

PENNSYLVANIA SPOTLIGHT

ENGINEERING WEEK

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By Eric W. Tappert, P.E.

Governor Wolf proclaims the week of Feb. 22nd to 28th as Engineers Week in the Commonwealth

Governor Wolf has proclaimed the week of February 22nd to 28th

as Engineers Week in the Commonwealth, joining the rest of the country in a celebration of engineering.

The theme for this year's celebration is "Engineering New Horizons." Engineers, who apply their special knowledge of science and mathematics to the solution of real world problems, have been blazing new horizons for centuries. From the elimination of disease by providing safe water and sanitation systems, to the banishment of darkness with



Eric W. Tappert

electrical power, to advanced communications systems that tie the entire world together instantaneously, to transportation systems utilizing automobiles, trains, ships, and even planes up in the wild blue yonder, to the production of all kinds of useful fertilizers and agricultural machines to enhance food production, and a myriad of other farfetched advances that better the existence of humanity. Far flung adventures have taken us to the edge of the solar system, gazed deeply into the very beginnings of our universe, and even put men on the moon for a stroll and an impromptu golf shot. A glance at the past might just lead one to conclude that all is done.

But all is not done, as exemplified by this year's theme.

There are countless new horizons to be conquered, new inventions to produce, new infrastructure to build, and new worlds to explore. The world is beautiful in its infinite scope, yet incredible in its infinitesimal detail and much of it still needs to be explored, understood, and creatively used to improve the lot of us all.

So we take a week to celebrate with banquets around the Commonwealth, seminars, special displays, and other activities that honor the engineers that do so much to improve our lives. At the national level days are designated for programs to Introduce Girls to Engineering on February 26th, DiscoverE Engineering Family Day on February 28th at the National Building Museum in Washington DC, and

the Future City Competition National Finals on February 17th.

Here in Pennsylvania there are numerous Banquets honoring engineers with awards with titles of "Engineer of the Year" and "Young Engineer of the Year" in addition to honoring top engineering educators and engineering projects. Often these ceremonies are accompanied by some continuing education; always necessary to keep up with the advances in science and technology. February also boasts of the time for MathCounts competitions that are held around the state. MathCounts is a mathematics competition for middle school students and the local competitions will have over 1200 students competing. Winners at the local level advance to

the state completion, with the state winners having a super bowl of a competition at the national level, this year on May 8th in Boston, MA.

So engineers take a week to look at their achievements, encourage students, and celebrate their honorable profession. Fear not, for the following week will find them back at work changing the world for the better; after all there are new horizons to conquer. Take a moment and thank an engineer. For those interested in engineering, DiscoverE.org is a good source of resources.

Eric W. Tappert, P.E. has had a long career in the telecommunications field and earned his engineering degrees from the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Colorado. ■

Precis Commissioning launches as independent, woman-owned partner of Precis Engineering

AMBLER, PA — **Precis Commissioning**, a woman-owned company providing building commissioning services, has spun off from **Precis Engineering**.

"I saw a significant opportunity to focus and expand our commissioning services beyond our current service portfolio. We will continue to work cooperatively with building owners, design teams, and operations staff to solve problems while improving facility operations," said **Precis Commissioning** founder **Kari Anne Donovan, PE, CxA**. "Our strategic partnership with **Precis Engineering** gives us the depth of resources and engineering expertise to effectively meet the needs of our clients."

"Kari has long been a valued part of our engineering and commissioning teams," explained **Precis Engineering** principal **Robert Dick, PE**. "We know and trust her leadership and look forward

to collaborating with her as a fellow business owner."

Precis Commissioning

rate functions of equipment startup, system calibration, balancing, and employee



Kari Donovan

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launched January 1, 2015. The company provides objective, third-party building commissioning services for pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical customers, including testing, inspection, and documentation of building systems and equipment to ensure functionality according to design intent and client requirements. Services include commissioning within the cGMP environment in support of validation efforts as outlined within the ASTM e2500 standard guide.

Commissioning coordinates the traditionally sepa-

training for efficiency, consistency, and safety.

The **Precis Commissioning** team includes registered engineers who have designed and overseen construction of the systems the firm commissions, and former field personnel who have maintained and operated those systems.

"Our comprehensive background allows us to better tailor our service to our customer's needs," said **Donovan**. "It affords us valuable perspective to increase client profitability and optimize operational performance." ■

Wolf's Transition Review Team selects Johnson of TPD

PENNSYLVANIA — **Traffic Planning and Design (TPD)**

president,

Kevin Johnson,

Named to

Governor-Elect

Wolf's

Transition

Review

Team PA

Governor-Elect,

Tom Wolf,

has named the individuals

to serve on 24 separate

Transition Review Teams

to "work with the outgoing

administration to better

understand the issues and

challenges that face the

executive branch," according

to Wolf.

Johnson will join the

Team co-chairs, **Kathy**

Dahlkemper (Erie County

Executive)

and **Eric Menzer** (York

Revolution president and

general manager), as well

as his Team's 16 other

members, in "reviewing

state agencies and providing

insight into issues that

will allow the Governor-Elect

to have the knowledge

necessary to hit the ground

running on January 20th".

During his 30 year career



Kevin Johnson

as a transportation professional, **Johnson** has prepared and managed highway and

*During his 30 year career as a transportation professional, **Johnson** has prepared and managed highway and intersection final design plans for hundreds of projects, as well as thousands of traffic impact and parking studies nationwide.*

intersection final design plans for hundreds of projects, as well as thousands of traffic impact and parking studies nationwide. He is the second engineer to serve on the SEPTA Board of Directors where he is the Chairman of the Administrative Committee and the Audit Committee. Prior to joining the SEPTA Board, **Johnson** was a Board Member of the Chester County Planning Commission.

TPD is a civil engineering firm specializing in transportation engineering and related construction and environmental services with eight offices serving the Mid-Atlantic region. ■