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**The Academy of Coastal Ocean Port & Navigation Engineers
Launch Inaugural Induction Ceremony**

Reston, Va. – Specialty certifications programs are growing in most professions as the knowledge needed to practice continues to rapidly increase. Specialty certification supports the explosion of continuing professional development. The American Society of Civil Engineer's (ASCE) Academy of Coastal Ocean Port & Navigation Engineers (ACOPNE) will hold its Inaugural Diplomate Induction Ceremony Sunday, April 25, 2010 at the PORTS 2010 Conference in Jacksonville, Fla.

President Billy Edge said *"Adding a specialty credential beyond the professional license is an important trend in all professions to protect the public and to recognize leaders in the field who have specialized education, sufficient experience and the meets the highest ethical standards. We are extremely pleased with the reception from the profession and the public with the rollout of the Academy."*

Michael Walther, P.E.

Cliff Truitt, P.E. Ph.D.

Jim Marino, P.E.

Founded in October 2009 by practicing Coastal Ocean Port & Navigation Engineers (COPNE) who are members of the ASCE Coastal Ocean Port and Rivers Institute (COPRI); ACOPNE was created to offer a voluntary, post-license credential that provides professional engineers an opportunity to gain further recognition in the field of coastal, ocean, port and navigation engineering. The goal of ACOPNE is to improve the practice, elevate the standards and advance the COPNE profession and provides recognition to those individuals who have excelled in one or more of the sub-disciplines embraced by COPRI

COPNE is the branch of civil engineering engaged in the sustainable development and protection of coastal, ocean, port, and navigation environments for the benefit of society in the United States and foreign countries.

For more information about ACOPNE, go to www.acopne.org. For more information about the 2010 PORTS Conference, please visit <http://content.asce.org/conferences/ports2010/>.

Founded in 1852, the American Society of Civil Engineers represents more than 146,000 civil engineers worldwide and is America's oldest national engineering society. For more information, visit www.asce.org.