2026 CEPDS Speaker Bios

TRANSPORTATION

Dave Boruff, PE is the Manager of the Office of Traffic Administration at the Indiana Department of Transportation. The Office of Traffic Administration is responsible for the traffic control device and roadway lighting standards for the agency, as well as for providing stewardship over related traffic operations contracts and programs. Dave is a civil engineering graduate from Purdue University, a licensed professional engineer, and has over 40 years of experience at INDOT.

Joe Bruno, PE is a senior traffic engineer with the Indiana Department of Transportation and is responsible for the traffic signal and pavement marking standards for the agency, as well as INDOT's tourist attraction sign programs. Joe is a civil engineering graduate from Michigan State University, a licensed professional engineer, and has 22 years of experience at INDOT.

Lalit Garg, PE is a licensed professional engineer and has 25 years of experience at INDOT. Lalit is a senior traffic engineer with Indiana Department of Transportation and is responsible for the traffic sign and lighting standards for the agency. He manages inspection contracts also for overhead sign structures and high mast towers. He moved from California with his family in 2001 to work with INDOT.

John Garzee, EIT is a Traffic Engineer for the City of Bloomington, an opportunity he sees as a gift of God's abundant grace. He grew up in San Francisco, where he met his wife and accepted Christ as his Savior. They recently moved to Bloomington with their son and enjoy biking, walking, and taking road trips together.

John works on traffic signals, neighborhood traffic calming, and pedestrian and bicycle safety. He enjoys making complex topics, from math and science to traffic engineering, easier for anyone to understand. That interest also shapes his approach to quick-build projects: finding practical safety improvements that Bloomington can repeat across the city.

Alan Holderread, PE has been INDOT La Porte District's traffic engineer for 13 lucky years. During that timeframe, the District has opened 15 new roundabouts and 6 reduced conflict intersections, including the first RCI in the state. He plans to more than double both those figures with funded projects in the comings years.

Jarrod Huff, PE, is a Staff Engineer with the City of Carmel Department of Engineering, bringing 15 years of experience in engineering and project delivery. A Purdue University graduate with a B.S. in Civil Engineering, he manages municipal infrastructure projects ranging from roundabouts and multi-use paths to drainage improvements.

Particularly interested in pedestrian and bicyclist safety, Jarrod focuses on practical engineering solutions that improve safety and mobility. His work on raised pedestrian crosswalks at roundabouts reflects his commitment to using roadway design to influence driver behavior and create safer streets for all users.

Taylor Ruble, PE, RSP practices Traffic Engineering at INDOT, managing the Office of Traffic Safety. He is passionate about all things traffic safety, especially traffic calming and context sensitive design topics.

Taylor is a licensed Professional Engineer and Road Safety Professional in Indiana with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Purdue University (Boiler Up!)

He lives in Indianapolis with his wife and 4 kids. In his very limited free time, he enjoys coaching youth soccer and playing board games with his kids.

Molly Sipes, EIT works in INDOT's Office of Traffic Safety, with a focus on systemic safety and data.

Neil VanTrees, PE is a Staff Engineer at the City of Carmel with over 20 years of experience. Holding a Professional Engineer license has been involved in design & construction of roadway, trails, bridge, municipal, utility, site, and development projects. Outside of work enjoys outdoors, guitar, family time, driving children to sports & activities, and trying to avoid turning a simple 3 hour home improvement project into a 2 weekend investment.

BRIDGE

Derek Barnes, PE, is a Principal Project Engineer with Parsons and has 27 years of experience in bridge design, constructability, and quality review. He earned both B.S. and M.S. degrees in Civil Engineering from Purdue University and has contributed to projects across the region ranging from small bridge replacements to major transportation initiatives, including ORB and ORX. Derek resides in southern Indiana with his wife and three children.

Charles Boltz, PE is a senior bridge engineer at AECOM who has worked on major infrastructure projects across the United States. He specializes in design-build delivery, focusing on creating practical engineering solutions that bridge the gap between complex design and real-world construction.

Ryan Bruni is a Project Manager with Superior Construction in their Great Lakes Heavy Civil Division. With a background in construction management and transportation infrastructure, Ryan has experience coordinating complex roadway, utility, bridge, and railroad related work across major INDOT projects throughout Northwest Indiana. He works closely with owners, designers, and project stakeholders to manage project delivery, resolve field challenges, maintain schedule and budget objectives. Ryan is passionate about collaboration, problem solving, and developing strong project teams that deliver safe, high-quality infrastructure for the State of Indiana.

Josh Carter, PE is a Senior Bridge Engineer with AECOM, where he serves as Structures Lead and Deputy Project Manager on the I-65 Central Corridor Project in Louisville, Kentucky. His experience includes bridge design, load rating, and innovative solutions for complex bridge rehabilitation and replacement projects. He holds two bachelor's degrees and a master's degree from Missouri University of Science and Technology and lives in Winchester, Kentucky, with his wife and four sons.

Jennifer Hart, PE joined INDOT in 2018 as the State Load Rating Engineer. She manages INDOT's Bridge Evaluation Team which is responsible for performing and maintaining load ratings throughout

the state of Indiana. Her team is also responsible for the oversize overweight bridge permit review of vehicles over 200,000 pounds.

Prior to joining INDOT, Jennifer spent 24 years in the consulting industry performing bridge design and load ratings. Jennifer is a member to AASHTO Committee on Bridges and Structures serving on the Safety & Evaluation, Loads, and Soils technical committees. She also serves as the Chair of the AASHTOWare BrDR a Task Force which is comprised state representatives responsible for steering the product's development. Jennifer is panel member for the National Academy of Science research projects NCHRP 12-127 Load Rating and Posting of Long-Span Bridges and NCHRP 20-123(21) Roadmap to Rewrite the Manual for Bridge Evaluation.

Brad Kahn, PE is Project Manager with Parsons and has 16 years of experience in the bridge design and inspection industry. He completed his undergraduate work at the University of Toledo and received his graduate degree from The Ohio State University.

John Moran, PE, CPESC is Primera Engineers' Indiana Construction Group Manager, where he leads the delivery of complex construction projects throughout the region. With nearly 17 years of experience, he has served as a Resident Engineer and Project Manager on construction engineering assignments for the Indiana Department of Transportation, Illinois Department of Transportation, Indiana Toll Road Concession Company, and other local agencies. John brings a practical, collaborative approach to field operations, quality assurance, and safety. He supervises field staff, manages project operations, and works closely with clients and project teams to deliver successful outcomes.

Dr. Omar El Masri, PhD, MBA, PE is the National Bridge Practice Leader at PRIME AE and a bridge engineering expert specializing in the design, rehabilitation, and advanced analysis of complex concrete and steel bridge systems. With experience spanning consulting and academia, he has built a portfolio that includes major bridge replacements, in-depth inspections, load ratings, and multidisciplinary project management across the United States.

Dr. El Masri holds a PhD and an MBA from Syracuse University and is a Registered Professional Engineer in nine states (OH, IN, KY, NY, MA, VA, FL, SC, GA). He is a frequent speaker at major industry events, and his research has been published in the ASCE Journal of Structural Engineering and other leading technical journals.

Sean Porter, PE is a Bridge Area Manager for the East Central Region for Parsons. He has over 30 years of transportation experience in design and management of some of Midwest's largest and most difficult transportation projects. Mr. Porter has also worked on numerous federal, state, county, private highway bridges, and railroad structures. Mr. Porter received his Bachelor of Science degree from Purdue University in 1995 and holds a PE license in Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio.

Kyle Zak, PE, DBIA is a Senior Geotechnical Engineer sitting in Terracon's Indianapolis office. He holds two degrees from Purdue and has 12 years of industry experience since leaving West Lafayette. He focuses primarily on transportation projects, and his regular workload is a healthy mix of local INDOT work and regional design-build projects. He's registered as a professional engineer in seven states and is certified by the Design-Build Institute of America. Kyle is a glutton for punishment and enjoys working on projects that are large in scale, technically complex, or (preferably) both.

WATER RESOURCES

Paul Brayton, PE has been with INDNR for almost 8 yrs. Paul has a bachelor's degree in Ag & Bio Engineering from Purdue University and is a licensed engineer in Indiana. Paul was a helicopter mechanic for the Marine Corps for the 20 years before academia and his new career with DNR.

Mark Chmeliwskyj, PE is a Professional Engineer and graduated from Purdue in 1997. He is a Vice President at BF&S and leads the Water Resources Department in the Indianapolis office. He has 25 years of water resources engineering experience. He is responsible for design, plan development and project management for drinking water and wastewater projects throughout the State of Indiana. His experience includes water and wastewater treatment plant improvements, wellfield improvements, water distribution systems, sewage collection systems, lift stations, CSO treatment facilities, sanitary sewer rehabilitation, underground utilities, and various drainage improvement projects.

Phil Gralik, P.E. is a civil engineer with over 30 years of experience in municipal infrastructure, public works, and engineering consulting. His professional experience includes serving as a county engineer, city engineer, and consultant, as well as a Special Projects Manager for INDOT. He is currently with Butler, Fairman & Seufert, Inc. (BF&S), where he assists communities with planning, evaluating, designing, and implementing infrastructure improvements.

Phil's experience spans stormwater management, drainage and flooding solutions, sanitary sewer systems, water infrastructure, roadways, and capital improvement planning.

Having served in municipal engineering leadership roles before returning to consulting, Phil brings a practical, community-focused perspective to infrastructure planning and project delivery. He emphasizes sound engineering principles, proactive asset management, cost-effective solutions, and long-term infrastructure sustainability. His approach combines technical expertise with an understanding of municipal operations, helping communities make informed decisions about maintaining, improving, and investing in their infrastructure.

Kellen Heavin, PE is a Principal at Terracon and oversees the Indianapolis office. Since earning his Civil Engineering degree from Purdue University in 2005, he has built a career around dam safety. His passion for dam safety has taken him across Indiana and neighboring states, performing geotechnical evaluations on dozens of dams in a variety of geologic settings. He is also a past Chair of the Dam Information Resources and Training (DIRT) Conference planning committee.

Outside of work, Kellen spends his time coaching youth baseball, cheering from the audience as a devoted show choir dad, and attempting-in vain-to explain to his family why a road cut is geologically interesting. He is especially excited to be back at Purdue presenting on this project.

Kameryn Wright, PE holds a B.S. in Agricultural and Biological Engineering from Purdue University, a M.S. in Agricultural and Biological Engineering from the University of Kentucky and is a licensed P.E. in the state of Indiana. Kameryn began working for Butler, Fairman & Seufert after completing his master's thesis in 2016 and currently works as a Production Manager in the Water Resources Department. During that time, he has worked on various water, wastewater, and drainage projects in the municipal sector.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Mike Everhart, CPESC, QSM has been a dedicated member of EJ Prescott, Inc. since 2009, currently serving as the Erosion Control & Stormwater Specialist. Throughout his tenure, Mike has shared his expertise at numerous national and regional conferences, as well as various Stormwater & Erosion Control workshops and seminars.

Mike earned the CPESC and QSM certifications, further solidifying his credentials in the field. His insights have been featured in Stormwater Solutions Magazine in 2019, 2022, and 2023.

Mike is actively involved in the industry, serving as a Vice President of the NE-IECA Chapter and participating in several professional associations. He also mentors' students in the University of Prescott training program, guiding them through their studies and helping them advance their careers in the industry.

With a diploma in Architectural and Civil Technologies and over 25 years of experience in grading, drainage, and erosion control design and consulting, Mike brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to his role.

Brian Haefliger, PE. I attended Purdue University (Boiler Up!) and graduated in 2013. My wife and I got married and moved up to Chicago shortly after that. I spent 4 years in Chicago working in the road design field and became a PE there. We then moved back to the Indianapolis area in 2017 and I started working at United Consulting. I've been with United for 9 years now and am currently a team leader in our Road Department. My wife and I have 4 kids ranging from 4 to 10 years old and we live on 12 acres in Pendleton. I love the outdoors and camping as well as playing all kinds of board games but most of all love spending time with my family and friends from church.

Jessica Massing. Project Manager with nearly a decade of INDOT experience. Overseeing roughly 90 projects through multiple disciplines of the design process and through construction. Outside of work she enjoys camping and attending cross-country ATV races with her husband and 2 dogs.

Brad Rateike is the Founding Principal of BAR Communications where he has directed public relations strategy and message development for corporate, government and nonprofit clients in the Midwest and in Washington DC since 2010. Brad has created and managed public affairs campaigns for Fortune 50 companies in addition to directing media relations and grassroots outreach for small businesses and startup companies.

Brad took a hiatus from BAR in 2016 to serve as a communications and policy advisor for the Donald J. Trump for President Campaign and the Trump/Pence Presidential Transition Team. After being recruited to join the White House Office of Communications, Brad served as the director of Cabinet communications where he coordinated message strategy and rollout of Presidential priorities with Federal agencies in addition to assisting agencies with crisis management. He has also served as deputy press secretary and policy director for former Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels.

He is a contributing columnist on business and political issues for the IBJ and is a member of the Franklin College Board of Trustees.

He has been recognized as a member of the IBJ's Forty Under 40.

Cameron Schuh spent 26 years at ESPN and the NCAA before transitioning to HNTB in 2024. The projects he has been the public information lead on have included a pavement reconstruction and installation of 11 RCIs near Evansville, promotional campaigns for Indianapolis Department of Public Works, and the INDOT ProPEL US 41 study. Cameron graduated from Principia College and lives in Fishers, Indiana.

Aaron Smith is a Partner & Principal for BAR Communications. For more than a decade, he has worked alongside elected officials and leaders in the hospitality and tourism industries to craft creative and strategic solutions.

He previously worked as a digital communications director in the United States Senate for Senator Dan Coats. This included responsibilities for the Joint Economic Committee, which Senator Dan Coats chaired, and roles in Coats' DC and Indiana-based personal offices.

Aaron also serves on the Noblesville City Council as the representative for the 3rd District. As Council president, he spearheaded and personally negotiated two landmark developments: securing a partnership with the Indiana Pacers and orchestrating the Pulte Del Webb agreementâ€”the largest residential investment in Noblesville's history. His leadership has helped shape the trajectory of Noblesville, now Indiana's 9th largest city with a thriving population of over 75,000 residents. His impact and leadership were recognized when he was named to the IBJ's Forty Under 40 Class of 2024. Aaron calls Noblesville home with his wife, Bronwen, and their two children.

MULTI-DISCIPLINE I

Kayla Arnold, CPM, MPA is the Director of Communications for the City of Westfield, Indiana, where she leads strategic communications, media relations, crisis communications, public engagement, branding, and storytelling for one of the fastest-growing communities in the state. She serves as the city's primary spokesperson and works closely with departments across the organization to make local government information clear, timely, and accessible to residents.

Kayla has more than 18 years of experience in communications, events, public relations, and community engagement. Her work has earned state and national recognition, including awards for government communications, newsletters, campaigns, and community events. She is also a part-time instructor at Ball State University and is involved in several professional organizations supporting public sector communications.

In addition to her role with the City of Westfield, Kayla owns a boutique communications firm, 7seven communications, where she helps organizations strengthen their messaging, storytelling, and public relations strategy.

Dave Ayala, PE is Vice President and Regional Manager for Parsons in the Infrastructure business unit based out of Indianapolis. Dave has been with Parsons for over 19 years and during that tenure, he has partnered with INDOT and other DOTs in delivering alternative delivery projects. He was a key contributor to INDOT's first design-build best-value contract as well as INDOT's first P3

contract. Dave is a University of Nebraska graduate and married with four kids and resides in Fishers.

Anna Conklin. I am going to be a bridge engineer at WSP in their Indianapolis office once I graduate this Spring. I will also be attending Purdue University Online to obtain my Master's in Structural Engineering. On campus, I am the Chi Epsilon (AKA Purdue's Civil Engineering Honors Society) President, I am a lead ambassador for the Lyles School of Civil and Construction Engineering, and I am part of forming a new group called "Women in Civil and Construction Engineering". In my free time, I enjoy hanging out with my cat, building puzzles, rock climbing, and other various craft-like activities.

Mallory Kline. I am a Civil Engineering student at Purdue University, with a concentration in Structures. I will be graduating in May of 2027! I have had two internships, both with consulting firms in Indianapolis. My first internship was with Weihe Engineers in land development, and my second internship was with Parsons Corporation in bridge design. In my free time, I enjoy running, playing tennis, and spending time outside.

Jim Lesh, PE. I am a team leader with the INDOT Central Office Bridge Design group. I have been in this role for a little over five years. Before coming to INDOT, I worked for consultants in the transportation design industry for about 10 years.

I enjoy working on solutions to problems that impact the design community.

Hatem Mekky, PE, MSCE, 21 years in the engineering industry, started with the city in 2017. Bachelors in Civil from Southern Illinois University and Masters in Civil engineering from University of Illinois Urbana Champaign.

Noelle Moon. I am a junior civil engineering student at Purdue with an emphasis in structural engineering. Over the past summer, I interned with the Indiana Department of Transportation on the bridge design team. I throughly enjoyed the work, so my goal is to continue along the bridge design path! On campus, I am involved in ASCE competition teams and the LSCCE Student Ambassadors group.

Jason Rhoades, PE, is a Vice President with HNTB and a two-time Purdue University graduate, holding degrees in Civil Engineering and Landscape Architecture. Since joining HNTB in 1999, he has spent more than 25 years helping deliver major transportation projects across Indiana and beyond.

Jason has extensive experience with alternative delivery projects from both the owner and contractor perspectives. His work includes key leadership roles on Indiana's I-69 Section 5 P3 and I-69 Finish Line projects, supporting procurement, design oversight, and construction delivery.

Today, he serves on INDOT's Alternative Delivery Advisory Team and is the CMGC Advisor for the U.S. 30 project, helping advance innovative and collaborative project delivery approaches throughout the state.

Addison Wood is a junior pursuing a Bachelors in Civil Engineering. While her passion for engineering is strong, she loves to build relationships and create experiences outside of the classroom. She is a member of Chi Omega, Purdue's Chi Beta Chapter, where she served as the Community Service Chair for the last year. She also serves as an Ambassador for the Lyles School of Civil and

Construction Engineering. Finally, she is a member of the Purdue Golduster Dance Team, cheering at all Purdue sporting events and dancing like no one's watching. This past summer, she worked for INDOT as a Traffic Engineering Intern, where she worked on projects including traffic mobility, safety, and design and discovered she truly wants to pursue a career in Traffic Engineering. She cannot wait to share her experiences with you all today.

MULTI-DISCIPLINE II

Kayla Arnold, CPM, MPA is the Director of Communications for the City of Westfield, Indiana, where she leads strategic communications, media relations, crisis communications, public engagement, branding, and storytelling for one of the fastest-growing communities in the state. She serves as the cityâ€™s primary spokesperson and works closely with departments across the organization to make local government information clear, timely, and accessible to residents.

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In addition to her role with the City of Westfield, Kayla owns a boutique communications firm, 7seven communications, where she helps organizations strengthen their messaging, storytelling, and public relations strategy.

John Habermann, PE is a Research Engineer with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute and serves as the Principal Investigator for the TxDOT Waco District Interagency Contract. In this role, he supports major transportation projects through stakeholder engagement, mobility coordination, pedestrian accessibility improvements, crash analysis, and construction work zone management. Throughout his career, Mr. Habermann has led and contributed to more than $11 million in sponsored research and implementation projects for organizations including TxDOT, NCHRP, Arizona DOT, BTSCRP, FHWA, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and the USDOT. He has developed and delivered training programs for transportation professionals across the United States. Mr. Habermann currently serves as Principal Investigator for NCHRP 20-121A, Countering Human Trafficking: A Toolkit for State DOTs. His current research explores how artificial intelligence can assist transportation professionals in improving project delivery, quality assurance, cost estimation, and engineering decision-making while reducing costly errors and omissions in transportation projects.

John Nail, PE is a graduate of Purdue University's Lyles School of Civil Engineering (BSCE 2010). After graduation, he spent the first eight years of his career in the private sector working on transportation projects for American Structurepoint, PCS Engineers, and the Etica Group. At American Structurepoint he worked on drainage and roadway design on large design/build projects as well as smaller scale LPA roundabout and roadway projects.

In April 2018, John moved to the public sector to accept the position of City Engineer for the City of Westfield where he oversaw both capital and private development projects within the fastest growing

city in the State of Indiana. He later served as Director of Public Works before being promoted to his current position of Executive Chief of Operations where he is responsible for Engineering, Streets, Parks, and Facilities within the City.

John's training includes executive education at Harvard's Graduate School of Design in walkable urban development.

Amir Hossein Oliaee is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Construction Science at Texas A&M University, working with Prof. David Jeong (chair) and Prof. Ashrant Aryal (co-chair). His dissertation investigates how agentic AI systems can improve the accuracy and reliability of quantity estimation in large-scale construction programs. Working with engineers from the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), he grounds his research in how transportation projects are actually planned, bid, and executed, so that the resulting tools can be deployed by agencies.

Amir Hossein holds a master's degree in Construction and Project Management, where his thesis applied artificial neural networks to cost estimation. As a Hagler Institute Graduate Fellow, he collaborates with visiting scholar Dr. John Schaufelberger. He also serves as Assistant Director of the NSF-funded Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program in the Texas A&M University Department of Construction Science, mentoring students in applying data science to research in construction and transportation.

Shaun Scholer manages the Statewide Imagery and Elevation Program for the Indiana Geographic Information Office. Over the past 30 years, he has been active in the Indiana geospatial community. Before his current role, he spent 18 years directing the Wayne County and City of Richmond GIS Interlocal. Prior to that, he held project leadership roles at The Polis Center and GRW. Additionally, Shaun has served in several leadership roles within the Indiana Geographic Information Council (IGIC). He also holds a master's degree in Geography from Indiana State University.

Bobby Steele represents the contractor community and has spent just over a decade with E&B Paving. He is a proud graduate of Purdue and enjoys returning to campus with his family. He and his wife both attended Purdue and are raising three girls in Madison County. Bobby typically bids on or builds bridge contracts across Indiana and Kentucky but recently found himself building a road project in Lebanon's LEAP district. Bobby leads this digital delivery session as the Project Manager for the Progressive Design Build Contractor to demonstrate how his team is piloting this new program to work with the lead design firm Michael Baker International to streamline putting boots on the ground.

Scott Trammell, PE, your anesthesiologist for the day, earned his BSCE from the University of Texas and is a licensed professional engineer, registered in California and Indiana. Scott has been serving in the capacity of Construction Specifications Engineer for INDOT since 2010. Scott brings more than 40 years of experience in construction and design engineering. Each stage of his career has involved writing, interpreting, or boring people to death, with standard specifications and special provisions.

MANAGEMENT/LEADERSHIP

Neal Carboneau is a Purdue civil engineering graduate with more than three decades in civil engineering, construction, management, and education. He served as a research and implementation manager within Purdue's School of Civil Engineering; led the Transportation Training Institute, teaching more than 6000 transportation and public works professionals across 17 states; and, created Neal Carboneau Consulting, LLC and the EVOLVE-AI Framework to give professionals a repeatable process for using AI while verifying outputs, documenting decisions, and keeping judgment in the hands of the professional.

Robert Hart, MS received his Bachelor's Degree in Telecommunications and Master's Degree in Instructional Design from Purdue University and Purdue Global respectively. For 20 years he served as a Multimedia Television & Video Producer for Purdue's West Lafayette campus before joining Indiana LTAP in 2023. A 7-time Telly Award Winning Producer and certified UAV Pilot, Hart now blends 3 decades of storytelling experience and instructional design savvy into the development and promotion of upskilling and reskilling Indiana's transportation workforce.

As LTAP's Workforce Development Lead, he collaborates with subject matter experts to create engaging training programs while advocating strong presentation, communication, leadership and supervision skills. Hart is also a member of the Astrophysics Planetary Society and resides in Lafayette with his wife Heather and 3 cats. An avid cinephile, Hart enjoys scriptwriting, music composition, graphic design, travel, and swimming.

Tim Jensen, PE, LEED AP, founded Veridus Group, Inc. in 2011 after more than 25 years of experience in real estate, development, construction, and civil engineering. Through his work as a contractor, developer, and engineer, Tim recognized that owners were often the most overlooked stakeholders in complex projects. He created Veridus to advocate for owners and help them navigate development and construction with clarity and confidence.

Today, Tim serves as President and Principal of Veridus, leading a multidisciplinary team that provides owner's representation, community and economic development consulting, and civil engineering services across the Midwest. He has served as Owner's Representative on more than $2.5 billion in public and private projects, supporting clients across markets including local government, K-12 and higher education, healthcare, private development, construction management, and nonprofit organizations.

Tim serves on the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Leadership Board. He and his wife, Katie, live in Indianapolis with their three sons.

Jessica Miller Lighty serves as INDOT's Managing Director of Project Delivery. Over her 14-year tenure with the agency, she has held key roles in Design, Project Management, and Executive Leadership, consistently advancing INDOT's mission through a strong commitment to public service and organizational excellence. She leads statewide initiatives that strengthen project delivery performance, enhance collaboration across functional areas, and support the development of future transportation infrastructure. Jessica holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Michigan Technological University.

Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her family and exploring new places whenever she can.

Karen Wood, MS is the Human Resources Department Manager at United Consulting, leading their amazing HR Department and supporting United's incredible staff. Previous to this role, Karen worked in operations, leading a team of historians and archaeologists who worked to ensure a balance of providing safe and accessible infrastructure to communities and preserving our historic heritage. Her transition to HR stemmed from a desire to develop people to become their best selves. If they learn to do their best work, then they will shine their light for others to see and learn how to light their own way and so forth. She also serves as the Chair for the United Culture Committee and Health and Fitness Committee, creating a workplace environment that is both welcoming and a focus on our well-being as humans. She holds a bachelor's and master's degree in history as well as an Employment Law Certificate from Cornell University. In her spare time, Karen enjoys reading, baking, watching comedy/action films, and going on walks with her husband and two kids in nature.

VERTICAL STRUCTURES

Jerica Barlow, P.E. is Director of Structural Engineering at JQOL, where she has been part of the team since 2022. Working in the industry since 2014, Jerica has experience designing commercial, higher education, and healthcare facilities using a variety of structural systems and materials. She brings a thoughtful, collaborative approach to structural engineering and enjoys understanding how each discipline influences the others to create practical solutions that support the owner's vision. Jerica is licensed in Indiana and Kentucky and is a graduate of the Christopher Kelley Leadership Development Program Class of 2023/2024. She also serves as New Volunteer Liaison for Paws & Think and participates in New Member Outreach for the Indianapolis Chapter of Engineers Without Borders USA..

Gerald McKenzie, SE (UT), PE (ME,TN) is a Senior Design Engineer in Vulcraft's Indiana division. He has 8 years experience as a specialty engineer for Vulcraft, 17 years of experience as a specifying engineer of record, with 13 years as part owner in a consulting engineering firm in the Salt Lake City area. He also has five years of project management experience for a commercial construction company. For the last 3 years, Gerald has been an active technical presenter for the Steel Joist and the Steel Deck Institutes at Industry conferences and webinars as well as representing Nucor at numerous Structural Engineer Association conference or events.

Abdolreza (Reza) Osouli, Ph.D., P.E. is the executive director of MEA. He started working at MEA in 2008 when he was at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign working on his PhD degree in geotechnical engineering. With MEA, Dr. Osouli over the years has graduated from a Staff Engineer, a Geotechnical Engineer, a Project Engineer, a Senior Geotechnical Engineering Consultant to the Executive Director. Dr. Osouli also has been active in research and has published over 70 peer-reviewed journal and conference papers related to deep excavations, pier group foundations, geotechnical numerical analyses, geo-construction, slope stability, subsidence engineering, mine stability, rock mechanics, surface erosion levees, scours in riverbeds, base and subbase aggregate quality control for pavements, seismic performance of retaining walls, and liquefaction. Dr. Osouli also has co-authored many technical reports for various projects related to subsidence engineering and forensic engineering. Dr. Osouli has supervised engineers and technician in conducting subsurface investigation involving field and laboratory testing on soils and rocks.

Scott Walkowicz, PE, FTMS, NCEES is the owner of Walkowicz Consulting Engineers, Lansing, Michigan and is a former Partner and Structural Department Manager with a multi-discipline firm. He currently conducts structural engineering and investigative work with an emphasis on masonry as structure and envelope. He also consults with other engineers as well as architects, contractors and owners on behalf of regional Masonry Coalitions. Scott holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in Civil/Structural Engineering from Clemson University as well as a B.S. degree in Architecture from Lawrence Technological University.

Scott is now serving as the Chairperson of the TMS 402/602 (Masonry Code/Specification) Committee where he and his team are leading revisions to the structural masonry code. He is a Fellow Member, and Past President, of The Masonry Society and won the 2018 TMS Haller Award for enhancing masonry design practice.

GEOTECHNICAL

Salman Amin is pursuing a Ph.D. under Dr. Bora Cetin at Michigan State University. He is working on an INDOT project titled "Moisture Damage Control and Mitigation in Pavement Foundations using Innovative Geosynthetics." In 2025, he earned a Master of Science in Engineering degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Youngstown State University, Ohio, USA. Additionally, he has obtained a Master of Building Engineering and Management degree in 2014 from the School of Planning and Architecture in New Delhi, India, and a Bachelor of Architecture degree in 2012 from Jamia Millia Islamia, also located in the Indian capital. He possesses a total of over 10 years of extensive experience in teaching, research, and consulting in USA, and India including professional roles with INDOT, and Cushman and Wakefield. He has authored several publications and has served as an organizing member, and presenter working with people from all around the globe at conferences and workshops in India, Germany, and Sweden. His research interests encompass unbound pavement materials, geosynthetics, energy efficiency, building services, passive design strategies, and sustainable engineering applications.

Sam Clawson. Graduated from Bellarmine University with a Bachelors in Environmental Science in 2020 and then an additional Bachelors in Geology from IUPUI in 2022. During my time at IUPUI I began an internship with INDOT which later ended in my current position.

Travis Coleman, PE is a Vice President and Principal Engineer for GRL Engineers, based out of their Chicago office. He has over 20 years of experience on a wide range of deep foundations projects, including major highway interchanges and numerous transmission line projects throughout the Midwest, as well as offshore oil platform installations in the Middle East. He has performed deep foundation testing and engineering for INDOT for the duration of this career. He is a registered Professional Engineer in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Wisconsin.

Dr Syed Faizan Husain, PhD is a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. His current research supports the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Engineer Research and Development Center (USACE ERDC) and Applied Research Associates (ARA) in developing a prototype mobile platform for rapid measurement of pavement strength and deformation. He completed his Ph.D. at Illinois, where he developed a mechanistic sublayer-based analysis

framework to quantify the performance of geogrid-stabilized unbound aggregate layers and investigated stress-dependent modulus variations within the geogrid influence zone during the application of repeated loading. This study was supported by the Indiana Department of Transportation. His research interests include pavement geotechnics, aggregate materials, smart sensing, mechanistic pavement analysis, and the integration of advanced material characterization for a resilient transportation infrastructure.

Rory Flynn, P.E., is a Geotechnical Engineer with extensive experience evaluating deep foundation systems for projects throughout the United States and Middle East. Since joining GRL Engineers, Inc. in 2013, he has performed dynamic testing and data analysis for driven pile foundations using the Pile Driving Analyzer (PDA), CAPWAP, and GRLWEAP. His technical experience also includes Low Strain Integrity Testing, Crosshole Sonic Logging, Thermal Integrity Profiling, and static load testing of driven piles, drilled shafts, augered cast-in-place piles, and similar foundation systems.

Before joining GRL Engineers, Flynn worked as a field engineer with FDH from 2012 to 2013, conducting on-site inspections and investigations of existing foundations for bridges, dams, and telecommunications towers. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from North Carolina State University in 2012. Rory is a licensed Professional Engineer and holds Advanced Level certification in the PDCA/PDI Dynamic Measurement and Analysis Proficiency Test, as well as OSHA 10-Hour certification.

Victoria Leffel, LPG is a research geologist and licensed professional geologist with the Indiana Geological and Water Survey, with prior experience in engineering geology. Her work focuses on geologic mapping and the characterization of geologic hazards, including landslides and karst sinkholes, with an emphasis on improving understanding of Indiana's geology and supporting informed land-use and hazard-mitigation decisions. Her current work also includes regional bedrock mapping in southeastern Indiana. She holds a B.S. in Geology & Geophysics and an M.P.H. in Environmental Public Health from Purdue University.

Nayyar Siddiki, MS, PE

- Working with INDOT and overseas Geotechnical operation and provide technical support.
- Authored and co-authored numerous papers on the following subjects:
    - Chemical Soil modification and stabilization
    - Geosynthetic and its application in roadway
    - Earthwork, compaction, and geotechnical instrumentations
    - Use of Recycled Materials in Highway Construction

STUDENT

Josshe Inez Palm, PE is a Project Engineer II with V3 Companies, where she joined the Transportation, Planning & Design team in April 2026. A licensed Professional Engineer and graduate of Missouri University of Science and Technology, she brings more than a decade of experience in transportation engineering, project delivery, leadership, and professional involvement.

Passionate about helping others grow their careers, Josshe has served in numerous leadership roles with WTS Indianapolis and actively supports mentoring, networking, and industry outreach initiatives.

In Engineering Your Own Edge, she will share practical resume strategies, lessons learned throughout her career, and tips for standing out in a competitive job market. Her approach is simple: your resume gets you noticed, but your relationships, reputation, and readiness create the opportunities that follow.

Fun fact: She is an architecture enthusiast, a dedicated networker, and firmly believes that a little preparation can take you a long way.

Karen Wood, MS is the Human Resources Department Manager at United Consulting, leading their amazing HR Department and supporting United's incredible staff. Previous to this role, Karen worked in operations, leading a team of historians and archaeologists who worked to ensure a balance of providing safe and accessible infrastructure to communities and preserving our historic heritage. Her transition to HR stemmed from a desire to develop people to become their best selves. If they learn to do their best work, then they will shine their light for others to see and learn how to light their own way and so forth. She also serves as the Chair for the United Culture Committee and Health and Fitness Committee, creating a workplace environment that is both welcoming and a focus on our well-being as humans. She holds a bachelor's and master's degree in history as well as an Employment Law Certificate from Cornell University. In her spare time, Karen enjoys reading, baking, watching comedy/action films, and going on walks with her husband and two kids in nature.