

State News for NSPE Members

NSPE-CA Focuses on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

NSPE-CA recently partnered with the San Diego County Engineering Council to host a panel discussion on the challenges people of color and other underrepresented communities face when trying to break through the known and unknown barriers in the engineering field.

The panel featured members of NSPE's Advisory Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Chair Jacquelyn Brooks, P.E., Richard Easley, and Kerrie Greenfelder, P.E., shared their personal experiences. The program was recorded and is available for viewing free of charge (no registration required).

[Watch the discussion.](#)

Upcoming Society Board of Directors Meeting

All NSPE-CA members are welcome to attend the next NSPE-CA Board of Directors meeting on **Friday, February 19** (3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. PT). Please join us to learn more about your association, including how you can develop your leadership skills by becoming more involved.

Join the Meeting

[Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.](#)

You can also dial in using your phone: United States: +1 (224) 501-3412

Meeting Access Code: 215-524-845

Get Ready for Engineers Week!



DISCOVER
ENGINEERS WEEK®
FEBRUARY 21-27, 2021

Engineers Week is [a time to celebrate](#) the important work of engineers and engage the next generation of innovators. Even with social distancing, you can make a difference. Here are a few activities that will be of interest to NSPE-CA members.

Future of Engineering

Join NSPE leaders Tricia Hatley, P.E., F.NSPE and Rick Guerra, P.E., F.NSPE, as they discuss the future of engineering and how our changing world will impact the profession during a free webinar on **Monday, February 22** (1 p.m.-2p.m. ET/10 a.m.-11 a.m. PT). Webinar participants can earn one professional development hour.

San Diego Engineers Week Festival Program (February 22-26)

This is a free event that will celebrate the contributions of engineers with various activities throughout the week for professional engineers and K-12 and college students.

2021 NSPE Federal Engineer of the Year Award Webcast

NSPE celebrates the 2021 federal agency winners, the Top 10 Finalists, and announces the 2021 NSPE Federal Engineer of the Year via pre-recorded webcast on **Wednesday, February 24** at 12 p.m. ET/9 a.m. PT on the NSPE [website](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

NSPE Trivia Hour

Cap off your Engineers Week with some Friday fun. Join your peers for a lively game of trivia on **Friday, February 26** at 1 p.m. ET/10 a.m. PT. The cost is just \$15 for members or \$25 for non-members. Sign up to show off your trivia knowledge—or just to play a fun game with new friends.

Building Resilient Communities in California

A coalition of California government and business organizations have joined forces to present a free webinar series to share expertise on preparing for natural disasters. The webinars will feature view interviews and discussions with leading experts in structural engineering, seismology, architecture, business, construction, development, financing, government, law & risk management.

Featured Webinars

- [February 17—Benefits of Resilient Communities](#) (11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)
Program Champions: California Building Officials (CALBO) & Long Beach Chamber
- [March 17—Earthquake Retrofits Protect Investments, Improve Safety](#) (11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.) Program Champions: Los Angeles County Business

Federation and Los Angeles Conservancy

- [April 21—Sustainability & Resilience—A Natural Connection](#) (11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.) Program Champion: United States Green Building Council LA

State Licensing Board News



Department of Consumer Affairs
Board for Professional Engineers,
Land Surveyors, and Geologists

The California Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists has released its latest newsletter—Winter 2020.

Click [here](#) to access the PDF on the BPELSG website.



NSPE's **Job Board** is your one-stop resource for professional engineering employment. Whether you are on the hunt for your next career move or looking for today's top engineering leaders and talent, you will find it here.

The latest California jobs are pulled from the NSPE Job Board and appear on the NSPE-CA website. New career opportunities are also posted through NSPE-CA social media profiles on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Facebook](#).

Featured Jobs

[Structural Engineer](#)

Los Angeles, CA

[Senior Civil Engineer](#)

Salinas, CA

Find more job openings or reach the right employees on the [NSPE Job Board](#).

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the [NSPE Advocacy Center](#).

New Report: Valuing Professional Licensing

For years, professional associations and regulatory boards lacked hard data that demonstrated the value of licensing. In 2020, the Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing (ARPL) sought to fill that information gap by commissioning Oxford Economics to help better understand the nuanced impacts of licensing on professions and trade and vocational occupations. NSPE is a founding member of ARPL.

The report [Valuing Professional Licensing in the United States](#), includes several key findings:

- Across all professions and occupations, **licensing is associated with a 6.5% average increase in hourly earnings**, even after accounting for the job holder's educational attainment, gender, and racial demographics.
- Among professionals in technical fields requiring significant education and training, **a license narrows the gender-driven wage gap by about one third and the race-driven wage gap by about half.**
- Those in trade and vocational occupations can expect a **7.1% hourly wage increase** after becoming licensed, while those in a profession requiring advanced education and training can expect a **3.6% wage increase** after becoming licensed.

ARPL will host a **live webinar on February 24, 2021 (3:00 p.m. eastern standard time)** to review findings and conclusions of the report and share new strategies for lawmaker outreach. [Register now](#).

Licensing Reform Must Prioritize Public Safety, Says NSPE President

NSPE President Tricia Hatley has once again made the case for keeping public health, welfare, and safety at the forefront of efforts to reform occupational licensure and increase mobility.

In a recent column directed to state and local government leaders, Hatley warns of the risks of implementing one-size-fits-all universal licensure proposals that do not maintain necessary education and experience standards.

Most people agree professionals should be allowed to move across state lines and earn a living with the least cost and hassle possible. Likewise, most people want to

protect the public's health, safety and welfare by ensuring they are being served by qualified professionals who have the knowledge, skills and experience for the job. This is especially true in highly technical, high-impact professions that the Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing represents like certified public accountants, architects, engineers, surveyors and landscape architects.

Here comes the rub: many of the universal licensing proposals being pitched to state lawmakers, including those put forth by the American Legislative Exchange Council and in Arizona, tend to focus exclusively on the first point—improving mobility—while disregarding the second—ensuring standards necessary to protect the public.

In other words, universal licensing mandates don't consider the critical importance of substantially equivalent requirements between states. Instead, they dictate that states must accept a license issued by any state without regard for, understanding of, or any input in, the underlying minimum competency requirements behind the license.

[Read the full op-ed column.](#)

PEs Can Strengthen Autonomous Vehicle Safety

NSPE is calling on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to rely on the expertise of professional engineers and follow recommendations in the Society's [Autonomous Vehicle Policy Guide](#) as part of the federal safety frame work for automated driving systems.



In [recent public comments](#) , NSPE President

Tricia Hatley informed the agency that NSPE is committed to creating a world where the public can be confident that engineering decisions affecting their lives are made by qualified and ethically accountable professionals. NSPE [Position Statement No. 03-1772](#) states that the testing and deployment of AVs must include a professional engineer. The rationale for the position is rooted in a professional engineer's ethical obligation to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

The Society also recommends that the NHTSA implement a third-party verification process. A third-party verification process should establish that the ADS technology under review meets a minimal level of safety, as determined by an assessment of risk. This can be done through the submittal of risk assessments audited by a professional engineer who is in responsible charge of the third-party verification

process.

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