JANUARY 2022

EROM THE PRESIDENT

It's a very exciting time for the Lehigh Valley Section, for the Society, and for the civil engineering profession. The \$1.2 trillion federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) became law on November 15th. All told, the IIJA provides nearly \$550 billion in new federal spending over five years for a wide range of infrastructure categories and allocates some \$650 billion for existing infrastructure programs during the same five-year period. At the same time, the IIJA reauthorizes key federal efforts such as the surface transportation program and the Clean Water and Drinking Water state revolving funds. This legislative win is the culmination of decades of advocacy by ASCE members who worked tirelessly to educate Congress about the role infrastructure plays in supporting the economy and our quality of life. Within the Lehigh Valley Section, John Caperilla and Dion Campbell have been particularly active in the legislative affairs effort. Thanks, gentlemen, for your good work.

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In December, the LVASCE offered two outstanding webinars to help us better understand the significance of the IIJA.

- On December 9th, ASCE President-Elect **Maria Lehman**, **P.E.**, **ENV SP**, **F.ASCE** presented "Managing the Disruption of the Civil Engineering Profession" and also participated in an hour-long post-webinar roundtable discussion with members of the Section. The federal infrastructure initiative was a major focus of this discussion.
- On December 15th, our Reading Branch hosted an online discussion with U.S. Representative Chrissy Houlahan, an Air Force veteran, engineer, entrepreneur, and educator who is continuing her career of service as the first woman ever to represent Pennsylvania's 6th District in Congress. If you missed this presentation and would like to watch it online, you'll find a recording at https://branches.asce.org/reading/rep-chrissy-houlahan-town-hall.







Maria Lehman, P.E., ENV SP, F.ASCE

U.S. Rep. Chrissy Houlahan

Dr. Kristen L. Sanford, P.E., M.ASCE

I am also delighted to announce that **Dr. Kristen Sanford**, **P.E.**, **M.ASCE** has joined the Lehigh Valley Section Board as a Director and our Student Chapter Liaison. Dr. Sanford is an Associate Professor at Lafayette College. Welcome aboard, Kristen!

Thanks, all, for your continued support of the ASCE Lehigh Valley Section. If you have any suggestions for our program, please don't hesitate to contact me at sircesler@gmail.com.

Steve Ressler, P.E., Ph.D., Dist.M.ASCE

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO OUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY PHOTOBOOK PROJECT

The greater Lehigh Valley region is home to many important and fascinating civil engineering landmarks—some famous, some largely unknown. To commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the LVASCE, we are calling attention to these CE icons by creating a professionally designed photobook entitled 100 Civil Engineering Landmarks: Celebrating the Centennial of the ASCE Lehigh Valley Section. We are currently seeking individual and corporate sponsors to defray the production costs associated with this project. A \$25 contribution will qualify you as an Individual Sponsor, and your name will be listed in the book. For a \$200 contribution, your company will qualify as a Corporate Sponsor and will receive a quarter-page ad in the book. You can sign up for either option on our website at https://www.lvasce.org/sponsor/









UPCOMING EVENTS

- On February 1st at noon, **Milton Gomez**, **MSc.**, President of Aerix Industries, will present a technical webinar on Aerix's low-density cellular concrete technology. The webinar will be free, and participants will receive 1.0 PDH.
- The **2022 National Engineers Week Banquet**, which was originally scheduled for February 24th, has been postponed to April 27th due to the ongoing COVID surge.
- On March 15th, we will meet at the **National Museum of Industrial History** in Bethlehem for a reception, catered dinner, and "insider's tour" of the museum's recently opened exhibition on John Fritz—the father of the U.S. steel industry.

Our technical webinar schedule for the remainder of the year still has a few openings. If you'd like to make a presentation or can recommend a presenter, please contact Steve Ressler at siressler@gmail.com

IN MEMORIAM



We are deeply saddened to report that **Amit Mukherjee**, **P.E.**, **F.ASCE** passed away on January 2^{nd} , 2022, at St. Luke's Hospice House in Bethlehem. Amit was a graduate of Bengal Engineering College and earned his master's degree in civil engineering from Kansas State University. He was President of Base Engineering in

Allentown and was a Past President of the ASCE Lehigh Valley Section. His obituary is posted at

https://tinyurl.com/ybve97py. Rest in peace, brother.

SEEKING ANNUAL SPONSORS

We are still seeking six more Annual Sponsorships for the current year. Sign up now, and you'll receive a "Featured Sponsor" advertisement like the one at right; an opportunity to present a technical webinar to the entire Lehigh Valley Section; and prominent placement of your company logo in all LVASCE event announcements, newsletters, and other electronic communications. Your \$500 contribution will support our technical program, legislative activities, educational outreach, and scholarship fund. You can sign up at https://www.lvasce.org/sponsor/ If you have any questions, please contact Steve Ressler at siressler@gmail.com

