

Wednesday, April 23 Featured Speakers



Shari Harley

**Opening
Keynote**

Shari Harley, author of [How to Say Anything to Anyone](#) and founder of [Candid Culture](#), will open the conference with an inspirational leadership program. She is known globally as an engaging, funny, content-rich business speaker. Her international training firm, [Candid Culture](#), is making it easier to tell the truth at work by bringing candor back to the workplace. A former human resources practitioner and operations leader, Harley's practical approach has led her to speak and train in Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, India, Dubai and Australia. From "Making Meetings Work" and "Delegating Better" to "Managing Your Career" and "Saying Anything to Anyone," her tips are sure to delight and inform in a real, direct and very funny way ([watch a preview](#)). She was the featured speaker and workshop leader of [ACEC National's 2024 Women's Leadership Forum](#). (NOTE: all April 23 conference attendees will receive a copy of [How to Say Anything to Anyone](#).)



**Gregory R. Kingsley,
PE, PHD**

**Grand Conceptor
Luncheon**

Gregory R. Kingsley PE, PhD (KL&A) will present on [Boulder Community Hospital Deconstruction & Steel Reuse](#), a project that won [ACEC Colorado's 2025 Engineering Excellence Awards'](#) Grand Conceptor honor and is the first in North America to designate salvaged structural steel for new commercial construction. Kingsley is principal and president emeritus at KL&A and has long enjoyed collaborating on challenging architectural projects with innovative structural systems in a variety of materials. His current passion is for innovative wood structures and in the rapidly growing field of mass timber construction, which he considers the best hope for marrying carbon sequestration with environmental responsibility. He is a past [recipient of ACEC Colorado's George Washington Award](#).



Dan Oblinger

**Reception
Keynote**

Dan Oblinger, author of [Life or Death Listening](#), [The 28 Laws of Listening](#), and [Negotiation Mythbusters](#) and founder of [Leadercraft](#), will wrap up the first day of the conference with an inspiring message in conjunction with the [ACEC Colorado Foundation's](#) scholarship awards and reception. He is a hostage negotiator commander, international speaker and business consultant who specializes in working with architects, engineers and construction managers. Whether speaking at conferences, facilitating workshops for active listening and negotiation skills, or coaching and consulting with companies to build strong agreements, Oblinger loves to share his craft and enhance culture. He is a graduate of the FBI National Crisis Negotiator Course in Quantico, Va., and his books are used for internal negotiations training programs for companies ranging from large, multinational conglomerates to small design firms. Oblinger has been a highly rated faculty member in [ACEC Colorado's Leadership Series](#) for two years, as well as speaker for many other ACEC membership organizations.

Thursday, April 24 Featured Speakers



Gayle Sturdivant,
PE, PMP
Morning Keynote

[Gayle Sturdivant](#) is a distinguished leader in civil engineering and public works whose career has been defined by technical expertise, strategic leadership, and a deep commitment to public service. Gayle began her professional journey serving six years on active duty with the [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#), where she took on critical engineering assignments in Germany and Bosnia. Following her military service, Gayle transitioned into the private sector, dedicating 19 years as a consulting engineer. In 2017, Gayle returned to public service and returned to Colorado Springs in 2020, where she served as the [City Engineer and Deputy Public Works Director](#). She is recognized for her expertise in complex procurement strategies, alternative project delivery methods, and infrastructure asset management.

Beyond her technical contributions, Gayle is deeply committed to mentorship, leadership development, and the advancement of the project management profession. She holds Professional Engineer licenses in both Colorado and Nebraska and is a Project Management Professional (PMP). She serves in a leadership position on the [Pikes Peak Area Council of Government \(PPACG\) Transportation Advisory Committee](#) and sits on the [National League of Cities \(NLC\) Transportation and Infrastructure Services Committee](#), where she advocates for streamlined and sustainable transportation funding nationwide.



Nando Gomez
Closing Keynote

As Senior Vice President of Energy and External Affairs, [Nando Gomez](#) works the ACEC National policy and political team, to expand its influence, strengthen key relationships, and enhance ACEC's presence across important networks. Nando joined ACEC in September 2022 with a focus on engagement strategies and comes with extensive experience in energy policy. Prior to joining ACEC, Nando managed Government Relations for the [American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers](#), the trade group representing the refinery and petrochemical industry. Nando began his Capitol Hill career serving as Legislative Director to [Congressman Martin Frost \(D-TX\)](#) and then as Chief of Staff to [Congressman Solomon Ortiz \(D-TX\)](#). Nando's first job after Capitol Hill was working Government Relations for [Honeywell International](#) for nearly a decade. A proud Texan, Nando is a graduate of the [University of Texas at Austin](#) and resides in Maryland with his wife Kristy and two sons.