



## FIRM UPDATE

### THIS IS WHY WE DO IT!

Building a successful business is an extraordinarily difficult thing to do. “I have nothing but the utmost respect for owners who’ve developed a successful company in the AEC industry. It takes determination, a great team, years of hard work, and while others might say a little luck, for me it has been a lot of prayers,” remarks IEI President, Michael Sutton.

Since the launching of Infrastructure Engineering, Inc. almost 20 years ago, we’ve been working daily on improving the business model, project partnerships and living out our core values – which is a constant exercise towards continual improvement: Integrity. Excellence. Innovation. With that said, it’s always great to receive positive feedback from our clients. IEI recently concluded an anonymous client feedback survey to improve how we work and show value to our clients. We learned a lot!



We chose to share this particular client’s feedback with everyone, because this summarizes the feeling we aim to deliver to each of our clients. It’s true. There is a very real feeling that a project partner can give you – a confidence, a compatibility based on performance and a deeper level of shared values that keep us solid and an incredible team. A current IEI client shared the following: **“Continue being a partner and not just a consultant. IEI has been responsive to all our requests and challenges, keep up the good work!”** That level of engagement, service and expertise is what we strive to deliver as a firm. **THIS IS WHY WE DO IT!** Because great engineering should not only make our clients look good, it should also make them feel good about selecting our firm, and continue to serve them in this way long-term.

## IN THE NEWS

### Michael Sutton as Keynote Speaker at the Transportation Symposium and Business Exchange 2016



Michael Sutton

On November 15, 2016, the Transportation Symposium and Business Exchange (TSBE) 2016 will be held at the Chicago Cultural Center in Chicago, and we are pleased to announce that Michael Sutton, NOME’s and Infrastructure Engineering, Inc’s President, was asked to be the keynote speaker for the event! **The symposium will be held from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm in the Sidney E. Yates Gallery located at 78 East Washington Street.**

TSBE is an annual occurrence where Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), Pace Suburban Bus Service, Illinois Department of Transportation, and the Illinois State Highway Toll Authority gather and provide information regarding contracting with each agency. Participation from all members is recommended, but attendance by minority and small businesses is highly encouraged. This is a great opportunity for all and we here at IEI are looking forward to this event!

Elgin O’Hare Western Access Project: IL-390 Tollway

The long-awaited Elgin O’Hare Western Access Project is the largest roadway project in the state of Illinois and one of the largest in the nation. The \$3.4 billion project includes 17 miles of new toll roads and 15 new or improved interchanges and will bring needed congestion relief, reduced travel times, new access to O’Hare International Airport, economic development and thousands of jobs for residents of the region.



Timber pile driving for the foundation of the North Box Culvert as part of the Advance Earthwork of IL 390 & I-490 Interchange



South Box Culvert installation under South Frontage Road along IL 390.



Forming for the head wall at the south end of the South Box Culvert (for Willow Creek relocation).



Driving test piles for the timber pile foundation of the North Box Culvert before the area is excavated.

The first all-electronic toll road in Illinois, now designated as Illinois Route 390, will allow travelers 3 from the northwest suburbs direct access to O’Hare International Airport, extending east along Thorndale Avenue to O’Hare. The project is expected to enhance economic development and travel performance in the region. It will save drivers \$145 million in time and fuel annually by 2040; decrease traffic by more than 16 percent during rush hour and reduce delays on local roads by 24 percent; accommodate three times as many vehicles per day as local roads now carry; reduce travel time by more than seven minutes for the 11-mile trip between the west side of O’Hare Airport and U.S. Route 20 – a savings of 25 percent; and relieve congestion near the existing I-290 and Thorndale Avenue interchange, where construction of new interchanges will reduce travel times by up to 35 percent. Infrastructure Engineering, Inc. (IEI) contracted with the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority (ISTHA) for Phase III construction management and engineering for on-call contract task orders, which require construction engineering services including construction inspection, and supervision at selected locations for various projects on the Tollway system.

[Read more about the project](#)

PROJECT RECOGNITION

IEI Honored with 2016 NOME Stellar Award

On June 30, 2016 the National Organization of Minority Engineers (NOME) held their Leadership Summit for 2016. There, NOME presented the winners of their inaugural Stellar Award: an award designed to recognize firms that represent continued engineering excellence. IEI is pleased to announce it was awarded the Top Minority Achiever Acting as a Team for our efforts on I-355 Resurfacing and Bridge Repairs. This project was initiated to address safety, mobility and improve guidance along this highly traveled interstate. Precast panels for pavement patching and fiber wraps for overhead bridge repairs were used to expedite construction and minimize inputs to traffic flows. We are honored and would like to thank NOME for their continued support and recognition!



The 2016 Top Minority Achiever Acting as a Team Stellar Award



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Thu Truitt, Regional Operations Manager



For young women considering their career options, it is easier to believe you can grow up to be a civil engineer if you see examples who you relate to. Many young women may not have the advantage of supportive schools, parents or friends to highlight and communicate the variety of roles in the engineering sector and the possibilities to reach the top. If not for a friend, IEI’s Operations Manager and senior leader, Thu Truitt, PE., may not have entered the field. We are happy to have her on our team and celebrate Thu in this issue of EYE on IEI. Please get to know her through her inspirational answers to questions that reveal her personality and why she chose an engineering career.

What inspired you during your early years?

“My family. I grew up with my parents, 6 brothers, 2 sisters and 2 cousins (who grew up with us and we called sisters). Yes, at one point there were 13 of us living in one house. My parents amazingly disciplined us and kept us out of trouble (well most of the time). They got us out of Vietnam and somehow raised us in a foreign country not knowing the culture or language. My siblings are my foundations. I know they have my back and they will be there if I asked for help. We learned English together, how to ride bikes together, and played sports together (we were our own team).”

Why did you become an engineer?

“It was my “soon to be” boyfriend who brought engineering to my attention my senior year. He said he was going to major in engineering and told me a little about it. I did some research and thought it interesting. My guidance counselor was not very encouraging when I mentioned it and tried to direct me into education. The final trigger was when my father said NO to engineering as a major. It was not that the thought I did not have the ability to do it; it was because he grew up in a society where men and women had their roles, and women were not engineers.”

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Intern Class of 2016

Immersed in the industry, interns build toward future careers

This year we have had a very fun and active group of interns who have been exposed to many different areas of Civil and Structural Engineering. They were all located in the Chicago corporate office this year as opposed to being spread out across the regional offices. The same geographic location fostered a good community feel with all of the interns striving towards the same goal.

IEI drew upon a wide variety of people and jobs to give each intern an honest and open insight into the various work and positions at the firm. Our intern comments talk about their experience at IEI with a few perks that are not always flaunted! They also managed to meet with senior members of IEI who shared an insight into their careers.

Exposure makes an impact

When the IEI engineers gathered for their weekly project reviews, the interns were there. They were also present at “lunch and learns” as well as site visits.

“The concept of being a civil engineer is a lot less boring now that I have experienced adults in the role in the working world,” enthuses Hoskins who is majoring in Civil Engineering at the University of Notre Dame. “I loved learning the various facets of the business. How selfless the staff was in stopping their work to give individual attention to educate me,” says Fuller, a U of I Civil Engineering student.

High schoolers, Harris and Ramos, both confirmed their plans to pursue an engineering major when they apply to college. “I liked learning about Auto CAD. It will help with an upcoming class in the fall,” Ramos shared. Harris says he most enjoyed the time spent “one-on-one” with the engineers. The response to the internships have been very positive and mutually rewarding. This year over 25 students applied for the two IEI college internship positions. We ask former interns to become our ambassadors - to encourage other students to apply.



TOP: Amarilys Ramos (Bottom Left), Griffin Fuller (Top Left), Rodney Harris (Top Right) and Robert Hoskins (Center Right) listen to Siobhan Sutton (Bottom Right) regarding IEI’s marketing pursuits.  
BOTTOM: Amarilys Ramos works with Ayanna Hardy-Fuller on structural plans for bridges.

VOLUNTEERISM

Adrian Fernandez, P.E., Engineers Without Borders USA, Member

Originally brought into Engineers without borders (EWB) for his Spanish/English translation skills; Adrian Fernandez, PE visited the Guatemalan village continuously for three years increasing his contribution with the group as a civil engineer in the knowledge, installation and maintenance of wells. He became the VP of the Heart of Illinois Professional EWB chapter and is responsible for the completion of the project. The goal of the project is to provide potable water to the community through the use of a well, water storage tank, treatment system, and distribution system. The



Back at work once again!

current scope of implementation is for each family to walk less than a quarter mile to a clean source of water and have a sufficient supply of clean water plus some room for additional usage (due to increased access and potential community growth). Additionally, the distribution network is intended to be scalable to allow for future expansion. IEI has supported Adrian’s participation wholeheartedly.



The Engineers taking a short break at Nuevas Ilusiones.

About Infrastructure Engineering, Inc.

Infrastructure Engineering, Inc. (IEI) is a multi-disciplinary consulting firm that focuses on the delivery of design engineering, program management, and construction engineering and inspection services. IEI cultivates various types of engineering projects from conception and planning through implementation. The firm’s goal is to create sustainable infrastructure necessary to build and connect communities, improve quality of life and encourage economic development. IEI is a DBE/MBE certified firm. Visit IEI’s website at [www.infrastructure-eng.com](http://www.infrastructure-eng.com) for more information.

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