NC. We've also hosted socials in Raleigh and Charlotte to help introduce our Developing Professionals to the role of the PAC in our industry and how they can help to contribute to the advocacy for our industry.

Coming up on our calendar is a fantastic virtual Lunch and Learn with Farnoosh Brock. If you weren't able to make the event in March, we will have her back for another event in May. We also have a meet-and-greet the evening before FUEL NC, where we get updates from the various ACEC/NC Committee's. If you are new to ACEC/NC and want to find a way to get involved in a committee, this is an excellent opportunity to see each of our committee's and get a general idea of what they do to help the industry.

Something that is brand new this year for us is the Junior Board of Directors Sponsor's Gala. This event is where we will recognize and award the Young Professional of the Year for North Carolina along with serving as a "Thank You" to our partners for their continued support throughout this year. Those partners are listed below. As always, thank you for your support. We literally would not be able to do what we do for our ACEC/NC members without you. Wrapping up the year, we will again host "Introduce an Intern to ACEC/NC" social event in June. We had a great time with this event last year and are very much looking forward to this event again.

Lastly, one of the hardest things that we've encountered is plugging younger people into ACEC/NC. We've had great attendance for our events and gatherings but have not been able to find meaningful ways of getting individuals into roles that suit them within ACEC/NC. So, to help with that, the Junior Board will be rolling out the Ambassador Program this upcoming fiscal year which will allow candidates an opportunity to get plugged in and help with the execution of Junior Board related initiatives along with an avenue to help out with contributing to our committees.

As I mentioned earlier, the Junior Board will be welcoming six new members in July, however, there can only be thirteen of us on the Junior Board. Each one of us on the Junior Board serves a 2-year term. So that means that our six 2nd year members will be rolling off at the end of June. This has been one very memorable ride for me and the other five 2nd years. We've been able to celebrate several milestones together and come together to help create something that will be able to stay relevant yet flexible enough to change over the years to suit the needs of the current Junior Board. To Emily, Nate, Nicole, Sydnee, and Mike; thank you all for the last two years together. This has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my life, both professionally and personally.

To Miles, Russell, Mitch, Blake, Jennifer, Matthew, and JR; the Junior Board is in excellent hands next year. You seven work very well together and are going to accomplish some amazing things in this upcoming fiscal year. I'm rooting for you all and will be seeing you all around at your events!

Cheers,

Josh Slusarczyk, PE

ACEC/NC Junior Board of Directors, Chair