

# May 2020

Dear Members,

I hope that this letter finds each and everyone of you safe, healthy and in good spirits. This is my first letter as President serving the members of the Pittsburgh Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers. I look forward with optimism to what the next twelve months can bring to our Section and our membership! I also want to take a moment to reflect on our group's amazing accomplishments and national recognition honors achieved over the past year.

Past President, Sam Shamsi put forth a three-year plan to increase involvement from government engineers, increase Section membership, and increase engagement with our younger members and student chapters. I am excited to continue to support and advance these goals during my term as President.

Last year was also amazing in terms of recognition by ASCE. In total, our membership received twelve distinct national awards, including our fourth Outstanding Large Section Award! Thank you for all of your hard work and congratulations to each member who contributed to this success.

However, there is also a considerable amount of uncertainty surrounding all of us at the moment. My priority during this unique and unprecedented time is to provide support, encouragement, and hope to all of you. I truly believe that ASCE Membership can provide all three of these. You have a network of over 150,000 members and countless technical and non-technical resources at your fingertips. For example, inspirational stories of achievements and advancements in our profession can be found in every issue of *Civil Engineering* magazine. And I am constantly in awe of and inspired by the accomplishments and entrepreneurial spirit of our younger members and student members.

Over the next couple months, the Section will be working to develop our annual strategic plan and establish operating budgets. I encourage each of you across our entire membership to think creatively and help us develop a plan that considers ways to best serve you and our community. We'll need to find innovative ways to overcome both real and perceived obstacles that may impact our programs and meetings. Never in history have we relied so heavily on technology to perform basic daily tasks, and never before have we had these tools available to allow us to persevere as we have over the past months. I am excited and optimistic to see how society will evolve and embrace new ways to accomplish tasks both professionally and personally.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in ASCE. I have a number of new ideas and plans for this year and welcome additional suggestions. One personal goal is to provide a monthly letter from me to the Section's membership with the intent to keep you informed of our plans, progress, and successes, and of the many benefits of ASCE Membership. I'll also continue to seek your guidance to help the Board govern our activities. Please feel free to contact me anytime at [jshimko@mckimcreed.com](mailto:jshimko@mckimcreed.com). Until next month, I wish you all a happy and healthy spring!

Sincerely,

Jonathan Shimko

President

ASCE – Pittsburgh Section

