With the emergence of the summer season comes a close to our inaugural year of the ACEC/NC Junior Board of Directors. The change provides an opportunity to reflect on what we have achieved and where we are headed as we enter the 2023 – 2024 fiscal year.

Over the past year our collective group has built the foundation of the Junior Board and set the direction that future members may build upon as we work to engage and develop the next generation of industry leadership. The Junior Board began a quarterly social aimed at not only providing opportunities for developing professionals to network with their peers but also providing educational opportunities for members to learn about ACEC/NC advocacy initiatives as well as ways to develop leadership skills they can use as they progress in their careers. In addition to the socials, the Junior Board worked in tandem with the individuals and committees who planned Legislative Day and the new Fuel NC Conference. Through our collaboration with these individuals both events were seen as huge successes with increased attendance at Legislative Day and a sell-out of the first ever Fuel NC Conference. This foundation of creating & promoting ways for the individuals who make up our member organizations to get involved and ultimately improves our industry and better position it for the future.

To continue that momentum into the 2023 – 2024 fiscal year the Junior Board will welcome six new members who will allow us to broaden our reach to the developing professional community and increase engagement through our socials, support of existing ACEC/NC events, and a few new initiatives that we will announce in the upcoming year.

With the kick off this new year and swearing in of our new ACEC/NC Junior Board and executive committee members at the summer conference, we will reaffirm our focus on engaging and developing our next generation of industry leaders. From our initial meeting and brainstorming event, the Junior Board has accomplished more than we could have imagined in our inaugural year. A feat that we attribute to a group of developing professionals who are eager to lead and are passionate about working as a team to make our industry better than it was the day we started and to the support of the ACEC/NC Board of Directors, Staff, and member firms who have affirmed and assisted our initiatives through your time, support and participation.

As we conclude our tenure as Co-Chairs, we are humbled by the success of the first year and excited about the future knowing that the attributes mentioned above are not limited to those on the Junior Board but exist in the ranks of our Future Leaders Class and countless developing professionals throughout our member organizations. We ask that you continue to show that passion and eagerness in the future and continue to engage in the programs and events that ACEC/NC develops. Through participation and engagement, you are not only contributing by adding value within the industry but you're also assisting to mold and mentor both peers and the next generation of leadership alike. It's been an honor to serve as Co-Chairs this past year and we look forward to seeing everyone at an ACEC/NC event soon. Cheers!

Your 2022-2023 Junior Board Co-Chairs,

Jay Watson, PE
Principal, Finch & Associates

Will Larsen, PE
Greenville Regional Manager, The Wooten Company