

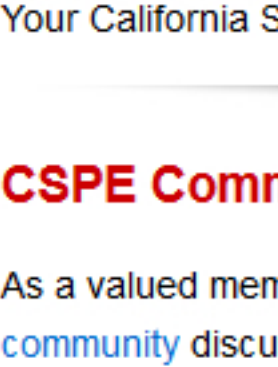
## CSPE CHAT: New Seasons, New Engineers

Dear California Engineers,

This quarter I had the privilege of spending time with some of California's teachers via workshops and panel discussions at the California State Department of Education. The message from the teachers and program leads were clear: how do we know what skills to provide to future California Engineers pursuing engineering and technical jobs?

In addition to the academic disciplines traditionally associated with STEM education there is also a need for data-based decision making, being comfortable with ambiguity in an ever changing technological landscape, engineering new projects not for engineering's sake, but for the benefits to public safety and quality of life. EITs and PEs are well equipped to work at this intersection between theory and application and nurturing future engineers to join the cause.

In meeting with teachers and administrators, seeing the success of MATHCOUNTS, being witness to the ambitions of the engineering students of Cal Maritime during our first NSPE-CA event of the year, I'm seeing an inspiring talent pipeline in our state and couldn't be prouder for us to do our part.



Austin S. Lin  
President (2017–19)  
Your California Society of Professional Engineers

## CSPE Community!

As a valued member of CSPE, we invite you to participate in our new [online members-only community](#) discussion board for California Engineers. We'll be using this spot for introductions and discussion topics ranging from artificial intelligence, PEs and emerging technologies, and other local issues important to California Engineers.

## California Department of Education

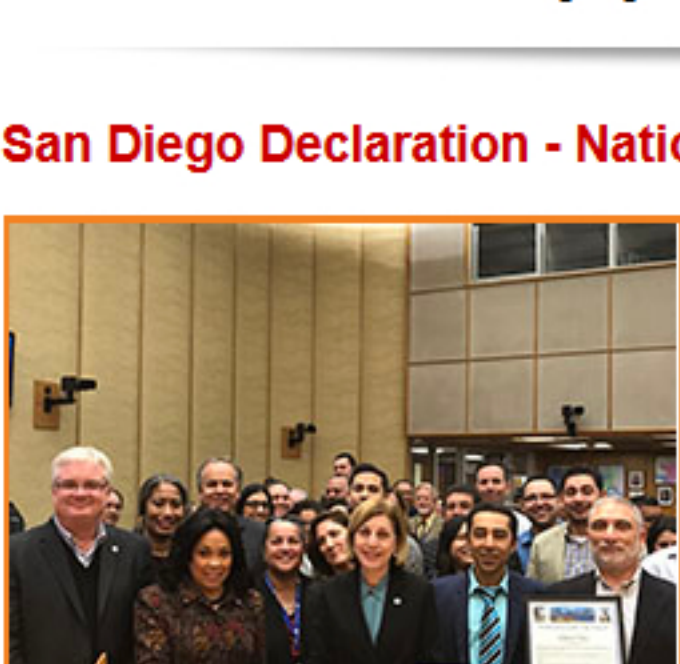
On March 5, we had a chance to speak on a panel for California State educators on integrating engineering and architecture career development into existing K-12 curriculum. This is a continuing relationship where CSPE leadership participates in helping educate and build future California Engineers in our K-12 education system. We'll be asking for your input as professional EITs, NICET technicians and PEs across California as we continue to participate with the California Department of Education on the skills needed for future engineering professionals.

## Engineering Careers and the Path from EIT to PE



CAL MARITIME CAMPUS MAIN BUILDING

Our first student chapter event happened on March 5 at California Maritime Academy. We had 38 students enrolled and two faculty members to promote career development and professional pathways from student to EIT to PE. We presented NSPE's Career Engineering Roadmap workshop to aspiring students who are committing to a lifelong career in the profession.



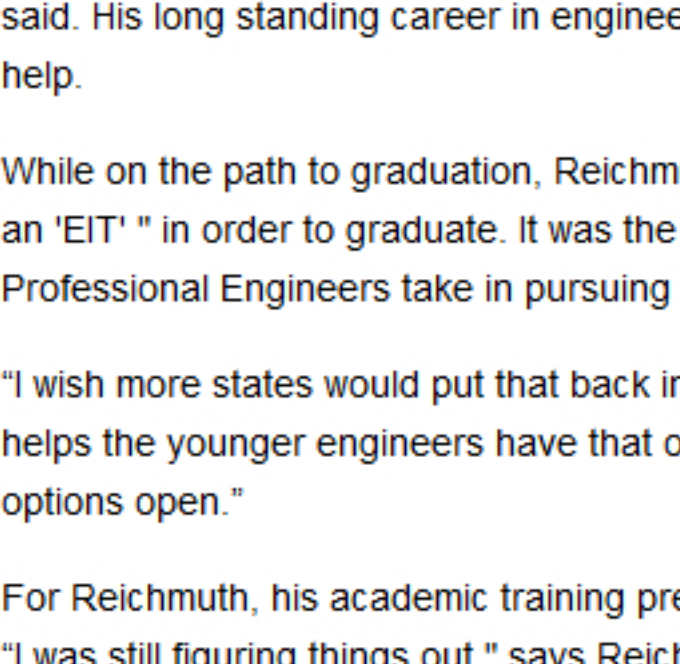
And there was pizza. Lots and lots of pizza.

Thanks to Cal Maritime for hosting a great event!

## San Diego Declaration - National Engineers Week



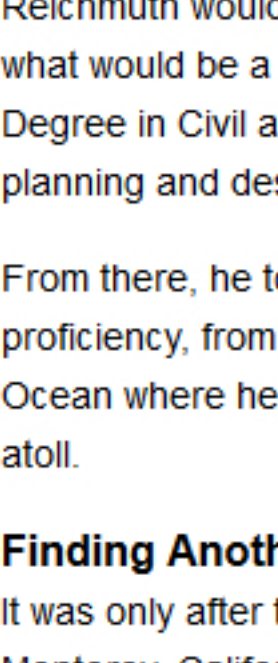
CSPE Treasurer Ken Discenza, PE (top photo - right) and San Diego leader Mehdi Khalili, PE (bottom photo - left) were among some of the California Engineers in late February that obtained proclamations from both the City and County of San Diego to honor National Engineers Week. They met with San Diego City Council member Barbara Bry and San Diego City Council President Myrtle Cole.



[Access the Proclamation from the City of San Diego](#)

[Access the Proclamation from San Diego County](#)

## The California Engineer: Naval Officer, Public Works Engineer, Theologian



BILL REICHMUTH, PE BS,  
CIVIL ENGINEERING - TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY MS,  
CIVIL & TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERING - UNIV. OF MARYLAND  
MASTER OF THEOLOGY - LOYOLA UNIVERSITY

### Give Me a Sign

His academic interest was in chemical engineering, but when Bill Reichmuth, an engineering undergraduate in Lubbock, Texas, started looking into what his job prospects could be, he saw a sign. He came across a job posting by the Texas Department of Transportation that was only hiring civil engineers.

For Reichmuth, that's all the convincing he needed. "It showed there were jobs out there." he said. His long standing career in engineering was about to begin. But he did get some career help.

While on the path to graduation, Reichmuth learned that he needed to earn "this thing called an 'EIT' " in order to graduate. It was the Engineer-In-Training designation, the first step all Professional Engineers take in pursuing engineering licensure.

"I wish more states would put that back in as a graduation requirement." says Reichmuth. "It helps the younger engineers have that option before their careers take off and keeps their options open."

For Reichmuth, his academic training prepared him for several opportunities after graduation. "I was still figuring things out." says Reichmuth. "I remember struggling with things like Laplace transforms and advanced engineering math. I wasn't sure about the [EIT exam]. But I felt pretty good overall walking out of the test."

Passing the EIT on his first try only forged additional confidence in his own engineering career path.

### The Ten Percent

After completing his degree in civil engineering at Texas Tech, Bill was accepted into the Naval Officer Candidate School (OCS) in Newport, Rhode Island. It was a competitive program and again, Reichmuth found himself applying his engineering thinking to come out as one of the program's highest performers. "They only offered commissions to the top ten percent of the class. I'm not sure I was that smart, " jokes Reichmuth, "but I know having that EIT helped. Even Harvard MBAs were having difficulty getting commissioned."

Reichmuth would become one of those ten percent, receiving his commission and starting off what would be a decade long career in the U.S. Navy, which included a Navy-funded Masters Degree in Civil and Transportation Engineering at the University of Maryland. He thesis: the planning and design of airports.

From there, he took his engineering skills with him around the world and honed his proficiency, from project management in Egypt and Southeast Asia to the middle of the Indian Ocean where he engineered ship to shore facilities and fuel systems atop the Diego Garcia atoll.

### Finding Another Calling

It was only after these adventures that Reichmuth and his wife, an educator, settled in Monterey, California to be closer to family. One of his first bosses there introduced him to NSPE and encouraged him to join, indicating it would further cement his professional experience and continue to build his leadership responsibilities.

Reichmuth would later start his own company, which after years of success, would be acquired by a construction engineering firm based in Texas. "So it all came full circle!" he laughed, reminiscing on his engineering beginnings in Lubbock.

After the sale of his engineering firm, Reichmuth soon accepted an offer to become Public Works Director for the City of Monterey. His experience expanded to cover even more government contracts and municipal projects on the Monterey Peninsula.

The next logical step after reaching so many successful career milestones?

For Reichmuth, it wasn't rest.

He would go on to earn a Master of Theology from Loyola University and become a Deacon of the Catholic Church, where he says his project management and financial skills as a business owner continue to help him serve his community, from leadership and mentoring in the Monterey Chapter of CSPE to restoring pipe organs for the Church.

When asked how he felt about all these accomplishments, he paused.

"Things aren't so bad." he said.

## CSPE Seeking Regional Lead for Greater Los Angeles Area

Are you an NSPE member in the Greater Los Angeles area interested in a high-visibility leadership role?

We're looking for a current NSPE/CSPE volunteer member who would be up for the challenge of organizing and leading PE events in the region.

The role would allow the Greater Los Angeles Regional Lead to broaden their personal network, become the face of CSPE in the region, and help energize and connect L.A. area Professional Engineers to one another.

[Up for the challenge? Introduce yourself here!](#)

## More CA News

- [California Gives the Go Ahead to Fully Driverless Cars to Operate](#)

## PEs Speak Their Minds on the Profession

Should more states eliminate their industry exemptions? Are there ways to improve licensure mobility and stop the erosion of the PE license? These are just a few of the issues facing the professional engineering community. Through the 2018 *Engineering Outlook* survey, PEs across the nation spoke out on these topics and more.

Participants revealed that the job market for engineers remains sound. More than 51% agree that the current job market is good for engineers, while 31% strongly agree. In the 2015 *Engineering Outlook* survey, 54% of participants agreed that the job market was good, while 23% strongly agreed. The majority of 2018 survey participants (52% agree and 21% strongly agree) are also satisfied with opportunities for professional advancement in the engineering field.

The *Engineering Outlook* survey also addresses the public's perception of the engineering profession. The vast majority of survey participants believe that the public perceives the engineering profession to be ethical, with 58% agreeing and 26% strongly agreeing that this is the case. Yet, when asked about the public's knowledge about the profession, the views shift. Nearly 54% agree and 28% strongly agree that despite increased attention given to STEM education in government policy, media, and outreach efforts, the public still doesn't know enough about the engineering profession compared to other learned professions (medicine, law, architecture, accounting). Many PEs find this to be an obstacle that needs to be overcome.

[Read more about the survey in the March/April \*PE\* magazine.](#)

## 2018 Professional Engineers Conference: Registration Opens!

NSPE's [Professional Engineers Conference](#) is an opportunity for PEs and those on the path to licensure to connect with like-minded professionals, earn continuing education credits, and learn about the profession's top issues. The 2018 conference will be July 18–22 at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

Online registration is now open! Register early and save. Early bird pricing ends on April 30.

## Don't Miss...

- [Test Your Ethics Knowledge](#). NSPE members are invited to test their knowledge of engineering ethics in the Milton F. Lunch Ethics Contest. The deadline for submissions is April 27.
- [Need Guidance on Engineering Ethics?](#) NSPE provides ethics resources that can help you deal with difficult issues through Board of Ethical Review cases, a licensure and ethics hotline, and more.
- [Advocate for the Profession](#). Access advocacy and outreach tools for promoting professional engineers and the issues of importance to PEs and the engineering profession.

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