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Technical Women In Consulting Engineering (TWICE) Committee receives national award

(OTTAWA) June 24, 2015 – The Association of Consulting Engineering Companies-Canada (ACEC) presented the 2015 Chair’s Award to the Technical Women In Consulting Engineering (TWICE) Committee. The Chair’s Award recognizes exceptional contributions to the consulting engineering community and was presented at the Chair’s Gala at the close of the 2015 ACEC Leadership Summit in Niagara Falls on June 12, 2015.

Formed in 2013 under the ACEC-Manitoba umbrella, TWICE was established to provide strategic advice to the industry on increasing diversity in consulting engineering. With a vision of fostering increased representation of women in the profession and the consulting engineering sector, TWICE will guide the industry in the development of best practices for life-work balance and help facilitate opportunities to encourage networking, mentoring, and professional development for women. The committee has completed the first of several comprehensive surveys and the results are being assessed now for use in the industry.

“Although some universities are now claiming to have 30% women in their engineering program, it has been a struggle to maintain even 20% women in the workplace at the early career level, or the senior level” said outgoing ACEC Chair Anne Poschmann. “Any profession which does not include nearly half of its population suffers in its creativity and creative potential,” she continued.

Accepting the award on behalf of the committee was founding Chair Kristen Poff, who was joined by the President of ACEC-Manitoba, Alana Gauthier.

“TWICE represents a call to action for individuals and organizations to actively lead change and foster an environment of diversity and inclusion,” said Ms. Poff. “Several studies show that diversified workplaces have the competitive advantage. The best ideas and innovations come from seeking out different points of view, and diverse perspectives lead to different ways of thinking which creates new opportunities and solutions.”

This year’s Chair’s Award is unique as it is the first time the award has been given to a committee as opposed to an individual.

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The Association of Consulting Engineering Companies-Canada is a federation of twelve provincial/territorial member associations which represent companies in Canada that provide professional engineering services to both public and private sector clients. These services include the planning, design and execution of all types of engineering projects, as well as providing independent advice and expertise in a wide range of engineering and engineering-related fields. For more information about ACEC, please visit www.acec.ca.

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