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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Night of Excellence and Community

Reflections on the 2025-2026 ASCE NCS Awards Gala

It was a profound honor to stand before you all as President during our recent Annual Awards Gala. This signature event serves as a vital reminder of why we do what we do. While our daily work often focuses on the "how" of engineering, the technical specs, the safety analytics, and the infrastructure design, the Gala allows us to step back and celebrate the "why": the people and the projects that improve the lives of every resident in our National Capital region.

The energy in the room was a testament to the resilience and dedication of our profession. We honored groundbreaking achievements and the individuals who have pushed the boundaries of civil engineering this year. These honorees represent the very best of our section, proving that even when faced with complex challenges, our community remains committed to excellence and innovation.

During the evening, our keynote speaker shared a poignant reminder that has stayed with me: Taking care of yourself is a fundamental part of your leadership journey. As engineers, we are trained to prioritize the structural integrity of everything we build. This message serves as a necessary call to ensure we maintain our own personal foundations. True leadership requires us to be at our best so that we can continue to serve our communities with the passion and precision they deserve.

I am incredibly proud of the ASCE NCS for the support and camaraderie shown during this term. Whether you were an award recipient, a sponsor, or an attendee, your presence at the Gala contributed to a night of inspiration that will carry us through the remainder of the year.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the National Capital Section and for the incredible work you do every day to build a safer, more connected future.

Shofiq Ahmed, PE, PTOE, RSP1
President, ASCE NCS

"The engineer has been, and is, a maker of history."

— James Kip Finch, Civil Engineer and Engineering Historian

Space Launch System (SLS) vehicle lifting off of the Mobile Launcher—a marvel of civil engineering.
Image Credit: NASA/Aubrey Gemignani

On a family trip to Florida in April, I had the good fortune of witnessing (albeit from 250 miles away) one of the most epic and dramatic moments of my lifetime: the launch of Artemis II, carrying four astronauts on a bold journey to the far side of the Moon. Those four explorers took just one more small step, bringing mankind the farthest away from home we've ever been.

I stood there next to a soccer field, having moved away from trees and obstructions for a clearer view, in awe of what human ambition and engineering can achieve. It was, no doubt, a great day for the propulsion engineers, who designed the rocket to propel itself through the atmosphere with over 8.8 million pounds of thrust. And the computer engineers, who were responsible for the Space Launch System's fault-tolerant, quad-redundant flight control computers. And for materials engineers, who made the heat shields capable of withstanding reentry heating approaching 5,000°F.

Later that evening, I started to wonder: who designed the crawlerway—the road that carried the 24-million-pound launch vehicle, the heaviest load ever moved on a roadway, without shifting or rutting? Who designed the launch pad's massive trench and flame deflector system, swiftly evacuating two thousand-degree exhaust gases safely away from the rocket? And who designed the platform itself?

The answer, of course, is Civil Engineers.

This is the history we make.

And while the launch infrastructure behind Artemis may seem distant, the expertise is not. Many of the firms enabling this next era of human space exploration have a strong presence here in the National Capital Region, including Jacobs, RS&H, and KBR, to name a few. In other words, the future of discovery isn't just out there—it might just be engineered right here.

Alan McDonald, P.E., M.ASCE
ASCE-NCS Vice President

Keynote Speaker

The 2026 ASCE National Capital Section (NCS) Awards Gala featured keynote remarks from **Carol Haddock, P.E., MPA, F.ASCE**, ASCE 2026 President-Elect. In her address, she shared insights on the evolving role of civil engineers in shaping resilient, sustainable communities and emphasized the importance of leadership, collaboration, and innovation in meeting the challenges facing the profession.

Carol highlighted the critical role that ASCE members play at both the local and national levels, encouraging continued engagement through technical excellence, mentorship, and advocacy. Her remarks reinforced the value of staying connected as a professional community and investing in the next generation of engineers. ASCE NCS appreciates her perspective and leadership, and thanks her for contributing to an inspiring evening celebrating the achievements of the Section.

Meritorious Service Awards

Presented by Shofiq Ahmed, P.E., PTOE, RSP1

Morgan Berger, M.S. P.E., was recognized for her outstanding leadership and for the significant time and talent she has dedicated to the National Capital Section. Through her exceptional efforts, she played an instrumental role in revitalizing the NCS newsletter and strengthening communications throughout the section.

Her contributions extended well beyond the responsibilities of her current role as Board Secretary. In addition to being vital to the newsletter's revival, Morgan also played a major role in supporting the President with section meetings and helping keep the Board of Directors organized.

Danielle Gittens, P.E., CCM, was recognized with the prestigious **Meritorious Service Award** for her outstanding contributions to the section and the civil engineering community. The Meritorious Service Award honors individuals who demonstrate exceptional commitment and service to ASCE National Capital Section.

Danielle has played a key leadership role within ASCE NCS, currently serving as Newsletter Editor and as a member of the Board of Directors. She has led the successful restart of the section's newsletter, revitalizing it as a key communication platform to highlight member achievements, industry developments, and organizational initiatives. Her efforts have strengthened engagement and connection across the ASCE community.

President's Appreciation Award

Presented by Shofiq Ahmed, P.E., PTOE, RSP1

Alan McDonald, P.E., was recognized with the **President's Appreciation Award**. This award acknowledges individuals who demonstrate exceptional commitment and make meaningful contributions to advancing the section's mission. Alan was recognized for his visionary leadership as Gala Chair, where he played a pivotal role in elevating both the quality and attendance of the annual event. His efforts set a new standard for section programming and member engagement.

In addition to his work on the Gala, Alan has shown a strong commitment to enhancing the overall member experience. His focus on improving the quality of monthly section meetings, increasing member turnout, and expanding section sponsorship has had a measurable impact on NCS's growth and vitality.

Through his creativity, initiative, and dedication, Alan has helped drive greater engagement across the section. This was especially evident in the impressive turnout and success of this year's Gala, reflecting the positive momentum he has helped build.

Young Members Forum President's Appreciation Award

Presented by Huan Yi Low, P.E.

Wing-Mei Ko, P.E., was recognized with the **Younger Member Forum (YMF) President's Appreciation Award**. This award acknowledges individuals who have made meaningful contributions to advancing the mission and activities of the Younger Member Forum.

Wing-Mei has been an active and dedicated member of the YMF, supporting programming that fosters professional development, networking, and engagement among younger members in the National Capital Region. Her involvement has contributed to the continued growth and success of YMF initiatives, helping to create opportunities for emerging professionals to connect and stay engaged within ASCE NCS.

Community Service Award

Presented by Sanskrit Singh, ENV SP

Xiaorong (Sherry) Shan was honored with the **NCS Community Service Award**, which recognizes outstanding contributions toward community improvement in the Washington metropolitan area. A Ph.D. candidate in Civil and Environmental Engineering at George Mason University, Xiaorong is the founder of the Graduate Association of Civil & Environmental Engineers (GRACE), an organization she established to foster connection, mentorship, and professional development among graduate students. Through her leadership, GRACE has become a vital platform for academic exchange, networking, and peer mentorship, strengthening the next generation of civil engineers.

In addition to her leadership, Xiaorong's research focuses on the intersection of transportation systems, air quality, and public health. Using high-resolution modeling, she examines how transportation policies and infrastructure decisions impact environmental health and equity, particularly for communities near major roadways. Her combined contributions to community building and research reflect a strong commitment to advancing both the civil engineering profession and the broader community's well-being.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Presented by Alan McDonald, P.E.

Roger Natsuhara, P.E., was honored with the **Lifetime Achievement Award**, one of the Section's highest recognitions. This award celebrates a distinguished career marked by sustained contributions to the civil engineering profession, as well as a lasting commitment to ASCE and the broader engineering community.

Throughout his career, Roger has demonstrated exceptional leadership, technical expertise, and dedication to advancing the profession. His work has had a meaningful impact on the built environment in the National Capital Region, while his involvement in ASCE has helped strengthen the organization and support the development of future engineers. Colleagues recognize him not only for his professional accomplishments, but also for his mentorship and service to the engineering community.

The Lifetime Achievement Award reflects the profound and lasting influence of Roger's career. ASCE NCS is proud to recognize his contributions and celebrate the legacy he has built through decades of service to the profession.

Community Impact Excellence Award

Presented by Morgan Berger, P.E.

The **Community Impact Excellence Award** was awarded to **HNTB Corporation** for the Walker Road (Route 681) over Piney Run Bridge Replacement project in Great Falls, Virginia.

This project replaced a deteriorating single-lane timber bridge from the 1930s with a modern two-lane structure, significantly improving safety, reliability, and accessibility for the approximately 4,300 daily users of this key corridor. The previous bridge created operational challenges due to limited sight distance and required drivers to stop and yield, contributing to congestion and safety concerns. The new structure eliminates these issues while also incorporating a sidewalk connection to support future trail use, enhancing multimodal access for the community.

To further benefit the community, the project team implemented Accelerated Bridge Construction (ABC) techniques, allowing for a full bridge replacement within a short, planned closure window rather than prolonged traffic disruptions. This approach minimized impacts to residents and local services while maintaining construction efficiency. In addition, the new bridge significantly improves flood resilience by increasing hydraulic capacity and reducing the risk of overtopping and storm-related damage—issues that had historically affected the corridor.

Through innovative design, strategic planning, and a strong commitment to community needs, the project successfully delivered a safer, more resilient, and future-ready transportation asset for the region.

Diversity and Inclusion Award

Presented by Jameelah Muhammad Ingram, P.E.

The **Diversity and Inclusion Award** was presented to the **Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO), DC Chapter**. This award recognizes organizations and individuals who have demonstrated a strong commitment to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion within the civil engineering and transportation professions.

The COMTO DC Chapter has played a significant role in promoting opportunities for underrepresented professionals, fostering inclusive leadership, and supporting workforce development across the transportation industry. Through its programs, partnerships, and advocacy efforts, the organization continues to strengthen pathways for diverse talent and contribute to a more inclusive professional community. ASCE NCS is proud to recognize COMTO DC Chapter for its impactful contributions and ongoing commitment to equity and inclusion.

Historic Preservation & Rehabilitation Awards

Presented by Bernie Dennis, LM.ASCE

The **Historic Preservation & Rehabilitation Excellence Award** was presented to **HDR Engineering, Inc.** for the DCA Terminal 1 Historic Façade Repairs project. Located at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, this project focused on the rehabilitation of a highly visible and historically significant terminal façade. The work required a balance between modern engineering standards and preservation requirements, ensuring that the structure could meet current performance needs while maintaining its original architectural character.

The project team implemented innovative solutions to repair and restore the façade while minimizing disruption to ongoing airport operations. Through close coordination, attention to detail, and a commitment to preservation, the project successfully revitalized a key piece of the region's aviation infrastructure. This effort highlights the importance of integrating engineering expertise with historic stewardship, and ASCE NCS is proud to recognize HDR Engineering, Inc. for its outstanding achievement.

The **Historic Preservation & Rehabilitation Merit Award** was presented to **Schnabel Foundation Company** for the C&O Canal Grace Street Wall Repair project. This project demonstrated a thoughtful and effective approach to stabilizing and restoring a historic structure while maintaining its integrity and significance. Through careful engineering and construction practices, the team successfully addressed structural concerns while preserving the character of the canal, contributing to the longevity of this important historic asset.

Geotechnical Engineering Excellence Award

Presented by Sharon Hartley, P.E.

The **Geotechnical Engineering Excellence Award** was awarded to **Clark Foundations, LLC**, for the Arlington County Crystal City East Metro Entrance Support of Excavation and Deep Foundations project in Arlington, Virginia.

This transformative infrastructure project enhances one of Arlington's busiest transit hubs by introducing a new east entrance to the Crystal City Metrorail station. The addition significantly improves passenger flow, safety, and accessibility by reducing congestion, shortening walking distances by more than 500 feet, and providing new ADA-compliant vertical access to the platform. The project plays a critical role in strengthening regional connectivity and supporting the continued growth of the National Landing area.

From a geotechnical perspective, the project required innovative solutions to construct a deep excavation in a highly constrained urban environment adjacent to active infrastructure, including roadways, utilities, and an operational Metro tunnel. The team designed and implemented a complex internal bracing system in lieu of traditional tiebacks, along with high-capacity micropiles installed under limited headroom conditions. Careful planning, real-time problem solving, and advanced construction techniques enabled the team to safely deliver the project while maintaining structural integrity and minimizing disruption in a dense, high-traffic setting.

The project also demonstrated exceptional coordination and construction management in a highly restricted site footprint. By employing a "just-in-time" logistics approach and innovative sequencing strategies, the team was able to overcome space constraints and maintain the schedule despite unforeseen challenges, including utility conflicts encountered during excavation. This disciplined approach ensured that the critical foundations and support for excavation activities were executed safely and efficiently, reinforcing the project's success as a model of geotechnical excellence in an urban transit environment.

Architectural Engineering Awards

Presented by Julia Cypher, E.I.T., ENV SP

The 2026 **Architectural Engineering Excellence Award** went to **A+F Engineers** for the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus Academic Building One — a $300 million landmark that now serves as the new front door of Alexandria. The project's heliomorphic design presented extraordinary structural challenges from the ground up: to combat shallow groundwater, A+F Engineers designed a fully watertight basement "bathtub" engineered to resist intense hydrostatic pressure. Above grade, sloping columns along 75 percent of the building's perimeter required advanced parametric modeling to resolve non-traditional load paths, while a massive 96-foot-long, two-story steel truss created a column-free 4,500-square-foot multipurpose event space.

The project was a major undertaking for owner Virginia Tech, brought to life through the integrated efforts of SmithGroup as architect and MEP engineer, Sorba Engineering for civil design, Core Studio Design for landscape, Form Architects for interiors, and Whiting-Turner as the construction team. The building stands as a testament to what is possible when engineering rigor and architectural ambition work in lockstep, and it was a well-deserved winner of the Excellence Award on what was a remarkable night for the National Capital Section.

The 2026 **Architectural Engineering Merit Award** was presented to **HDR Engineering** for the DCA Terminal 2 Modifications to Holdrooms and National Hall project. This project modernized an iconic air transportation environment by increasing passenger capacity by five percent within the existing terminal footprint.

This required rigorous structural investigations to relocate Flight Information Displays and integrate 21st-century power systems into the original 1990s infrastructure. Executed through a high-stakes overnight phasing strategy, the team deployed a seamless wireless charging network and high-performance modular systems without closing a single gate. This successful delivery was a collaborative effort between HDR, Burns Engineering, Clark Construction Group and MWAA.

Structural Engineering Excellence Awards

Presented by Gillian Love, P.E.

The **Structural Engineering Excellence Award** was awarded to the **Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)** for the D&G Aerial Structure Rehabilitation project in Washington, DC.

This critical infrastructure project focused on rehabilitating a mile-long aerial structure supporting WMATA's Blue and Orange Lines, which serve as a vital transportation corridor connecting Washington, DC, to Prince George's County, Maryland. The structure, consisting of 71 piers, plays a key role in providing reliable transit access to multiple communities and serves ten Metrorail stations along the route. Rehabilitation ensures the continued safe and efficient operation of this heavily utilized system, extending the structure's service life and supporting regional mobility for decades to come.

From a structural engineering standpoint, the project involved installing innovative "hammerhead" post-tensioned pier caps on existing columns to strengthen the structure and address long-term durability concerns. The design required careful consideration of load demands, material performance, and constructability, particularly given the need to minimize disruptions to active rail operations. Advanced construction techniques, including specialized concrete mixes and post-tensioning systems, were utilized to meet strict performance criteria while maintaining tight construction schedules.

The project also required extensive coordination across multiple agencies and stakeholders, including transportation, environmental, and utility entities, due to its location across complex urban and environmentally sensitive areas such as the Anacostia River corridor. Strategic planning and phased construction allowed the team to execute work efficiently while maintaining ongoing transit service and minimizing impacts to surrounding communities. Through its innovative design, technical complexity, and successful execution, the project stands as a model of structural engineering excellence in a highly constrained and critical transit environment.

The **Structural Engineering Merit Award** was presented to **Meyer Consulting Engineers Corporation** for the Rosslyn Towers at The Key project in Arlington, Virginia. This landmark development exemplifies structural engineering excellence through its innovative design and integration of complex architectural elements within a dense urban environment. The project features twin high-rise towers with a shared podium, incorporating expansive open spaces, full-height glazing, and elevated amenity areas that enhance the urban experience while maintaining structural efficiency and performance.

The project required advanced engineering solutions to accommodate large open-span spaces and unique structural demands. Notable features include long-span concrete beams supporting column-free interior spaces, post-tensioned floor systems designed for efficiency and flexibility, and a lateral system that relies on core structures to maintain stability without additional bracing. These solutions allowed the design team to achieve both architectural vision and structural integrity.

Delivered through strong collaboration among the design and construction teams, the project successfully addressed complex site constraints and construction challenges, including excavation in a dense urban setting and coordination with adjacent infrastructure. Through its technical sophistication, innovative structural systems, and contribution to the Rosslyn skyline, the project stands as a model of modern structural engineering excellence.

Sustainability and Resilience Awards

Presented by Naveen Kothapalli, P.E.

The 2026 **Sustainability and Resiliency Excellence Award** was presented to **MGAC** for the Truesdell Elementary School Modernization — an $86 million transformation of a 100-year-old historic landmark into a Net Zero Energy facility for DC Public Schools. Perhaps the project's most distinctive achievement is the community pavilion's Mass Timber structure, the first of its kind for a DC public school, which dramatically reduced the project's embodied carbon footprint. To meet its ambitious energy targets, the team installed a geothermal well field 500 feet beneath the soccer field and employed advanced thermography to ensure an airtight building envelope within the original 1920s masonry. The result is a healthy, high-performing learning environment that produces more energy than it consumes — proving that sustainability and historic preservation are not mutually exclusive.

This landmark achievement was guided by owner's representative MGAC on behalf of DC Public Schools, with design expertise provided by VMDO Architects and CMTA Inc. The construction team of Blue Skye and Coakley & Williams Construction brought the vision to life, demonstrating that even our oldest and most storied structures can lead the way toward a Net Zero future. Congratulations to the entire project team on a truly inspiring and well-deserved recognition.

The 2026 **Sustainability and Resiliency Merit Award** was presented to **Turner Construction Company** for the Arlington Transit Operations & Maintenance Facility — an $80 million LEED Platinum campus built for Arlington County Government that supports a 110-bus fleet and sets a new standard for transit resilience in our region. The facility's 22,000 square feet of on-site solar panels offset roughly 67% of its annual energy demand, and underground infrastructure is already in place for complete fleet electrification. One of the project's standout technical achievements was the re-routing of an active stream bisecting the site, accomplished using a temporary bridge and high-capacity pumps to prevent sediment discharge during construction. This success was made possible through the contributions of design and consulting partners Stantec, Timmons Group, Ehlert Bryan, GPI, Terracon Consultants, and Ramco of VA.

Transportation Engineering Awards

Presented by Conglong (Vicky) Yu, P.E., PTP, PTOE, PMP, RSP21

The **Transportation Engineering Excellence Award** was awarded to **WSP USA** for the Bladensburg Bus Garage Construction project in Washington, DC.

This project delivered a modern, state-of-the-art transit facility that significantly enhances safety, operational reliability, and efficiency for WMATA's Metrobus system. The new facility consolidates multiple aging garages into a single, fully integrated hub supporting approximately 300 buses, improving fleet readiness, reducing maintenance downtime, and strengthening overall transit service for the surrounding communities.

Designed to operate continuously during construction, the project utilized a phased, build-while-operating approach to maintain uninterrupted Metrobus service—an achievement rarely accomplished on projects of this scale. The facility incorporates an efficient and safety-focused layout that separates pedestrian and vehicle movements, standardizes circulation patterns, and improves visibility for both daily operations and long-term use.

In addition to operational improvements, the project integrates forward-thinking design features to support WMATA's transition to zero-emission buses. With advanced maintenance capabilities, sustainable infrastructure, and a multi-level configuration that maximizes limited urban space, the facility stands as a model for innovative, resilient, and future-ready transit infrastructure.

The **Transportation Engineering Merit Award** was awarded to **Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson** (**JMT**) for the Florida Avenue NE–New York Avenue Intersection Project in Washington, DC.

This transformative project reimagined one of the District's most complex and historically hazardous intersections, located at the convergence of Florida Avenue NE and New York Avenue NE. Originally conceived as part of Pierre L'Enfant's 1791 plan, the intersection's unconventional geometry and increasing traffic volumes—serving approximately 46,600 vehicles daily—had long contributed to driver confusion, congestion, and a high crash rate.

Through innovative transportation engineering and urban design, the project significantly improved safety, accessibility, and multimodal connectivity for all users, including pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists. The redesigned intersection simplifies traffic movements, enhances visibility, and incorporates protected bike lanes, ADA-compliant pedestrian facilities, upgraded traffic signals, and high-visibility pavement markings, creating a safer and more intuitive environment.

Beyond traffic operations, the project introduced three new public park spaces that serve as a community hub, blending transportation infrastructure with placemaking. These spaces provide welcoming areas for gathering and recreation, enhancing the overall quality of life for residents, workers, and visitors in the rapidly growing surrounding neighborhood.

The project required extensive coordination among the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), JMT, landscape architects, contractors, and numerous stakeholders. Complex challenges—including property acquisition, environmental remediation, and maintaining operations during construction—were successfully addressed through strategic planning and collaboration.

Sustainability was also a key component, with the incorporation of green infrastructure, such as bioretention facilities, new tree plantings, and recycled materials, into public spaces. These elements support stormwater management, reduce environmental impacts, and enhance the corridor's long-term resilience.

Through its innovative design, technical execution, and community-focused approach, the project stands as a model for modern urban transportation engineering.

Water Resources Engineering Award

Presented by Ken Klewicki, Ph. D., P.E., BCEE, LEED AP

The 2026 **Water Resources Engineering Excellence Award** was presented to the **Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority** (**MWAA**) for the DCA Sanitary Force Main Rehabilitation. This project was a vital upgrade to the airport's only wastewater conveyance system. To ensure uninterrupted service, the team engineered a hybrid solution: a new ductile iron force main installed via jack-and-bore beneath active CSX tracks, combined with trenchless CIPP relining for the rest of the 60-year-old system. Most impressively, the team designed an overhead bypass suspended from the Route 233 viaduct. Using 14-inch HDPE pipe and custom brackets, this system managed highly variable flows across an active rail corridor with zero disruption to airport operations.

This technical achievement was a collaborative effort led by MWAA with a design team including Alpha Corporation, Burns & McDonnell, and Summer Consultants with support from the construction partners who delivered this complex work: Patner Construction, Flippo Construction Company, Michels Corporation, RMS Electrical Services, and Siemens. By rehabilitating rather than replacing the line, the project significantly reduced land disturbance and the environmental footprint.

Monumental Award for Outstanding Civil Engineering Project of the Year

Presented by Alan McDonald, P.E., and Carol Haddock, P.E., MPS, F. ASCE

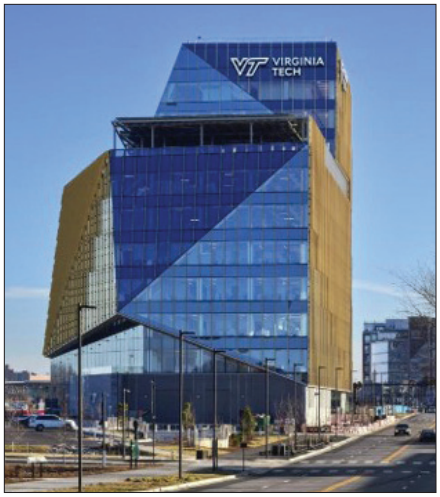
The highlight of the evening, the **Monumental Award for Outstanding Civil Engineering Project of the Year,** was proudly presented by Alan McDonald, P.E., to **A+F Engineers** for the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus Academic Building One.

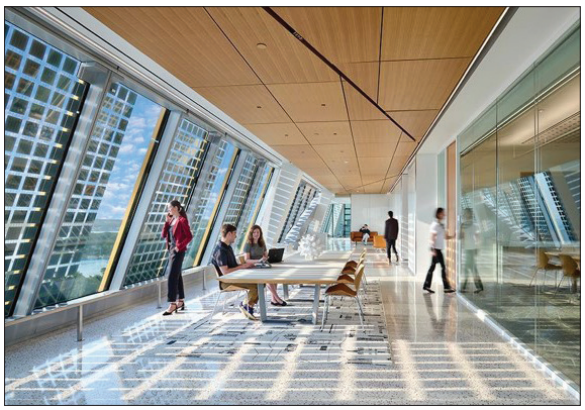
This prestigious award represents the highest honor bestowed by the National Capital Section, recognizing a project that exemplifies the very best in civil engineering. Selected from an exceptional group of finalists, this year's competition showcased the depth, innovation, and impact of engineering across the region. Finalists included HNTB for the Walker Road (Rt. 681) over Piney Run Bridge Replacement, WSP USA for the Bladensburg Bus Facility, A+F Engineers for the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus Academic Building One, and MGAC for the Truesdell Elementary School Modernization—each a winner in its respective category and a testament to engineering excellence.

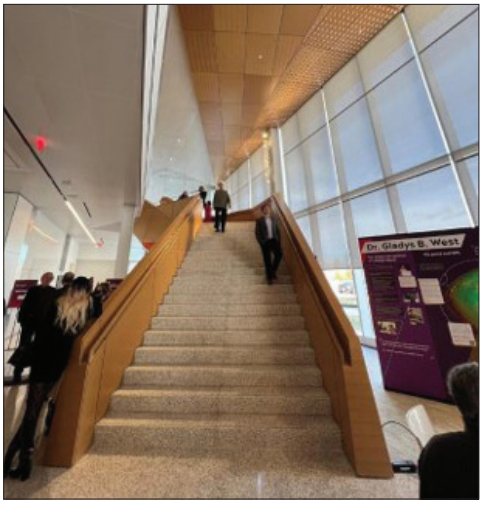
From this distinguished field, the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus Academic Building One rose to the top, setting itself apart through its remarkable integration of design, technical innovation, and transformative impact. The project embodies the spirit of the Monumental Award—demonstrating not only excellence in execution, but also a bold vision for the future of the built environment.

The selection of this project underscores the importance of collaboration, ingenuity, and leadership in delivering projects that shape communities and inspire progress. A+F Engineers' achievement reflects the highest standards of the profession and serves as a shining example of what is possible when engineering excellence meets visionary design.

Congratulations to all of this year's finalists for their outstanding accomplishments, and to A+F Engineers for earning this year's Monumental Award—the pinnacle of recognition for civil engineering achievement in the National Capital Section.







Outstanding Graduating Seniors Awards

WILLIAM GRANCI – The Catholic University of America
HASNAA HELMI MOHAMED – George Mason University
GRACE NOWICKI – The George Washington University
JAYDN DECUIR – Howard University
JANEL BAXTER – University of the District of Columbia

2026 Scholarship Honors

Presented by Fady Afif, P.E.

LATEVIAS CUNNINGHAM	Catholic University of America	$ 1,000	ASCE-NCS Scholarship
GRACE HERNANDEZ	Catholic University of America	$ 1,500	ASCE-NCS Scholarship
JOHN MCKENNA	Catholic University of America	$ 1,500	ASCE-NCS Scholarship
TAYLOR BROWN	George Mason University	$ 2,000	Williams Memorial Scholarship
SAGE PARKINSON	George Mason University	$ 2,000	FitzSimons Memorial Scholarship
SYDNEY PETTIT	George Mason University	$ 2,000	ASCE-NCS Scholarship
AMEL ALAHMADI	The George Washington University	$ 1,500	ASCE-NCS Scholarship
CAITRIN LYNCH	The George Washington University	$ 1,500	ASCE-NCS Scholarship
KADE WILSON	The George Washington University	$ 1,500	Hummel Memorial Scholarship
KATHLEEN AWASON	Howard University	$ 2,000	Hathaway Memorial Scholarship
SOPHIA BAUMANN	Howard University	$ 2,000	Harland Memorial Scholarship
SAFIYAH NURSE	Howard University	$ 1,500	ASCE-NCS Scholarship
CHRISTY HILL	University of the District of Columbia	$ 1,500	ASCE-NCS Scholarship
NASYA IRIGOLLEN-RODRIGEZ	University of the District of Columbia	$ 1,500	Padgett Memorial Scholarship
DANIEL MAJANO	University of the District of Columbia	$ 1,000	ASCE-NCS Scholarship

Shoutout to Event Organizer Alan McDonald, P.E., Vice President of ASCE National Capital Section

The 2026 Annual Awards Gala was nothing short of exceptional—and that success did not happen by chance. It was driven by the vision, leadership, and tireless dedication of ASCE NCS Vice President Alan McDonald.

This year's gala marked a major milestone, with twice as many registrants as last year. That kind of growth speaks volumes about the momentum within our community—but more importantly, it reflects the intentional planning and elevated execution behind the scenes. From the vibrant atmosphere and enhanced audiovisual production to the elevated dining experience, the evening delivered a level of connection, recognition, and inspiration that truly raised the bar.

And at the center of it all was Alan.

He went far beyond what's expected in an event leadership role. Alan invested countless hours ensuring every detail was thoughtfully planned and flawlessly executed. From coordinating the venue, food, and décor to managing the run of show, photographer, honor guard, and national anthem singer—he owned every aspect of the experience. He also led efforts to secure sponsors, organize presenters, and oversee award applications and selections. The scale and caliber of this year's gala simply would not have been possible without his hands-on leadership and commitment to excellence.

Alan didn't just execute a successful event—he set a new standard.

His leadership has established a precedent for future galas and demonstrated what's possible when dedication meets vision. The success of the 2026 Annual Awards Gala is not only a celebration of the incredible people and projects shaping our region, but also a reflection of the impact one committed leader can have behind the scenes.

Thanks to our Vendors!

Venue – Hilton Arlington (Ballston)

Photographer – Muhammad Usman Mirza

DJ – Chris Girardi

National Anthem Singer – Emily Davies

Honor Guard – MWAA Police Department Honor Guard

Thanks to our Annual Sponsors

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