



Issue 4 | January - June 2026



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DID YOU KNOW?

We have an INTERNAL site where you can access useful resources, link to our online apparel store, get updates on projects, office events and more!



Visit it at:
www.hutchisoneng.com
and click

Company Intranet

If you missed the opportunity to order our Commemorative HEI-America's 250th Anniversary t-shirt, don't worry. We will be launching a new online apparel store this summer and you will have the opportunity to purchase one there!



Be sure to mark your calendar for the holidays remaining in 2026!

Holidays Observed:

Labor Day
Thanksgiving
Day After Thanksgiving
Christmas Eve
Christmas Day

Monday, September 7
Thursday, November 26
Friday, November 27
Thursday, December 24
Friday, December 25th

Letter from the President

Team,

As we move through another fast paced year at HEI, I want to take a moment to recognize the momentum we're building across the company. Your work continues to strengthen our reputation, expand our reach, and reinforce the trust our clients place in us.

Project Wins & Performance

Over the past quarters, our teams have secured several key project wins that reflect both our technical expertise and our ability to deliver solutions. From transportation improvements to municipal infrastructure upgrades, each success is a direct result of your commitment to quality, responsiveness, and collaboration. These wins position us well for the second half of the year and demonstrate the value of the relationships we continue to cultivate.

Marketing Insights

Shane & Chelle have been closely tracking industry trends and client engagement patterns, and their insights are helping sharpen our marketing strategy. They are emphasizing the growing importance of consistent branding across offices, targeted outreach in emerging markets, and the role of storytelling in showcasing our project impact. Shane and Chelle's guidance is shaping how we present ourselves at conferences, in proposals, and across digital platforms ensuring HEI stands out in a competitive landscape.

Employee Spotlights

We're proud to highlight two team members whose dedication and leadership exemplify HEI's values.

Kevin Grammer, PE (Carbondale), Director of Operations - Southern Illinois region, continues to bring exceptional problem solving and field expertise to every project he touches. His ability to navigate challenges with calm, practical judgment has made him a go to resource for both clients and colleagues.

Christina Cane, AIA, NCARB (Hannibal), leads our architectural services and has demonstrated outstanding initiative in project coordination and internal



communication. Her attention to detail and commitment to supporting her team have strengthened project delivery and improved workflow efficiency across multiple offices.

Compass: What's Happening Across HEI

Our Compass section is full of activity this season:

- **Conferences** - Our teams are representing HEI at APWA, IACE, and several regional municipal events, strengthening relationships and showcasing our capabilities.
- **Meetings & Client Engagements** - Business development efforts remain strong, with productive meetings across Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, and Wisconsin as we continue exploring new markets.
- **Career Fairs** - We're preparing for fall recruitment, including university career fairs where we'll highlight our culture, internship program, and growing opportunities for young professionals.
- **Golf Events** - From IACE to Chamber outings, our presence at golf events continues to support networking, client appreciation, and community involvement.

These touchpoints reinforce our visibility and help us stay connected to the partners and communities we serve.

Take a look inside this newsletter to see the positive impact our HEI team is making.

Big Win

Record-Breaking Project Award

A big congratulations to the Shorewood team for being awarded the largest project ever let by Kendall County! While Kendall County is a valued existing client, this achievement is a tremendous milestone. The **\$33M Ridge Road Reconstruction Project** will widen Ridge Road from two lanes to four lanes between Holt Road and Black Road, delivering a major transportation improvement for the region.

Congratulations to everyone involved on these outstanding accomplishments. Thank you for your dedication, teamwork, and commitment to delivering exceptional service. Keep up the great work!

New Clients

JACKSONVILLE

Greene County, IL – Phase I & II, \$250K, for a project to improve NE 175th Avenue.

STRUCTURAL DEPARTMENT

City of Streator, IL – Phase I, Park Street & Bilger Street Structure Replacements. \$100K Engineering for Phase I. \$150K Engineering Estimate for Phase II. \$2M Construction Estimate.

MOLINE

City of Colona, IL – Two, \$2K, NBIS Bridge inspections and provide Bridge Program Project Management Services with IDOT.

City of Geneseo, IL – Phase I & II, \$25.5K, Route 6 TIF District Drainage Improvements in an industrial park.

Moline / Coal Valley Schools District 40, IL – Phase I & II, \$29K, Dedicated turn lane from a busy exit for their High School and also design a new drop off configuration for elementary students at a neighboring grade school.

East Moline School District 37, IL – \$35K, Study traffic patterns at three of their elementary and middle schools and recommend strategies to improve level of service and safety.

PEORIA

Village of Bartonville, IL - ITEP Grant Application for downtown streetscape projects, \$10K

HANNIBAL

City of Eolia, MO – \$70K, Sidewalk and ADA improvements.

Marion County R-II School, MO – \$69K, K-12 Addition to the existing gymnasium and renovations to the existing locker rooms.

MORTON

Ernst Geneseo Sports Complex, IL – Phase I & II, \$5M, Civil/ Site services for a proposed sports complex which will include (6) soccer fields and (3) sand volleyball courts on a 25-acre property.

Morton Park District, IL – Phase I & II, \$1.85M, Civil/ Landscape Architectural Design to develop Concepts and Cost Estimates for a proposed Splash Pad at Idlewood Park and Parking Lot Reconstruction at Southwood Park.

Company Wins

JACKSONVILLE

Mount Sterling Park District, IL – Phase I & II, \$1.5M, 1.1 mile multi-use path from the YMCA to the existing HAWK signal crossing US 24 at Brown County School.

Mount Sterling Park District, IL – Phase I & II, \$500K, new multi-use path along the north side of US24 from the HAWK signal crossing at Brown County School to East Lake Subdivision.

Mount Sterling Park District, IL – Phase III, \$2M, Multi use path.

City of Beardstown, IL – Phase I, II & III, \$1.4M, 8th Street improvements.

Schuyler County, IL – Phase I & II, \$2.4M, improve CH 5 and CH 1, including an HSIP application.

Logan County, IL – Phase III, \$1.78M Top Hat Windfarm – Phase III Supplement.

City of Jacksonville, IL – Phase III, \$3M South Main Street reconstruction.

City of Pittsfield, IL – Phase II, \$5.6M Engineering Services for the Reconstruction of Historic Downtown Pittsfield

City of Rushville, IL – Phase III, \$1.25M Lafayette Street reconstruction.

Village of South Jacksonville, IL – Phase III, \$1.7M South Diamond Reconstruction.

STRUCTURAL DEPARTMENT

Jersey County, IL – Phase I & II, CH 25 (Delhi Rd) Repairs / Drainage at Two Bridges over Piasa Creek. \$40,000 Engineering. \$250,000 Construction estimate.

Vermilion County, IL – Phase I & II, TR 106 over Salt Fork (Scour Protection). \$15,000 Engineering. \$110,000 Construction estimate. TR 333 over Grape Creek (Superstructure Replacement). \$50,000 Engineering. \$350,000 Construction estimate.

Knox County, IL – Phase I & II, TR 6A over North Henderson Creek. \$60,000 Engineering. \$450,000 Construction estimate. TR 6A (340th Street) over Tributary to North Henderson Creek. \$60,000 Engineering. \$450,000 Construction estimate.

Warren County, IL – Phase I & II, TR 152 (110th Street) over Cedar Creek. \$62,000 Engineering. \$650,000 Construction estimate. TR 181 (Berwick Road) over Tributary to Picayune Creek. \$42,000 Engineering. \$400,000 Construction estimate. TR 58 (45th Street) over Cedar Creek. \$57,000 Engineering. \$750,000 Construction estimate.

PEORIA

City of Bloomington, IL – Phase III, \$19M, Fox Creek Road & Bridge reconstruction & replacements.

Peoria County, IL – Phase III, \$1.3M, KER & CDR Reconstruction - Beck's Gas.

McDonough County, IL – Phase III, \$2.4M, CH 8 over Camp Creek bridge replacement.

Warren County, IL – Phase III, \$1.1M, CH 7 over Cedar Creek bridge replacement.

Henderson County, IL – Phase III, \$1.8M, CH 15 over Lone Tree Ditch bridge replacement.

Logan County, IL – \$250K, Pike Creek Windfarm.

McLean County, IL – Phase I & II, \$1M, Historic US 66 Shared Use Path.

MOLINE

Village of Milan, IL – \$32.5K, Drainage study of a 400-acre watershed, recommend related site improvements for a reconstructed entrance to Camden Park Facility.

City of Moline, IL – Phase I, \$218K, Roundabout design for 5 points intersection in Uptown Business District.

City of Moline, IL - Phase II, \$212K, River Drive Streetscaping Improvements from 19th to 12th Streets.

City of Moline, IL - Phase III, \$350K, River to River Shared Use Path construction.

CARBONDALE

City of Carbondale, IL – Phase III, \$82K, Materials testing for the reconstruction for 0.54 miles of West Pleasant Hill Road.

City of Carbondale, IL – Phase III, 106K, Materials testing for the reconstruction for 1.07 miles of Piles Fork Greenway.

County of Jefferson, IL – Phase I & II, \$42K, Construction of a bridge on North Doppler Lane.

HANNIBAL

Corporate Contractors Inc, MO – \$52K, Review current conditions as provided by CCI personnel and produce load rating limits for temporary construction loads – Warsaw Indiana.

Corporate Contractors Inc., MO – \$101K, Beloit Wisconsin Building Demo and Restoration.

Jasper County, IA – \$17K, Structural design and develop plans for the substructure and superstructure associated with the new Bridge.

Warren County, IL – \$114K, Courthouse investigation and stabilization, replacement of the monumentally stairway, scanning courthouse for movement structural support.

BELOIT

Primera Engineers, LTD., IL – \$130K, Site Grading in Garden Plain, IL and Mole Creek New Substation.

MORTON

Village of Rantoul, IL – \$750K, Habitat for Humanity 10 lot Subdivision.

Rock Island County Forest Preserve, IL – \$550K, Civil/ Landscape Architectural services for Splash Pad and a large "Learning Deck."

Farmington Central CUSD 265, IL – \$200K, 2 new proposed Pickleball Courts on the District campus.



IDOT PTB PROJECTS Awarded



PRIME Consultant

PTB 218 Item 12 - Various Phase III Project, Various Counties, District 3
Phase III Construction Inspection Services.

HEI's subs include Illinois Construction & Environmental Consulting, Inc. (ICE);
Program Management & Control Services, LLC (PMCS)

Sub-Consultant

PTB 218 Item 13 - Various Phase III Projects, District 3, Various Counties
Shorewood Office - is a subconsultant to OSEH Inc.

PTB 219 Item 36 - Various Phase I/II Projects, District 3, Various Counties
Shorewood Office - is a subconsultant to Crawford, Murphy, & Tilly, Inc.

PTB 219 Item 40 - Various Phase III Projects, District 3, Various Counties
Shorewood Office - is a subconsultant to R & G Engineering, LLC.

PTB 219 Item 44 - Various Phase III Projects, District 5, Various Counties
Peoria Office - is a subconsultant to Clark Dietz, Inc.

PTB 219 Item 63 - Various Phase I/II Projects, District 9, Various Counties
Carbondale Office - is a subconsultant to Volkert, Inc.



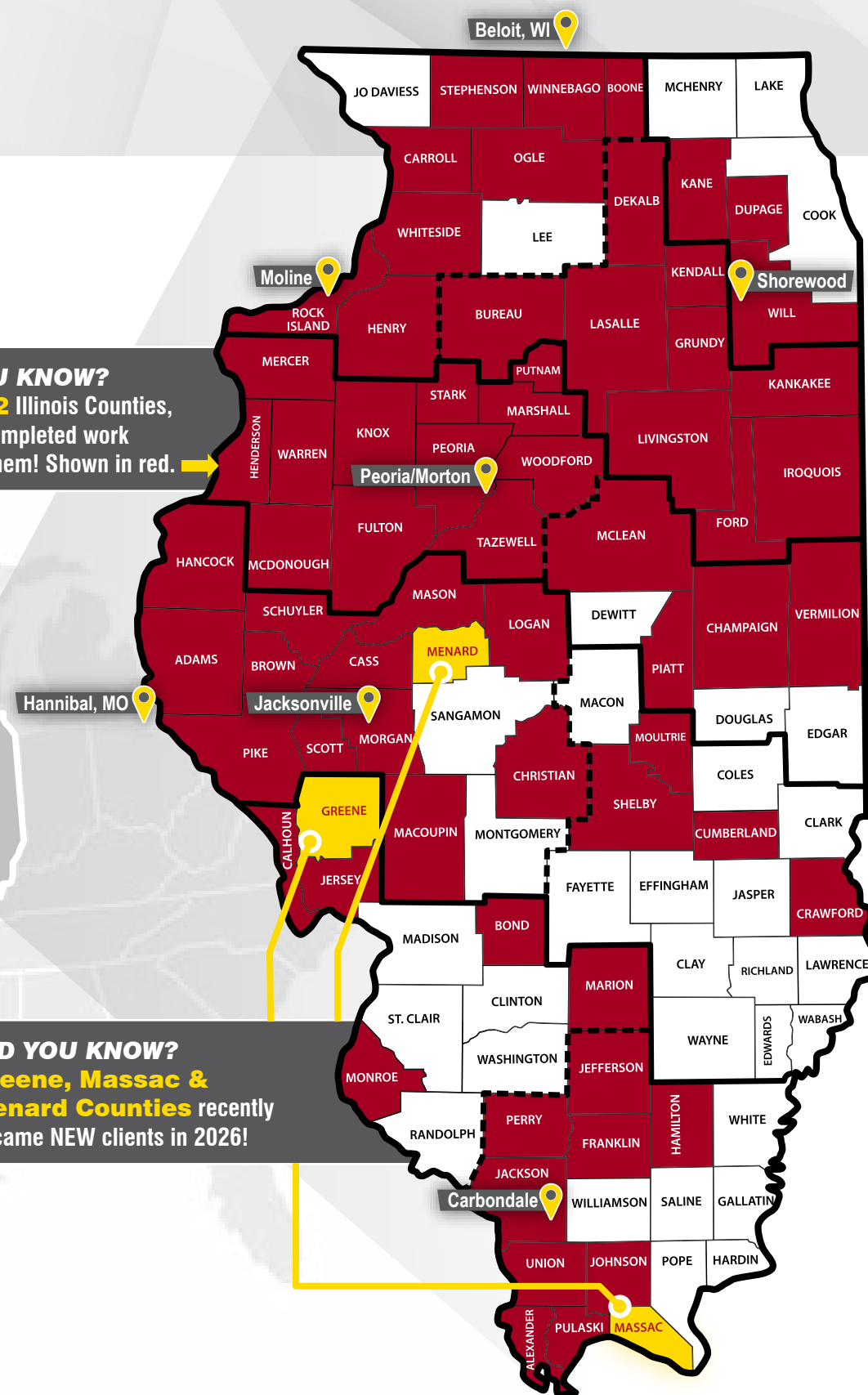
DID YOU KNOW? Despite Illinois' long history of railways and roads, IDOT wasn't officially formed until January 1, 1972. Before this, transportation duties were scattered across multiple agencies, according to illinois.gov.



DID YOU KNOW?
Out of **102** Illinois Counties,
HEI has completed work
in **67** of them! Shown in red.



DID YOU KNOW?
Greene, Massac & Menard Counties recently
became NEW clients in 2026!





RFQ/RFP Process

A majority of our work comes from public agencies. These public agencies often use a Quality Based Selection (QBS) process to select a consulting firm. The primary component of the QBS process is a Request for Qualifications/Proposals (RFQ/RFP). Although RFQs/RFPs vary amongst our clients, the key components include the expertise of the project team, the firm's experience with similar projects, and an understanding of the project scope/requirements and approach to completing the project.

To make sure our RFQ/RFP submittals stand out against our competition, HEI has a well-defined RFQ/RFP plan of action. When a RFQ/RFP is received from a client, it is evaluated by HEI management to determine whether it is a project we will pursue. The major determining factors include our relationship with the client, current workload, and required expertise. If we decide to pursue the project, the RFQ/RFP is submitted to Chelle Hayslett and she manages the remainder of the process to proposal submittal. Chelle's process starts with a meeting with the key project team members to discuss proposal outline, project team, similar projects we have completed, tasks assignments, and schedule. As noted above, the key aspects clients are analyzing in proposals are the expertise of the project team (individual staff resumes) the firm's experience with similar projects (HEI calls these Case Studies), and an understanding of the project scope/requirements and approach to completing the project (Project Understanding and Approach). Our approach to these three major components of our RFQ/RFP submittals is as follows.

PROJECT TEAM

Developing a strong project team that has the experience and expertise that the project will require is critical to a quality submittal. The first step of this process is to identify the general categories of work that will be required (survey, roadway design, public involvement, environmental coordination, etc.). After this list is developed, the key project team members will collaborate to identify HEI staff for each category. This information is used to develop an organization chart for the proposal. The organization chart identifies the staff resumes that Chelle needs to develop for the submittal. To ensure resumes reflect staff experience on similar projects, resumes are specifically tailored to the RFQ/RFP we are submitting on and include the most recent, similar project work for each staff member. Resumes are a work in progress, but our goal is to have a Master Resume for every employee that includes every project they have ever worked on in the last 10 years. The Master Resume will be revised for individual RFQ/RFP submittals to only include projects similar to the project being submitted on.

Chelle is actively working on creating Master Resumes for all employees. The Master Resumes will be living documents and being revised constantly as projects are completed. Chelle will lead the Master Resume revision process but will need help from everyone to ensure resumes stay current and or accurate.

CASE STUDIES

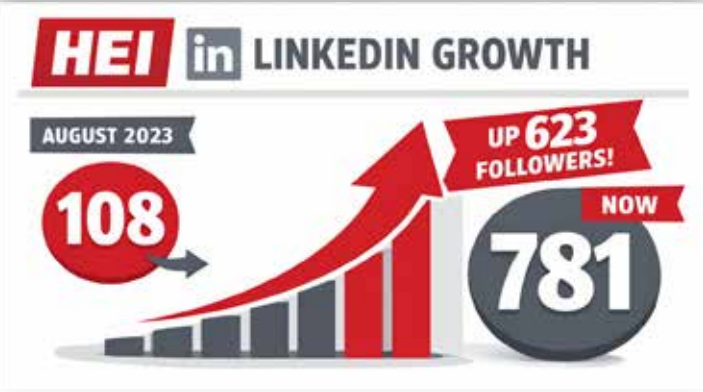
A Case Study includes photos of the finished project (preferably final construction photos), name and contact information for the client contact, and general information about the project construction cost, funding type and project location, scope of the project work, and services completed by HEI. Chelle leads the Case Study development process but requires assistance from Project Managers to collect quality photos and develop project writeups. With the volume of work being completed by HEI, developing Case Studies is a constant task for Chelle. She is constantly identifying projects that have been completed and coordinating with Project Managers throughout the company to get the information she needs.



PROJECT UNDERSTANDING AND APPROACH

Developing a comprehensive Project Understanding and Approach is critical to the success of our submittals because it shows our understanding of the engineering and coordination that will be required which ultimately gives the client confidence in HEI. The development of the Project Understanding and Approach is a two step process. The first step is to analyze the RFQ/RFP thoroughly to ensure we fully understand the services the client is requesting and use our past experience on similar projects to fill in the gaps the client missed in the RFQ/RFP. In addition to analyzing the RFQ/RFP, our key project team members will meet to discuss the project, make site visits, view Google Earth, GIS ROW maps and utility information, review client websites to review comprehensive plans and any other information related to the project. All of this research allows us to develop a comprehensive Project Understanding including identification of key challenges which provides the "road map" for the development of the Project Approach. The Project Approach outlines our approach to specific tasks and project challenges. Our project team spends a significant amount of time developing a detailed Project Approach to set our submittal apart from the other consultant submittals. Our goal is for the client to read our Project Approach and have full confidence that HEI will be able to complete their project on time and within budget.

Successful RFQ/RFP submittals are critical to HEI's success and requires all of us to work together. The Marketing Team looks forward to working with you all to continue to improve our process and ensure our resumes and case studies are current and accurate.



Growing Our LinkedIn Presence

Our expanding LinkedIn community reflects more than numbers, it shows the strength of our connections and the reach of our message. Each new follower represents a professional interested in our projects, our people, and the impact we make across communities. As our audience grows, so does our ability to share insights, celebrate achievements, and highlight the innovation driving our work.

Consistent growth on LinkedIn helps amplify our brand visibility and attract new partnerships, talent, and opportunities. It's a sign that our stories resonate and that our team's efforts to engage, inform, and inspire are making a difference.

Thank you to everyone who follows, shares, and supports HEI's journey. Your engagement helps us build momentum for what's next.

2027 – 1,000!



Shane Steps Up to Support County Engineering Operations

On top of Shane's already full slate of responsibilities, JD saw an opportunity for HEI to support one of Moline office's clients and knew Shane was the right person to help. He has stepped in to assist Rock Island County by temporarily taking on key responsibilities of the County Engineer position until the role is officially filled.

During this transition, Shane is providing essential technical guidance, project oversight, and day to day support to ensure continuity across engineering and maintenance operations. His willingness to take on this added leadership role reflects HEI's commitment to strong partnerships and dependable service.

We're proud to have team members like Shane who bring expertise, professionalism, and steady leadership when our clients need it most.



Our new 2026 koozies have already made their way to various outdoor events such as shooting sports and golf outings. Be sure to share photos of your koozie at this summer's events and we will post them on our internal site.

Be sure to check our site for updates! Click here <https://www.hutchisoneng.com/> to access the HEI site, then select **Company Intranet** to see what resources are right at your fingertips!

America’s Infrastructure Earns a “C” from the American Society of Civil Engineers

According to the ASCE Infrastructure Report Card, America’s infrastructure continues to operate under significant strain. Our national economy, global competitiveness, and overall quality of life depend on systems that often go unnoticed—until something goes wrong. Even a single disruption in our built environment can impact households, businesses, and entire communities.

Across the country, our infrastructure is an interconnected network of highways and streets, public buildings, mass transit, ports, airports, inland waterways, water and wastewater systems, the electric grid, broadband, dams, levees, and countless other public and private facilities. Maintaining and modernizing these systems is essential to supporting economic growth and safeguarding public health and safety.

For families, businesses, and industries to thrive, the nation needs a first class infrastructure system—one that moves people and goods safely and efficiently by land, water, and air; delivers clean, reliable, and affordable energy; and provides resilient water systems that support both daily life and industrial operations. Strengthening these networks is critical to building a sustainable, competitive future.



Cumulative Investment Needs

BY INFRASTRUCTURE CATEGORY BASED ON MAINTAINING CURRENT FEDERAL INVESTMENT LEVELS ALL VALUES IN BILLIONS

Infrastructure System	Needs ¹	Funded, 2024-33 ²	Funding Gap, 2024-33
Aviation ³	\$310	\$197	\$113
Bridges ⁴	\$538	\$165	\$373
Broadband ⁵	\$61	\$61	\$0
Dams ⁶	\$185	\$20	\$166
Drinking Water ⁷	\$670	\$361	\$309
Energy ⁸	\$1,886	\$1,308	\$578
Hazardous & Solid Waste ⁹	\$162	\$146	\$16
Inland Waterways & Ports ¹⁰	\$45	\$32	\$13
Levees ¹¹	\$97	\$7	\$91
Public Parks ¹²	\$106	\$62	\$44
Rail ¹³	\$145	\$113	\$32
Roads ¹⁴	\$2,233	\$1,549	\$684
Schools ¹⁵	\$1,100	\$671	\$429
Transit ¹⁶	\$618	\$466	\$152
Wastewater + Stormwater ¹⁷	\$983	\$293	\$690
TOTAL	\$9,139	\$5,450	\$3,689

1. Total needs are estimated as deferred maintenance necessary to reach a system-wide state of good repair. Estimates from publicly available data and not adjusted for inflation.
2. Assumes investments continue at levels from recent appropriations, as shown by public data and based on authorized amounts set by the 2021 Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act, 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, and other legislation. State and local investments continue at FY2024 levels. Values not adjusted for inflation.
3. Data taken from ASCE Bridging the Gap 2024 study.
4. Data taken from ASCE Bridging the Gap 2024 study.
5. Data taken from Cartesian and the Fiber Broadband Association.
6. Data taken from the Association of State Dam Safety Officials, Congressional Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Congressional Budget Office, and the Associated Press.
7. Data taken from ASCE Bridging the Gap 2024 study.
8. Data taken from ASCE Bridging the Gap 2024 study.

9. Data taken from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of Energy, and Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO).
10. Data taken from ASCE Bridging the Gap 2024 study.
11. Data taken from ASCE 2021 Report Card for America's Infrastructure and the Congressional Budget Office.
12. Data taken from the National Parks Service, the National Association of State Parks Directors, the Trust for Public Land, Property and Environmental Research Center, and Congressional Research Service.
13. Data taken from ASCE Bridging the Gap 2024 study.
14. Data taken from ASCE Bridging the Gap 2024 study.
15. Data taken from the 21st Century Schools Fund.
16. Data taken from ASCE Bridging the Gap 2024 study.
17. Data taken from ASCE Bridging the Gap 2024 study.

Employee Spotlight

Kevin Grammer (Carbondale)

Director of Operations – Southern Illinois



Kevin and his wife, Rebecca, share a full and lively family life with five children and seven grandchildren, soon to be nine by this fall.

A proud graduate of Southern Illinois University–Carbondale, he earned his BS in Civil Engineering before beginning a career that has now spanned more than four decades.

His professional journey includes:

- 22 years with IDOT as a Bridge and Hydraulics Engineer, Traffic Operations Engineer, and Operations Engineer (He eventually transitioned to a reciprocal retirement system for better long term financial benefits.)
- 12 years as Union County Highway Engineer, where he retired from public service to begin a new consulting chapter.
- 5½ years with HEI, where he currently serves as Director of Operations in the Carbondale office, overseeing daily operations and leading client development throughout Southern Illinois.

What motivates you to mentor young engineers? How do you balance mentoring with your workload?

“I don’t consider training or mentoring something that needs to be balanced with my workload. It’s one of the most important things I can offer HEI. I was privileged to learn from the people who built the interstates, they knew how to do things correctly,

efficiently, and on time. I strive to pass that knowledge and mindset to others.”

Which professional accomplishments make you most proud?

“I’ve designed and built millions of dollars’ worth of roads and bridges, fought multiple federally declared natural disasters, testified on the floor of the Illinois House of Representatives, and received several professional awards.

But my proudest accomplishments walked into the office as nervous prospective employees and are now designing and building projects that make a real difference in people’s lives projects that will outlast us all.”

What is the best advice someone has given you?

“My dad once told me, ‘In any relationship, try to outgive the other party.’”

What is a fun fact that might surprise people?

“I’m something of a horticulturist. We operated a community supported agriculture vegetable farm for several years, raising 10,000–15,000 pounds of produce annually. We sold to residents and local businesses and donated the excess to food pantries.”

What hobby or activity do you enjoy most?

“Three years ago, with encouragement from my wife and son, I picked up a golf club for the first time. What a mistake. I’m not very good, but I really enjoy trying to play. I love the challenge and the beauty and quiet of the courses.”

What book are you currently reading?

“Golfing for Dummies... LOL.”

Where would you most like to travel and why?

“I’d like to see Italy someday. My grandfather served in WWII in North Africa, Italy, France, and Germany. I’d love to visit the places he told me about.”



Employee Spotlight

Christina Cane (Hannibal)

Lead Architect



Christina is a registered architect licensed in Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. She brings a depth of experience and a passion for thoughtful design to every project. She maintains an active NCARB record in good standing and are a proud member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

For Christina, the most rewarding part of the profession is watching a project evolve from concept to construction. Guiding clients through the balance of wants and needs, code requirements that protect building occupants, and the reality of budget is a challenge they embrace with skill and care.

Born and raised in Quincy, Illinois, Christina still has strong ties to home. Family remains in Quincy, and their brother Michael currently serves in the Navy in Fort Worth, Texas. A love for creating began early, sparked by K'Nex, Legos, and a sixth grade math project that involved designing and modeling a house. That moment ignited a lifelong interest in architecture.

Christina earned both a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies and a Master of Architecture from Southern Illinois University Carbondale, graduating as part of the inaugural master's class of just eight students. Since entering the field in 2008, they have grown from intern architect to design and project management professional, achieving their first licensure in 2015.

Outside of work, she shares life with their partner of ten years, Lanny Pollock, along with a lively household that includes Sampson the dog, two cats, Smokey and tiny Chaos, and a cockatiel named Spinner. Travel is a favorite pastime,

especially by Amtrak; memorable trips include cross country rides out west and all the way to Miami. Their most remarkable journey was a 10 day trip to Egypt during graduate school.

Professional Accomplishment They're Most Proud Of

Christina highlights their project management role on the Sangamo Building partial demolition and reconstruction in Springfield, Illinois. The project required coordinating numerous trades to safely demolish the Illinois EPA office at the center of the complex while keeping the surrounding occupied spaces fully operational. The work also included designing new entrances, restoring brick walls uncovered during demolition, reorganizing interior spaces, and meeting a strict deadline to deliver a 90 foot right of way for the new high speed rail line.

Best Advice They've Received

"Don't present your client—or your project manager—with a problem without offering at least one workable solution."

Fun Facts

I have played violin since fourth grade and currently performs with the regional Quincy Symphony Orchestra. I also enjoy origami, often folding tiny peace cranes from gum wrappers and leaving them behind as small surprises.

Hobbies & Creative Outlets

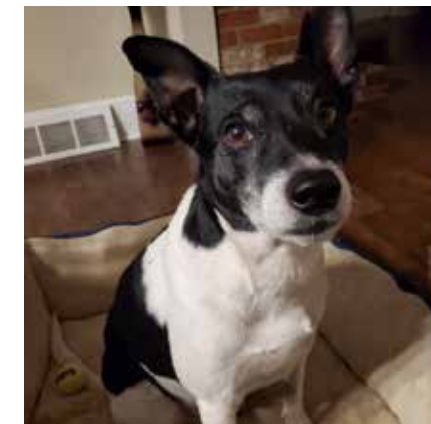
Board and card games, cooking, baking, and spending time outdoors.

What They're Reading

More often listening than reading: currently Alaska by James Michener on Audible.

Dream Travel Destination

Barcelona, Spain — especially to experience its extraordinary architecture, including the nearly completed Sagrada Família.





Moline Office Hosts APWA's May Meeting

HEI was proud to sponsor a Lunch and Learn at the APWA monthly meeting on May 20 and showcase our design and construction engineering work through a project tour in East Moline.

As part of the city's downtown revitalization initiative, our team is helping shape a more vibrant, connected community. **Jason Petentler (Moline)** led the tour, sharing expert insight on project progress, lessons learned, and the behind the scenes stories that highlight the value of thoughtful engineering and strong partnerships.

IAFSM Annual Conference

Tom Clark (Morton) attended the Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management (IAFSM) Annual Conference in Champaign on March 11-12 where he toured University of Illinois's hydraulic lab, Ven Te Chow Hydrosystems Laboratory.



What's Hot in the Industry: *Data Center Boom*



Craig Young (Shorewood) is the project manager for the construction inspection of the Village of Minooka's infrastructure for the new Data Center. Situated on over 350 acres of former farmland near Ridge and Holt Roads, the site will house seven buildings and over 1 million square feet of AI-ready infrastructure.

Project Timeline

- **Construction:** Initial mass grading began in early 2026, with main vertical construction slated to begin in July.
- **Opening:** The campus is expected to be fully commissioned and operational by 2031.

Economic Impact

- **Investment:** The Equinix development represents a roughly \$2B capital investment in the region.
- **Job Creation:** The project will provide a significant boost to local labor by utilizing hundreds of contract and supplier workers, while also adding permanent on-site technology and security jobs.
- **Tax Revenue:** The facility is projected to generate upwards of \$7M in local taxes for the Village of Minooka within its first 10 years.



For additional information please look at the [City of Minooka Data Center FAQ and Fact Sheet](https://www.minooka.com/news/posts/minooka-data-center-faq-and-fact-sheet/).

<https://www.minooka.com/news/posts/minooka-data-center-faq-and-fact-sheet/>

Infrastructure spending is heavily skewed toward technological needs, with data center construction and digital infrastructure spending up over 24.9%

A data center is a secure, centralized physical facility that houses thousands of networked computers, servers, and data storage drives. It acts as the backbone of the digital economy, storing, processing, and distributing massive amounts of data so you can seamlessly access cloud services, stream media, and use AI applications.



What a Data Center Does

At its core, a data center is the "engine room" for all internet-based services and applications. Its primary functions include:

- **Data Storage:** Safely houses digital files, ranging from personal emails and photos to vast corporate databases and government records.
- **Processing & Compute:** Runs the software and applications we use daily—from banking and online shopping to remote work platforms and navigation.
- **AI & Machine Learning:** Modern data centers utilize specialized processors (GPUs) to train and run artificial intelligence models, powering generative AI tools.



Jacksonville Hosts Bicentennial Time Capsule Ceremony

HEI was part of Jacksonville's Bicentennial celebration last month. Their Bicentennial Committee hosted a community time capsule burial ceremony on Tuesday, May 26, in Central Park Plaza located in Downtown Jacksonville.

Residents and visitors were invited and asked to join this special event honoring 200 years of Jacksonville's history while looking ahead to the next century of growth and community pride.

Before the burial, the time capsule contents were on public display from 4:30–5:30 PM. Attendees had the chance to view letters, memorabilia, and meaningful items selected to represent Jacksonville in 2025.

HEI included some small trinkets along with a flash drive that contained our firm profile which showed who our board of directors were along with some fun newsletter stories.



HEI Attends OHS Career Fair

Tanner Ditchfield, Wayne Phillips and **Austin Phillips (Shorewood)** had a great time at the Ottawa High School Career Fair this spring. It was inspiring to meet so many OHS students interested in pursuing careers in engineering. Many are already planning to connect with universities offering civil programs. We're glad we could be there to guide them, share insights, and answer their questions.



Milan Chamber Shooting Event

HEI was proud to serve as this year's Registration Table Sponsor at the Milan Chamber Shooting Event. Sponsorships like this strengthen our presence in the business community while reinforcing our commitment to local engagement.

Supporting Chamber programming not only elevates brand visibility, it also creates meaningful opportunities to connect with business leaders and decision makers.

HEI took first place! Staff members there representing HEI were **JD Schulte, Jason Petentler, Thorian Twiner (Moline), Wayne Phillips, Austin Phillips (Shorewood)** and **Nate Parrott (Morton)**.



Chilly Temps and Great Swings at the IACE Spring Golf Event

The IACE Spring Golfing Event brought plenty of cold weather this year—brrrr—but that didn't stop us, along with our clients, from making some impressive shots. Despite the chill, spirits stayed high and the competition stayed strong. **Joe Hutchison, Tom Winkelman (Jacksonville)** and **Marcy Leach (Beloit)** enjoyed the day golfing with county staff.

Ditchfield Featured in U of I Alumni Success Story Series



We're excited to share that our very own Tanner Ditchfield was recently featured in the University of Illinois' Alumni Success Story series. In the interview, Tanner reflects on his college experience and his transition into the professional world.

Click the link to read his full story and join us in celebrating this well deserved recognition.

My passion for nature and the outdoors began at 10 years old when I joined the Boy Scouts of America program, and upon receiving my Eagle Scout rank, I knew instantly that a career working with the environment was something I wanted to pursue. Through my older brother, a senior at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign at the time, I was exposed to the phenomenal culture and community of the University, making my decision to study Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) an absolute given. Although my concentration was Fish Wildlife and Conservation Biology, I found myself really enjoying the soils aspect in my NRES 201: Introductory Soils class with Dr. Yuji Arai, which largely impacted my interests, especially in my current profession, where I work heavily with soil samples and data. For me, it is an inspiring feeling to see your college classes and all the knowledge you gained as a student tie so seamlessly into your career post-grad.

A big part of my college experience was my membership in the agriculture-focused Alpha Gamma Rho (AGR) fraternity, where I served in various roles on the chapter board, including as president for my junior and senior years. It was a fantastic leadership experience guiding our 70+ members to financial, academic, and social success, and earning us the highest national GPA ranking for any AGR chapter for two consecutive semesters. The friendships and memories I made living at the fraternity house are irreplaceable and ones I have taken with me in my life post-graduation – I hardly go a day without getting a phone call from somebody I was in

AGR with! I couldn't have imagined college without it, that's for sure. Outside of my fraternity, I integrated myself into the environmental sciences community through connecting with other students in my major, reaching out and building relationships both in and outside of class. It was important to me to understand perspectives different from my own and learn from my intelligent and motivated peers.

The summer after my sophomore year, I interned at the renowned Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, where I spent the summer performing water quality testing throughout streams and lakes in Northern Illinois. The following year, I made connections in our close-knit Champaign community and landed an internship with Waterborne Environmental, a private client-based organization, where we worked throughout Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri. Just by getting yourself involved in your local community and taking advantage of the academic and professional connections offered by your college, you open up doors to some exceptional possibilities.

Currently, I work as an Environmental Specialist at Hutchinson Engineering, where I evaluate the environmental impacts of various civil engineering projects, conduct preliminary site assessments, collect data, and collaborate with engineers to ensure compliance with environmental protection laws. I look forward to continuing my journey at Hutchinson and eventually leading my own team of environmental specialists!

My number one piece of advice for undergrads is to surround yourself with people who challenge you; not only is it eye-opening to learn from people who are experienced and well-versed in a certain industry or skill, but it also pushes you to achieve even greater feats for yourself. Don't hesitate to branch out and get involved as much as you can on campus, because the connections you make at U of I are with you for life, and you never know when paths will cross again in the professional world. It is also important to understand that balance is key to academic and personal success; having an outlet, hobby, or RSO outside of class minimizes burnout and guarantees you an unforgettable college experience. So, entertain every opportunity, seek out connections in and out of class, and build a network of peers and professionals that motivate and inspire you to become the best version of yourself.

<https://lnkd.in/gb2ZvDTc>

New Hires



Forrest Gross
Jacksonville



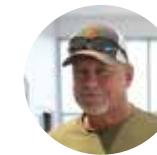
Ryan VanGilder
Shorewood



Hunter Mull
Peoria



Dallas McKenzie
Peoria



Randy Bryan
Beloit



David Shuman
Beloit



Gayathri Meda
Beloit



Summer Interns



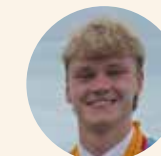
Samantha Barnes
Jacksonville



Anna Deen
Jacksonville



Ryan Hutchison
Jacksonville



Andrew Hobrock
Jacksonville



Brock McCulloch
Jacksonville



Garrett Meyer
Jacksonville



Griffin Roegge
Jacksonville



Mani Moore
Jacksonville



Aric Threadgill
Shorewood



Clayton Fusinetti
Shorewood



Emma Overall
Shorewood



Addison Ernat
Shorewood



Lainey Kunert
Moline



Katie Keirn
Carbondale



Cordelia Lemons
Carbondale



Avery Coyle
Beloit

Achievements



Congratulations to **Caleb Newell (Jacksonville)** who received his PE license in March.



Congratulations to **Nathan Clemens (Peoria)** who received his Engineer Intern certification in February.

Marriages



Congratulations to Annie & **Caleb Newell (Jacksonville)** who were married on April 25, 2026.



Congratulations to Braelyn & **Kody Brower (Moline)** who were married on May 25, 2026.

Births



Congratulations to Jacky & **Trevor Heddins (Shorewood)** on the birth of their son, Aziah Luis Heddins, born January 13, 2026.



Congratulations to Jen & **Dominick Massa (Moline)** on the birth of their son, Callum David Massa, born May 26, 2026.



Congratulations to **Devon Leach (Moline)** who recently returned from Barcelona where he proposed to his soon-to-be wife, Jayda!

The church in the background of their photo is the beautiful Basilica de la Sagrada Família. Designed by legendary Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí, it is famous for its nature-inspired “forest” interior, vibrant stained glass, and 18 towering spires.



Prevent Tech Neck

Stepping away from your computer breaks sedentary habits, preventing “tech neck,” spinal strain, and digital eye strain. Regular movement also increases circulation, eases muscle stiffness, and protects your long-term cardiovascular and metabolic health.

Implement these quick, actionable habits to safeguard your health:

The 20-20-20 Rule

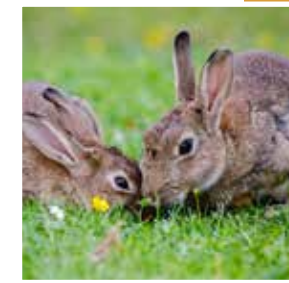
Every 20 minutes, look at an object located at least 20 feet away for 20 seconds. This simple habit relaxes your eye muscles and helps prevent digital eye strain.

Hourly Micro-Breaks

Get up and walk away from your desk for at least 5 minutes every hour. A short walk stretches your hip flexors, improves circulation, and alleviates back and neck pain caused by prolonged sitting.

Hydrate and Blink

While staring at monitors, our normal blink rate is cut in half, leading to dry and irritated eyes. Make it a habit to forcefully blink 5 times during a break and grab a glass of water.



Funny Facts Corner

Weird and Unusual Facts

- *Astronaut allergic to the Moon:* During the Apollo 17 mission, astronaut Harrison Schmitt experienced a severe reaction to Moon dust, showing that even space exploration has unexpected challenges.
- *Toilet museum in New Delhi:* The Sulabh International Museum of Toilets showcases toilets from 2,500 BC to modern times, including an 18th-century Austrian toilet shaped like a lion.
- *Illegal to feed pigeons in San Francisco:* Feeding pigeons on sidewalks is prohibited to protect both the birds and neighborhoods.

Science and Nature

- Grapes can catch fire in the microwave: When microwaved, grapes can form plasma due to clustered electrons and ions, creating a small fireball.
- Humans shed 200 million skin cells per hour: These cells, along with skin oils like squalene, can help reduce indoor ozone levels by up to 15%.
- Rabbits eat their feces: Rabbits re-digest certain droppings called cecotropes to absorb nutrients efficiently.

Pop Culture and History

- Daniel Radcliffe's Harry Potter glasses: He was allergic to nickel, so his glasses had no lenses on set, with lenses added in post-production.
- Titanic line improvised: Leonardo DiCaprio's famous “I'm king of the world!” line was improvised during filming.
- Nintendo trademark: The phrase “It's on like Donkey Kong” was trademarked in 2010.

Fun Animal Facts

- Pizzly Bear: If a polar bear and a grizzly bear mate, their offspring is called a “Pizzly Bear.”
- Average bear teeth: Adult bears have 42 teeth, including 4 canines, 12 incisors, 16 premolars, and 10 molars.