



# Enhancing Professional Opportunities for Women in the Deep Foundations Industry



Metro NYC DFI Women in Deep Foundations (WiDF) Networking Event  
**"THE MENTORSHIP IMPACT"**  
**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2019**

Join DFI's Women in Deep Foundations (WiDF) Committee for a Metro NYC event on Wednesday, November 20, hosted at Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers (MRCE), 225 W 34<sup>th</sup> Street.



## PROGRAM

5:00 - 5:30 p.m. – Registration and Networking

5:30 - 6:15 p.m. – Speed Mentoring and Networking

Speed Mentoring is a series of short, focused conversations about specific questions. You will meet with a limited number of mentees in 8 - minute time slots each. When directed, mentees will proceed to their mentor's table. At the start and end of each Speed Mentoring round, a bell will ring. Mentees will then proceed to the next mentor table. There will be two minutes to switch and prepare for the next round. Mentees – think of ideas and questions to ask Mentors! List of Mentors will be shared in the next week.

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. – Panel Discussion

7:30 - 8:00 p.m. – Q&A



**SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE.**  
Contact Lucky Nagarajan at [lnagarajan@gikenamerica.com](mailto:lnagarajan@gikenamerica.com)

## PANELISTS



Roderic A. Ellman, Jr., P.E., principal at MRCE



Karen Armfield, P.E., senior technical director at AKRF



Helen Robinson, P.E., D. GE, branch manager/senior project manager at GEI Consultants



Andrew Burns, P.E., vice president estimating and engineering at Underpinning and Foundation Skanska



Cassandra Wetzel, P.E., district office manager and associate principal at GZA Geo Environmental

RSVP by November 15 to Lucky Nagarajan at [lnagarajan@gikenamerica.com](mailto:lnagarajan@gikenamerica.com).  
The Event is Free. Limited space is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

### **RODERIC A. ELLMAN, JR., PE.**

Ellman is a principal at Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers (MRCE) where he has nearly 40 years of experience as a structural engineer. As partner-in-charge, he manages teams of geotechnical and structural foundation engineers on numerous projects, including marine structures, transportation structures, and buildings. His area of specialization is in the structural design of marine structures, and in shallow and deep foundations.

Ellman has extensive experience in the design of foundations for transportation structures, bridges, slurry walls, underpinning, earth and rock tiebacks, sheeting and bracing, as well as grouting and epoxy sealing for retaining structures. He is active in industry organizations such as DFI where he is a founding member of and currently chairs the Marine Foundations Committee. He is the author or co-author of over 15 books, articles and papers on structural engineering topics such as marine structures, bridges and soil-structure interaction.

### **KAREN C. ARMFIELD, PE.**

Armfield is a senior technical director at AKRF in the geotechnical services team where she manages a broad range of land-based and water-based subsurface explorations, geotechnical engineering design, and special inspections. She has over 20 years of knowledge, skills, and experience providing engineering foundation solutions and ground improvements for various types of infrastructure — including the design of ports, rail, highways, bridges, airports and energy facilities.

Armfield is a licensed professional engineer in New York, Delaware, and Pennsylvania; an adjunct professor at the New York City College of Technology; a published author of more than 15 technical papers on geotechnical engineering; and a leader with ASCE and DFI. She has been involved with career development and mentoring of junior engineers for several years through her involvement with ASCE National and she is currently co-chair of ASCE's Committee of Professional Career Growth.

### **HELEN ROBINSON, PE., D.GE**

Robinson is a senior project manager and branch manager at GEI Consultants in Exton, Pennsylvania. She has over 17 years of experience providing design, analysis and construction management services for geotechnical and geostructural projects. She specializes in design of micropiles, tiebacks, soil nails, drilled

shafts, retaining walls, braced excavation support, and grouting and ground improvement methods.

Robinson was the inaugural chair of the DFI Women in Deep Foundations Committee and currently serves as trustee for the DFI Educational Trust. She was named 2019 Engineer of the Year for the Chester County Society for Professional Engineers and in the ENR National Top 20 Under 40 in 2019. She earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in civil engineering from Penn State University.

### **ANDREW BURNS, PE.**

Burns is vice president of engineering & estimating for Underpinning & Foundation Skanska (UFS) and a professional engineer licensed in the New York. He graduated from City College of New York in 1996 with a Bachelor of Engineering in civil engineering. He has worked as a construction superintendent for UFS; project manager for Spearin, Preston, and Burrows; chief engineer for Intercoastal Foundations & Shoring; and drilling operations manager for Posillico. He has extensive experience in the design and construction of driven and drilled deep foundations as well as support of excavation.

Burns has previously presented for ADSC, DFI, ASCE, and Construction Advancement Institute and currently serves on the External Advisory Board of the Civil Engineering Program at Stony Brook University (SUNY).

### **CASSANDRA A. WETZEL, PE.**

Wetzel is a senior vice president with GZA and manages its New York City operation. She has more than 24 years of experience as a geotechnical engineer with 20 years in New York City. Her projects include power generation, commercial building, residential and mixed-use building, waterfront redevelopment, healthcare and higher education facilities. Wetzel has served as the geotechnical design lead on projects including LaGuardia Delta Terminal D Redevelopment project, Astoria Generating Facility, MTA Sea Beach Line Improvements and 79th Street Boat Basin Pier. Leading and delivering on these projects has allowed for development of foundation solutions in challenging soil conditions.

Wetzel holds a bachelor's from California State University at Fresno and a master's in civil engineering from NYU Tandon School of Engineering. A licensed professional engineer in California and New York, she sits on the ACEC State Board of Directors and is a member of Professional Women in Construction.