

## **Outstanding Architectural Engineering Project**

### **LA County USC Medical Center Replacement Project**

Metropolitan Los Angeles Branch

The Los Angeles County + University of Southern California (LAC+USC) Medical Center Replacement Project is a 600-bed hospital to replace the aging landmark Los Angeles County General Hospital. The project was developed in response to damage sustained from the 1994 Northridge Earthquake, and the need to comply with California State mandate for seismic upgrade of inpatient medical facilities, and the goal to provide a modern healthcare flagship facility for Los Angeles County. This hospital operates in conjunction with and supports the teaching functions of the adjacent University of Southern California School of Medicine.

The final project budget was \$922,643,218 which includes cost increases from any source, including requests for scope increase or modifications of the project by the Department of Health Services. Cost and scope containment is difficult on any project. Such tasks are even more challenging on this large, sophisticated, and complex hospital facility, which has numerous stakeholders. Changes in medical technology and healthcare delivery have provided major difficulties, as well as opportunities for innovative solutions and partnerships to bring this important project to completion. These solutions resulted in an ultimate project cost of \$433 per square foot, at a time when similar hospital projects in the Los Angeles area cost upwards of \$700 per square foot.

The success of this project was due to a partnership between the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Jacobs Facilities, KPFF Consulting Engineers, and HOK+LBL Associates Architects.

## **Outstanding Civil Engineer in the Private Sector**

### **Tony Velazques, P.E.**

Metropolitan Los Angeles Branch

Tony Velazquez is the Los Angeles Area Manager and Senior Project Manager for Parsons. His exceptional work in the Civil Engineering field has earned him the respect of his clients, his supervisors, and his employees. He is a dedicated and hard working civil engineer who is enthusiastic about helping improve every aspect of the Los Angeles County transportation system and its surrounding areas. He was instrumental in helping Caltrans launch its Calmentor Program in which he also took part of by becoming a mentor to a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise. Tony is committed not only to executing every project successfully, but also helping shape the next generation of Civil Engineers. One way in which he gives back to our community is by performing several presentations a year to high school students around the Los Angeles area, where he exposes them to all Engineering fields.

Tony works hard to give each of his employees a healthy, diverse, and friendly environment to work in. Over the last few years, under Tony's leadership, our office has grown tremendously both in projects and employees. This new growth has provided staff with a wealth of opportunities to grow as professionals and increase their technical skills.

Through his involvement as a Senior Project Manager for a number of civil engineering projects, and his work to promote civil engineering and diversity, Tony is a great example of the "complete civil engineer".

### **Outstanding Practitioner Advisor**

**Thomas Poyer**

Metropolitan Los Angeles Branch

In addition to working as an engineer for Moffatt & Nichol, Tom Poyer is a Practitioner Advisor at Loyola Marymount University. Since becoming an advisor after his graduation, Tom has made substantial contributions to the student chapter through his leadership and assistance on various tasks and projects. He makes a concentrated effort to take time off from work and attend several student chapter meetings throughout the year. He works closely with the student Chapter president to outline the goals of the year and is always available to answer questions. He invests in the student chapter on a constant basis.

Tom understands the role of an advisor and how important this role is in the civil engineering education process. Through his devoted efforts, Tom brings a level of professionalism, mentorship and leadership that impacts the students in a positive way.

### **Outstanding Engineering in Legislative Activities**

**Mike Mohajer**

Metropolitan Los Angeles Branch

Mike Mohajer, former assistant deputy director for Los Angeles County's Department of Public Works, has been a tireless advocate for improving every aspect of the solid waste management infrastructure in the region. This infrastructure is vital to maintaining and enticing the quality of life and the environment, and Mr. Mohajer's advocacy includes significant involvement in sponsoring and advocating legislative policies. His accomplishment is noteworthy since Los Angeles County has the largest and most complex solid waste management in the country.

Since his retirement in 2003, Mr. Mohajer has been extensively involved with various volunteer organizations and committees. In this involvement, his valuable insight and experience has further guided the formulation of legislative positions and policies to positively impact change in Los Angeles County and the State. His collective legislative efforts over 30 years of public service and as a volunteer for the last five years clearly demonstrate that he is an outstanding individual, and serves as an excellent model for citizen/civil engineer participation in legislative activities towards the common good.