

A Reimagined Workplace: How to Navigate and Elevate the Future of our Profession

1:00 - 1:10 pm

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

Rose McClure, SE3 Committee Chair & Jonathan Bayreuther, Symposium Lead

Opening remarks, introduction of key committee members, and overview of the symposium's agenda.





1:10 - 1:40 pm

## United We Flourish: A Call to Action for the AEC Industry

Jamie Claire Kiser, Zweig Group



Recruiting and retention are the top challenges consistently cited by principals of architecture and engineering firms, according to Zweig Group's Principals, Partners and Owners survey. In 2019, this same survey found that 90% of principals

are white, 83% are male, and 58% of male principals feel there is a lack of diversity across age, race, and gender among principals in the AEC industry.

In this keynote presentation, Jamie Claire Kiser, Managing Principal of Zweig Group, will share her observations as a business consultant to AEC firms and her experience establishing ElevateHer, a platform to improve recruitment and retention of women within the AEC industry. She observes that firms often work in isolation to solve the very same problems. And if we fail to work together to translate these findings into specific actionable items, we risk holding ourselves in a pattern of hire, develop, burn out, repeat. ElevateHer was built on the premise that we can elevate the profession by working together. and together, we are all called to act.

Since launching ElevateHer, many industry leaders have come forth to recognize that creating more inclusive work environments can lead to tangible benefits for all, and can serve to perpetuate the future of the profession. But the fact remains, with groups like SE3 and ElevateHer we are all too often preaching to the choir. The challenge now is to take the data, the anecdotes and the conviction to impress upon A/E business leaders the imperative

to adapt our business practices to meet the needs of a changing workforce. We can change this industry by engaging the remaining 42% of principals who do not believe the future of our profession is at risk. The question to ask: how do we create opportunities for the difficult conversations that may ultimately unite and benefit us all?

1:40 - 2:30 pm

# **Session 1: Building Workplace Culture: How to Improve Engagement and Retention**

This session will demonstrate how findings from the 2018 SE3 survey can help guide individual and firm decisions to improve workplace culture. Through a series of fast-paced "snapshot" presentations from five thought leaders, attendees will see how the SE3 survey results can be applied throughout the arc of a career on topics such as: mentorship, performance feedback, work-life balance, retention and burnout, and career pathways.















#### **Thought Leaders:**

- Jennifer Ridd, PE | JQ Engineering
- Jessica Simon, PE | JQ Engineering
- Jennifer Anna Pazdon, PE | CAST CONNEX
- Alexander Lakocy, PE | Martin/Martin Consulting Engineers
- Angela Fante, PE, SECB | Ballinger Associates
- Matthew Arnold, PE | Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates
- Sabrina Duk, PE | Verahaus Structural, LLC





# **National Symposium Program Overview**

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2:30 - 3:30 pm

# Session 2: You're Not Alone - Navigating Common Experiences in the Life of a Structural

Have you ever encountered a challenging situation in your career when you wished someone could give you a timely piece of advice? While there is no doubt your experience was unique, the situation almost certainly was not. In this session, a panel of AEC professionals will present stories from their careers that speak to common situations such as: managing stress when your work-life balance doesn't feel balanced, advocating for oneself during a performance review cycle, recruiting, and transitioning between job roles.

Building on the relevant SE3 survey findings, panelists will provide insights and alternative suggestions on how to handle these situations. Through story-telling and group discussion, attendees will hear a range of perspectives and strategies that may be applied to their own careers, and to those of their colleagues.











#### **Thought Leaders:**

- Jonathan Bayreuther, PE | Veitas & Veitas Engineers
- Nina Mahjoub, PE | Holmes Structures
- Uchenna T.E. Okoye, PE | Autodesk
- Emily Hoober George, PE, SE | KPFF
- Greg Davenport, PE | HKS

3:30 - 4:00 pm

### **Coffee Break**

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4:00 - 4:50 pm

# Session 3: Elevating the Profession for Everyone: Why Diversity and Inclusion Affects Us All

Leaders with experience implementing diversity and inclusion (D&I) programs will share their experiences. They will discuss the realized and aspirational benefits of each program, the effect on individual careers, company strategic planning and workplace culture, and share lessons learned. They will also lead a set of short, interactive exercises to demonstrate the importance of incorporating diversity into decision-making at all levels. Attendees will leave with a set of practical resources and ways to bring D&I to their own firms.







#### **Thought Leaders:**

- Stephanie Slocum, Engineers Rising
- Angela Heinze, Thornton Tomasetti
- George Theo, Coughlin Porter Lundeen

4:50 - 5:00 pm

#### Adjournment

Rose McClure, SE3 Committee Chair and Jonathan Bayreuther, Symposium Lead

Closing remarks, announcement of additional SE3 presentations during the Summit and thank you to our generous sponsors.

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