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GBA NEWSlog

A publication of the Geoprofessional Business Association

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The 2026 GBA Photo and Video Contest Is Open

GBA's 2026 Photo and Video Contest is now open! This year's theme, **ALL IN: Uncompromising Commitment to the Geoprofessions**, invites GBA members to share your photos and short videos that capture the expertise, teamwork, safety, innovation, and project impact that define our profession. Submit your best field, lab, office, team, project, or video entry by August 31 to info@geoprofessional.org with the subject line **"2026 Photo Contest Submittal."**

[SEE DETAILS](#)[More GBA News](#)

New Case History Podcast: When Good Advice Goes Unheeded

In the newest episode of the GBA Podcast's Case History series, hosts Elizabeth Brown, P.E. (*JLT Consultants*) and Abi Corbett (*SME*) discuss Case History #10, a project-management case involving rejected recommendations, value-engineering pressure, and costly litigation. Listen to gain practical reminders about recognizing red flags, documenting recommendations, and protecting your firm.


[LISTEN NOW](#)
[DOWNLOAD CASE HISTORY](#)

The 1st Word: A New Look at Your Monthly GBA Update

GBA's monthly video update has a fresh new format. In the July edition of The 1st Word, we're experimenting with AI-powered avatar technology while continuing to deliver the news, resources, and opportunities that help firms grow and succeed. Watch the latest episode and let us know what you think of this new approach to sharing GBA news with members.


[WATCH](#)

Busy Is Not a Badge of Honor – Being Busy Vs. Being Productive

At the 2026 GBA Annual Conference, geoprofessional leaders came together in a series of Business Round Table discussions—peer-driven conversations focused on the real challenges shaping firms today. In the discussion on being busy vs. being productive, participants explored how firms distinguish value-added work from “noise” and measure productivity beyond billable hours.


[GET INSIGHTS](#)

Join GBA and CalGeo for CEO Summit 2026

We're excited to partner with CalGeo on the CEO Summit 2026, happening October 29-30 in San Francisco. This exclusive, high-impact Summit brings together CEOs and senior firm leaders for two days of meaningful connection and forward-looking conversation on the issues shaping our industry—AI strategy, workforce evolution, risk exposure, performance, and what's next for geoprofessional firms.


[LEARN MORE](#)

Committee Spotlight: Business Practices Committee

Across GBA, committees help turn member expertise into resources, leadership, and practical value for the association and the profession. The Business Practices Committee specifically helps members strengthen business performance through educational content on best practices. A recent example of the committee's work is organizing successful [Business Round Table](#) sessions and presenting the Business Snapshot Survey results at the 2026 Annual Conference.

Committee leadership: Chair Matt Van Rensler, P.E. (*Sanborn Head*), Vice Chair Mitch Quick, P.E. (*Strata*), Vice Chair Donald Blackburn (*Blackburn Consulting*).

Business Practices meetings are open to all members and are held virtually each month. If you're interested in joining the committee, learning more, or finding out when the next meeting is, contact GBA Committee Coordinator Stacey Moore at stacey@geoprofessional.org.



Best Practices: Change Order Management

This GBA member resource reframes change orders as part of delivering a complete professional service. It stresses communicating assumptions early, using kick-off meetings to set expectations, and documenting changes as they arise—so clients aren't blindsided and profitability is protected.


[DOWNLOAD](#)

Future GBA Events

[CEO Summit 2026](#)
[October 29-30, 2026 - San Francisco, CA](#)

[2026 Fall Leadership Summit](#)

[2027 GBA Annual Conference](#)

[November 5-6, 2026 -
Denver, CO](#)

[April 15-17, 2027 - British
Columbia, Canada](#)

GBA Member News



UES Expands Hydrogeological Expertise with Addition of Andreyev Engineering

UES announced the addition of Andreyev Engineering on June 29. Founded in 1993 by Nicolas Andreyev, Florida-based Andreyev Engineering provides comprehensive hydrogeological, geotechnical, and environmental services out of branches located in Sanford, Clermont, St. Petersburg, and The Villages. [READ MORE](#)



When Two Flood Models Are Better Than One

GZA Project Managers/Water Resource Engineers Rex Gamble, E.I.T. and Mia Hildebrandt, CFM, P.E., ENV SP, share how cross-checking hydrologic and hydraulic models for a complex multi-dam water system uncovered insights that strengthened risk evaluations, informed dam operations, and may have helped protect a downstream community. [READ MORE](#)



Terracon Partners with Department of War SkillBridge Program

Terracon is now an official partner in the Department of War SkillBridge Program, a workforce initiative that allows qualified military service members to spend their final 180 days of active duty gaining hands-on experience with approved industry partners. Veterans can bring unique advantages to a workplace due to their leadership and management experience, ability to think tactically and strategically, and commitment to overcome adversity and obstacles. [LEARN MORE](#)



Three Notch Group Names New President and CEO

For only the fourth time in the company's 80-year history, Three Notch Group will have a new Chief Executive. Matt Hames became the firm's President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

on July 1. Hames succeeds Mark Pugh, who has led the company for the past 23 years and will transition into the role of Senior Principal. [READ MORE](#)



Leadership Change for Data Management & Visualization Team

Sanborn Head announced the promotion of Sam Warner to Director of Data Management & Visualization (DM&V) on June 29. Sam assumes leadership of the firm's DM&V Center of Excellence from Vice President Rich Mechaber, P.G., who retired at the end of June. The Center of Excellence is a specialized team driving innovation in how Sanborn Head manages, analyzes, and visualizes complex project data to deliver greater value to clients. [READ MORE](#)



ECS Welcomes New Director of Business Development – Federal Market Sector

ECS Group of Companies (ECS) is excited to announce the addition of Will Breeden as Director of Business Development – Federal Market Sector. In this role, Breeden drives government go-to-market growth by identifying and pursuing strategic opportunities, navigating complex acquisition lifecycles, securing key partnerships and supporting ECS in winning contracts. [READ MORE](#)



ATC Williams Welcomes New Principals

ATC Williams is proud to announce three new principals for 2026: Dayjil Buhle, Dylan Rubinstein, and Nalin Subasinghe. ATC principals play a vital role as influencers and role models, both individually and collectively. As leaders, they are actively involved in delivering projects, mentoring teams, and shaping business direction. [READ MORE](#)



GTA Promotes Five Team Members to Associate

GTA's recent promotions recognize five dedicated professionals across the firm's York, Pennsylvania; Sterling, Virginia; and Little Ferry, New Jersey offices. Congratulations to:

- Eric Alvarez
- Tim Koppenhaver, P.E.

- Michael Sirull
- Ben Madison
- Doug Fernandez, P.E.

These promotions reflect the firm's commitment to growing leadership from within. [READ MORE](#)

Member Firms Celebrating Milestones in 2026

GBA wishes a happy anniversary to all these member firms celebrating milestones in 2026. Is your firm marking a special anniversary date this year? Let us know: info@geoprofessional.org



International Women in Engineering Day Across GBA

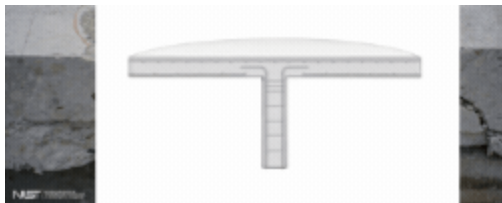
To mark International Women in Engineering Day on June 23, GBA member firms shared stories, photos, and messages recognizing women whose expertise and leadership strengthen the geoprofessions every day.



Have a story tip? Send it to us!



What We're Reading



NIST Identifies Root Cause of Champlain Towers South Collapse

The four-year NIST investigation into the Champlain Towers South collapse has identified the most likely sequence of failures and highlights critical lessons that may influence future industry practices.



How Scientists Helped Engineer the Perfect Soccer Field

The 2026 FIFA World Cup showcases more than elite athletic performance—it highlights how years of research, testing, and evidence-based design helped create safe, consistent playing surfaces across dozens of venues and climates.



Maximize Safety Programs with Behavior-Based Recognition

Instead of rewarding a single milestone, strong programs recognize the actions that lead to safer environments.



What Does the Class of 2026 Want from Their Post-Grad Jobs?

A new survey reveals that "Career growth is especially important to new college graduates, which means employers need to show clear pathways for advancement, provide meaningful support, and help early talent see how they can build a future



Related resource: [GBA Launches Safety Committee](#)

within the organization.” Enter, GBA’s Geoprofessional Career Ascent Program: [LEARN MORE](#)

More Industry Headlines

[ASTM Proposed Standard Provides Framework for Concrete Aggregate Reactions](#)

[New Initiative Embeds AI Engineers Directly on Construction Teams](#)

[\\$1.9 Billion Allocated for Disaster-Damaged Infrastructure](#)



Related resource: [Opportunities at the Climate Crisis and Infrastructure Nexus](#)

[Before Venezuela Earthquakes, Engineers Worried Buildings Could Collapse](#)

[Summer 2026 Checklist for Employers](#)

[Yukon Mine Receiver Sues Vancouver Firm for Negligence After Collapse](#)



Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice, and most of all, love of what you are doing.” - *Pelé*

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About GBA

The Geoprofessional Business Association (GBA) helps its members and their clients confront risk and optimize business performance by delivering unique professional resources, programs, and services that make them stronger and more successful.



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