

NSPE-California President's Update: From Snowfall to Spring Rising

Dear California Engineers,

Late last month, I timed my visit to the New York City area to perfectly coincide with the single day "thundersnow" that swept the Northeast. I spent most of the day huddled in an office building with designers and engineers as 24 hours of nonstop snowfall coated Manhattan city block by city block. My only solace was that three thousand miles away in California, spring was coming into its own.



The literal spring taking place in California was also a figurative one, where NSPE-California members just like you were on hand, sleeves-rolled to assist with the MATHCOUNTS events taking place at California Baptist University who served as our gracious hosts for the festivities this year. Continuing to build and foster a strong STEM talent pipeline from middle school through undergraduate studies is a key part of cultivating engineering talent here in the Golden State.

On the professional side of things, NSPE-California has partnered with NSPE National to stay on top of legislative issues important to California Engineers. This month, we share the first of such informational alerts and welcome further discussion from our members.

Wishing you and yours the best and your continued support of the engineering profession here in California across all stages of an engineer's development.

Austin S. Lin



NSPE-California President (2017–19)

Your National Society of Professional Engineers in California

San Diego/ Los Angeles Area MATHCOUNTS

California Baptist University (CBU) hosted the MATHCOUNTS competition this year. In total 170 students from 53 schools were represented. In addition to NSPE-California members from San Diego making the hour and a half drive to the Greater Los Angeles Area, many local volunteers helped make the event a successful one.

Dr. Kyle Stewart, a Professor of Physics at the University, gave a presentation on mathematics and astrophysics to the crowd of future scientists and engineers. To keep the entire STEM pipeline engaged, 60 engineering students from CBU volunteered their time to help register, proctor, and grade participants and CBU's own tireless staff worked their magic behind the scenes to keep the Events Center in MATHCOUNTS shape.

In addition to serving as the host venue, CBU's College of Engineering offered \$10,000 scholarship to winners who attend CBU Engineering full time after high school.

San Joaquin Engineers Council

On February 22, 2018 the San Joaquin Engineers Council (SJEC) held their annual Engineers week scholarship Banquet and the Engineer of the Year event. Several scholarships were awarded and the Engineer of the Year and the Distinguished Service Award recipients were recognized. This was another successful event by the Joint Engineers Council and the members of NSPE-California, all to support MATHCOUNTS.

Engineering, Law, & Technology (EL&T)

New! We will use this column to highlight important issues impacting PEs in California as they are brought to light. EL&T is brought to you thanks to a joint partnership with our team of full time NSPE'ers based at NSPE Headquarters in the Northern Virginia / Washington, DC metro area.

AB 2409 - Occupational Regulation and Public Practice

AB 2409 was referred to the Assembly Business and Professions Committee in California on April 2, 2018 and involves the right of an individual to engage in a profession without being subject to occupational regulation.

NSPE's Threats to Professional Licensure Map

For over a year now, NSPE has been tracking [threats to professional licensure](#) and posting them to a map on the Society's website.

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 are 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!](#)

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.

Recent Tragedies Serve As Reminder of PE's Role

NSPE has expressed its deepest condolences to the families of the victims and those involved in two recent tragedies: the [pedestrian bridge collapse](#) at Florida International University and the [fatal crash involving a fully autonomous vehicle](#) in Tempe, Arizona.

After such events, there is often a rush to assign blame. But it is important to examine the facts. At the same time, both of these incidents remind us of the important commitment licensed professionals make to hold the public health, safety, and welfare paramount.

This ethos and the PE's knowledge, skills, and experience greatly reduce the chances of such problems occurring and also increase the ability to learn from and prevent failures.

Unfortunately, tragedies resulting from failure of engineered systems are a [longstanding phenomenon](#). State licensure laws arose out of a number of such events.

As [attacks on licensure](#) continue, it is critical for professional engineers to continue to speak up both about their role in protecting the public health, safety, and welfare, and ways in which those priorities are threatened.

[Learn about current issues and make your voice heard.](#)

Are Exemptions Getting in the Way of Qualified Engineering Practice?

NSPE believes that the public must be protected against incompetent engineering services performed by unlicensed individuals who lack the necessary education, training, and experience to perform engineering services as defined under state licensing laws. There is no greater need for the support of qualified engineering practice than in industry and government—yet there are efforts to chip away at the role of the licensed professional engineer in these sectors.

Last year, NSPE released a [state-by-state survey](#) to spotlight industrial, manufacturing, and governmental exemptions to engineering licensure laws. Many state engineering licensure laws contain additional exemptions for certain types of functions and activities. In addition, in some cases, state engineering licensure laws may be subject to interpretation by state attorneys general or state courts.



As stated in NSPE Professional Policy 173, "all engineers who are in responsible charge of the practice of engineering as defined in the NCEES Model Law and Rules in a manner that potentially impacts the public health, safety, and welfare should be required by all state statutes to be licensed professional engineers. The Society recommends the phasing out of existing industrial exemptions in state licensing laws."

[Access resources on the regulations that affect the professional engineer.](#)

Viva Las Vegas: Register for the 2018 Professional Engineers Conference

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 take place July 18–22 at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.



[Online registration is now open!](#) Register early and save.

Reasons to Attend:

- **Networking:** Connect with others who take as much pride in the PE license and engineering profession as you do.
- **Continuing education:** Learn about the latest trends in the profession and earn professional development hours.
- **Leadership:** Build leadership skills to help you in the workplace.
- **Be part of the profession:** For 80 years NSPE has been dedicated solely to supporting licensed professional engineers. Come to Las Vegas and be part of the profession's future.
- **Recharge:** Break away from the office, connect with colleagues, and gather ideas that can help you in your job and career.

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