

President's Message

Ladies and gentlemen: We're Number One! Yes, indeed: the decades of dedication, commitment, growth and leadership have led to our Pittsburgh Section's recognition at the national level as the Outstanding Section & Branch for 2014. This reflection of our past staunch board of direction officers and membership – those who have been engaged, energized and shared of their erudition freely – deserves to be promoted and celebrated year-round!

Alongside this newly achieved pinnacle come greater responsibilities: sustaining our reigning title by strengthening our ranks and continuing to excel. To achieve this goal we need you. So my message – more of an invitation – to all of our members is: participate in our legacy.

Participation in our Section's meetings, seminars and activities boosts our outreach to our community members and our influence with our legislators. The reason is multi-faceted: through involvement we become engaged, through engagement we spread the word on our profession and its goals, and, as this network grows, our attendance grows. And numbers speak – loudly. Combined with the quality of the activities and aims our Section has and our messages become even more resounding, more news worthy, and more influential.

As most of you know, fund allocations typically follow numbers. Thus, my aim to sustain and strengthen the work and achievements attained by Section's past leaders and members is to increase our membership's participation, involvement and leadership. Each one of you counts: students as the transcendence and unbridled aspirations of our profession; young engineers for their cutting-edge rigor, vigor and trail-blazing engagement; senior engineers for their staunch commitment to advance our technical and organizational expertise; distinguished engineers for their sage advice, guidance and self-less mentorship. All groups sacrifice time, energy, and resources to civil engineering; and I strive to recognize their work and to promote these achievements as to entice more Section members to contribute to this transcendent legacy. To this end, our Board of Direction and I will communicate constantly and consistently our Section's goals, activities, plans, and yes, past achievements, as part of the endurance and testimony of our membership's accomplishments. I will rely on the Board to assure our work reflects our aims and builds on the award-winning legacy we have inherited.

Some of the opportunities to join the Board and yours truly in our Section endeavors include: Science and Engineering fairs and competitions – civil engineering judges are constantly in demand; Infrastructure Day – May 11th this year: represent our profession's voice; attend or present at the annual Sustainability Conference; Younger Member Forum events (they don't card but bifocals give 'seasoned' participants away); one-day autumn and spring seminars; monthly technical seminars and board of direction meetings; and other activities weekly updated at our revamped website and – new this year – interactive blog. *Little known fact:* one of the facets that makes our Section worthy of our recent national award is that we top – that's right top – the number of events for younger members.

The Pittsburgh Section *earned* the recognition of Outstanding Section & Branch 2014. Join us in sustaining this achievement and strengthening this legacy. We heartily encourage our members to

remain active, participate in our committees, and continue to fuel our leadership through the “three E’s”: engagement, erudition and energy!

Sincerely yours,

N. Catherine Bazán-Arias, PhD, PE

President, ASCE Pittsburgh Chapter 2015-2016