

# EYE ON IEI



**INFRASTRUCTURE  
ENGINEERING** | INCORPORATED

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2015

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## FIRM UPDATE

Infrastructure Engineering, Inc. (IEI) opened two new office locations, one in Springfield, IL and one in Omaha, NE providing even greater resources for our clients and teaming partners. Connecting with the respective chambers' of commerce, exciting ribbon cuttings that included a tour of the office spaces were enjoyed by all in attendance. Initial projects in these markets include a railroad bridge project as a team member with Hanson Professional Services, Inc. in Springfield, IL. And in Omaha, NE, IEI is providing design, coordination and overall project support to Black & Veatch for the Lake James to Fontenelle Park Project involving Stormwater Conveyance. This project is part of Omaha's larger \$2 billion Clean Solutions for Omaha (CSO!), a Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) elimination program. The project will expand capacity to accommodate increased wet weather flows as part of the overall effort to reduce combined sewer overflows and improve water quality in the Minne Lusa watershed in Northwest Omaha.

We also have BIG PLANS for our New York Office. We are pleased to announce the addition of Ted St. Germain, PE as the head of IEI's New York Office. Ted brings over 35 years of transportation experience on both the agency and professional consulting services sides of the business in the greater New York area. As the New York Operations Manager, Ted will be responsible for business development in IEI's various market segments, as well as managing operations, client relations, and staff recruitment and development.

In terms of staff growth and development, Christine Marecki was hired as our Human Resources Manager. Christine brings over 20 years of Human Resource experience and is leading the HR efforts for all office locations. Human Resources at IEI works to ensure that the firm is a compelling place to work with an enhanced work environment. Christine focuses on recruitment, performance management, organizational development, benefits administration and training.

Greg S. Ellis, PE joins IEI as a Construction Inspection Manager. Greg spent the last 20 years at the Indiana Department of Transportation in a variety of positions ranging from project engineering to executive level management. In his role with IEI, Greg is responsible for the oversight of IEI's construction staff on the I-69 Section 5, Public Private Partnership (P3) project between Bloomington, IN and Martinsville, IN. Our involvement in the Section 5 project is a part of a 21 mile new interstate construction with a total segment budget of \$325 million. This project is segment 5 out of a total 6 independent segments of an overall \$1.5 billion I-69 corridor plan to connect Evansville, IN in the south to Indianapolis, IN.

Michael Sutton, Kashif Khan, Clint Ferguson, Peter Flynn and Aaron Patterson obtained or renewed their New York State Professional Engineering licenses in preparation for greater business activity in that state. Five employees earned new professional designations. Fadi Azab, Nick Otte and Justin Perry all received their PE licenses, Pankaj Kumar received his SE license and Aaron Patterson received his PTOE license. All in all, IEI added 10 technical employees and 1 non-technical staff member to its ranks thus far in 2015.

While the firm continues to expand geographically the philosophy remains that everyone is on the same IEI team regardless of where they work. Where practical, projects are shared across offices for greater efficiency and capacity resulting in clients benefiting from a broad depth of experience spread across multiple offices.



Ted St. Germain, PE, SE  
New York Operations Mgr



Christine Marecki  
Human Resources Manager



Greg Ellis, PE,  
Construction Inspection Manager



Aaron Patterson,  
Professional Traffic Operations  
Engineer (PTOE)

## BUSINESS FEATURE

### More Than Just A Place To Play



Play lots support the physical, social, cognitive and emotional development of young children, making them more than just a space to play.

That is why IEI was thrilled to provide program management, design and construction administration services for the construction of 49 play lots in 2014 and 2015, as a part of the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) multi-year playground program. IEI is helping CPS fulfill their on-going vision to successfully build playgrounds at all schools with available space. As a member of the Program Management team, IEI is utilizing alternative delivery methods and a play lot menu approach to deliver these play lots within a compressed schedule, and with significant cost savings. The play lots feature colorful elements, soft surfacing for greater safety and accessible play equipment for children of all ages within the schools.

Healthy habits start earlier than you think. Active play is fun and at the same time children learn several essential life skills including:

- eye-hand coordination
- large muscle/gross motor skills (e.g., walk, kick, sit up, lift, jump and reach)
- small muscle/fine motor skills (e.g., monkey bars)

Outdoor recreational activity is an important foundation for the future learning and development of young children according to early childhood educators.

Most people recognize that an active life style is extremely important for good health and weight control. Being selected to renovate CPS play lots allowed IEI to participate in an important and potentially transformative project for the children involved. IEI services included on-floor program management; in-house design and Construction Administration.

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

### **Raspal Bajwa, IEI's Senior Project Manager, Celebrates 12 Years of Dedicated Service**



Raspal Bajwa, Senior PM

What fuels Raspal Bajwa's continued dedication to work at Infrastructure Engineering, Inc. (IEI) after 12 years? "I came on board when IEI had eight (8) employees and now it has expanded to over 70 staff members. I appreciate the growth and the continued family-like working environment, the flexibility and open communication with top management" said Bajwa in a recent interview.

The values of the firm resonate with Raspal, he shared the following: "Delivering on the company's core values is also something I strive to do every day in all the work I perform for our clients. Integrity, Excellence, and Innovation are attributes that the company seeks to develop in every employee, and I agree with those values. I enjoy working with others that adhere to those values also. We are not a carbon copy of each other but our commonalities in this regard make IEI a wonderful place to work."

Raspal currently serves as a lead on IEI's transportation projects. Raspal Bajwa joined IEI in 2003 as a member of the firm's O'Hare Modernization Project team. Soon, he was promoted to Design Manager and Vice President where he served for six years. Currently, Raspal serves as Senior Project Manager and Transportation Lead. Raspal also leads the effort on drainage projects including storm water management projects for MWRD.

A licensed Professional Engineer in five (5) states: IL, IN, IA, WI and CA, Raspal Bajwa is a valued member of the IEI team. Along with leading the Chicago Office's transportation work and ensuring the highest quality of work, Raspal's responsibilities include mentoring younger staff members. IEI and our clients certainly benefit from his high level of experience and talent.

## PROJECT RECOGNITION

### **IEI Honored with 2015 ACEC Engineering Excellence MERIT**



Infrastructure Engineering, Inc. recently won an Illinois ACEC Merit Award for their project "VETERANS MEMORIAL TOLLWAY (I-355) RESURFACING AND BRIDGE REPAIRS, I-55 TO ARMY TRAIL ROAD" which was designed for the Illinois State Tollway.

Rehabilitation of the Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355) from I-55 to Army Trail Road was initiated to address safety, mobility and aesthetics along this highly traveled interstate in Will and Dupage County. Infrastructure Engineering, Inc., the prime consultant, provided Phase II Engineering Services for the preparation of contract plans and specifications.

The work included mainline patching, resurfacing, lighting replacement, median barrier & bridge parapet extension, rehabilitation of retaining and noise abatement walls, I-88 underpass lighting replacement and repair of four overhead segmental bridge structures repair.

The Illinois Engineering Excellence Awards are sponsored by the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC)-Illinois and the annual competition recognizes outstanding projects designed. Private practice engineering firms from the State of Illinois are graded based on engineering excellence, the degree to which the client's needs are met, and the benefits to the public welfare and private practice of engineering.

An ACEC luncheon was held during the first quarter, at the Sheraton Hotel in Lisle, IL to recognize the award recipients.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH HIGHLIGHT

### IEI Giving Back to the Community



IEI's Russell Robinson (left) works with intern Jimi Akintonde.



Intern, Matthew Auston, (left) interacts with IEI Engineers', Brian Libunao and Fadi Azab.

Infrastructure Engineering Inc. (IEI) prides itself on our charitable contributions and other community support initiatives. Each year IEI makes it a priority to give back to various philanthropic organizations that support disadvantaged communities. Our President, Michael Sutton, is the head of the Universal Agape Foundation which was established in 2009. The mission of Universal Agape Foundation is to provide programs and experiences to improve the quality of life for underserved children and their families.

As we have done for the past several years, IEI is employing several summer interns in 2015. It is our hope that these interns become inspired to pursue a technical career in Engineering. IEI's new 2015 crop of interns includes Matthew Auston, a recent graduate of Evanston Township High School and Jimi Akintonde, a recent graduate of Whitney Young Magnet High School. Both interns plan to attend the University of Illinois-Champaign Urbana in the fall. Two additional interns come to IEI as a part of the Chicago Public School's Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program. Zakura Williams and Jaimelle Stone will be entering their senior year at ACE Technical Charter School. CTE gives high school students the chance to get a head start on preparing for college and careers.

The Universal Agape Foundation has sponsored several events in Illinois and Indiana over the past five years. Christmas in the 9th Ward is a Chicago toy giveaway event also sponsored by 9th Ward Alderman Anthony Beal.

Michael Sutton, President of IEI states: "I grew up in Altgeld Gardens located in the 9th Ward and currently live in Evanston and I believe in giving back to the community. I feel it is important to help our children have a positive experience that will round out their lives and guide them to productive futures and success."