

Welcome From New President Pat Sullivan

May 13, 2016

Hello ASCE Colleagues,

One week ago, I received the prestigious honor of being inaugurated to lead the Pittsburgh Section of ASCE for the 2016-2017 calendar year. Many of you already know me....for the last two years, I've been the soft-spoken Master of Ceremonies for the ASCE Kickoff Dinner that occurs annually in September and the ASCE Engineers Week banquet that takes place in February! I want to thank the Pittsburgh Section for allowing me the opportunity to share this humble 'gift of gab'.

I have very big shoes to fill. Cathy Bazan-Arias has done a magnificent job of executing the office for the past year. She established three goals that she wanted to champion at the Section level and challenged the Pittsburgh Section Institutes and Committees to do the same. [The Section goals](#) have both local and national ties.

The results of those goals to date have been very positive. But as we know, as long as a year may seem, sometimes additional time is required for the tree to bear fruit. So with Cathy's permission, I would like to adopt and continue to progress some of her goals and perhaps add one of my own.

["Raise the Bar"](#) is an initiative that both Cathy and I support. I attended a session at the ASCE national conference in September of 2015 and upon hearing that the current curriculum at some U.S. universities may not properly prepare students for success in a professional field or to obtain licensure as professionals, I immediately became an advocate for the program. Over the last several decades, other professions, such as law, medicine and accounting, have increased their educational requirements to obtain degrees. It's about time the engineering field does the same! If you want to hear more, [please contact me](#).

The Pittsburgh Section's 100th anniversary will be here in 2018. Planning already has begun, and Cathy and others at ASCE national and the Pittsburgh Section are well immersed in the undertaking of this grandiose celebration. Our preliminary plan is to recognize the 12 greatest civil engineering feats in the Pittsburgh and surrounding area, one for each month of a calendar that is being considered to commemorate the event. One of my office walls at CEC has historical pictures of the Cathedral of Learning, Downtown Pittsburgh, Oakland/University of Pittsburgh and Forbes Field, so you probably have guessed that I will be supporting this goal. If you are a Pittsburgh engineering history buff and would like to become involved, [please give us a call at the Section](#).

Last year, our membership committee conducted a very detailed survey that provided us with information on how we can better serve our 1,700 members. A little more than 15% of the Pittsburgh civil engineering community participated in the survey, and to those

professionals I say thank you. Way to stay active! What I observed in reviewing the data is that a great majority of our members are employed by consulting engineering firms. We all recognize, however, that there are civil engineers employed elsewhere. I'm going to find these civil engineers and meet with them to discuss the benefits that ASCE can provide on a personal, professional and corporate level. So expect me to be out and about over the next year delivering my pitch!

There are a few other minor operational objectives I am going to try my hand at with regard to how the Section operates internally—I'll keep you posted on how those work out.

DID YOU KNOW? The Pittsburgh Section of ASCE has been recognized the last two years as the "Outstanding Large Section" by ASCE National! This is a testament to the unbelievable effort of those professionals within the Pittsburgh Section who wish to be recognized at the national level as leaders in a variety of civil engineering committee and institute affiliations.

I am very fortunate to have a great group of professionals and friends on the Board of Directors and on the various Institutes and Committees at the Pittsburgh Section who strive to succeed at everything they do. I'm sure that they will do what they can to help me continue the success that the Pittsburgh Section has achieved over the last several years.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pat".

Patrick J. Sullivan, Jr., PE

President, ASCE Pittsburgh Section 2016-2017