

State News for NSPE Members

Take Your Leadership Skills to the Next Level

NSPE-CA is looking for members who want to guide the future of their professional society and engage with their profession.



There are several volunteer openings—with a variety of time commitments—available for 2021-2022.

- **Help decide on event topics**—This can be as simple as voting on a series of choices, to actively looking for speakers, to being a speaker yourself.
- **Boost a social event**—From simply greeting attendees at a luncheon, to finding and booking a venue.
- **Build buzz on social media**—This can be as easy as reposting or responding to a post, to creating new post topics in the NSPE-CA Online Community.
- **Serve as a Regional Lead**—Help put together events in your region.
- **Design your own opportunity**—Let us know how you'd like to engage.

[I'm interested in volunteering.](#)

Licensees Beware—Fraud Alert

The California Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) has learned of an attempted fraud scheme aimed at licensees of DCA's boards and bureaus and issued an alert on July 8.

In the scheme, scam artists identify themselves as DCA, board, or bureau staff members or investigators and notify the licensee that they are under investigation, that their license may be suspended, or that an arrest warrant has been issued in the licensee's name, and then they will demand money.

In some instances, scam artists identify themselves as other entities including local police, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) or the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The callers may be "spoofing" DCA/board/bureau telephone numbers to make the calls appear to be coming from DCA or the board/bureau.

DCA/board/bureau staff members or investigators will never contact licensees demanding money or payment of any form or personalized information without conducting an official investigation or inquiry. If you receive such a call, please refuse the demand for payment.

[Read more.](#)

Governor Newsom Signs \$100 Billion 'Comeback Plan' Legislation

Governor Gavin Newsom signed the \$100 Billion [California Comeback Plan](#) legislative package on July 12. The legislation (S.B. 129) targets the COVID-19 pandemic, transportation and infrastructure projects, housing affordability, public education, and challenges around wildfires and climate change with major investments designed to bolster the state's recovery.

Here are highlights from the plan

- A \$120 million California Competes Tax Credit grant program to incentivize businesses to relocate to the state.
- A \$3.4 billion General Fund for high-priority transportation projects throughout the state.
- \$2 billion to support the advancement of priority State Highway Operation and Protection Program projects, Interregional Transportation Improvement Program projects, and local road and bridge investments.
- A \$3.9 billion package to hit fast-forward on our zero-emissions vehicle goals.
- Investment of \$5.1 billion over four years in drought support, water supply and natural habitat restoration projects around the state to build climate resilience in the face of more extreme cycles of wet and dry.
- A \$6 billion investment to ensure that Californians have access to broadband coverage, particularly unserved households in remote areas.

[Read more.](#)

State Licensing Board Meeting

The California Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists will hold its next meeting on **Friday, July 23** (beginning at 9 a.m.).

Access the meeting materials [here](#).

How California's Droughts Lead to Other Disasters

Each year, California and the Southwest break new records for droughts and high temperatures, which bring damaging heat waves, wildfires, and even flooding.

This PBS Nova segment explores how these catastrophes operate together—and how engineers are working on new technologies to help us survive.

[Listen to the segment or read the transcript.](#)

Engineering in Action Series Addresses Transportation Equity

As part of a renewed commitment to increase equity and diversity in the fields of engineering and computer science, the UCLA Samueli School of Engineering hosted the second of a three-part "Engineering in Action" series designed to address issues of inclusion and fairness.

As with the first event that focused on equity in artificial intelligence, the engineering school collaborated with the UCLA chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers to hold the [webinar on transportation equity](#).

The hour-long discussion featured three multidisciplinary panelists including Eric Avila, a professor of Chicano studies and urban planning at UCLA; Cris Liban, P.E., chief sustainability officer of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority; and Regan Patterson, a transportation equity research fellow at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation in Washington D.C.

Mechanical and aerospace engineering professor Veronica Santos, who is also UCLA Samueli's associate dean of equity, diversity and inclusion and faculty affairs, hosted the event. The panel discussion was moderated by Audrey Pool O'Neal, director of Women in Engineering at UCLA and an adjunct professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering.

Attended by more than 100 people from around the world, the virtual event addressed issues of equity and justice in transportation policy in Los Angeles, and ways to ensure a more holistic approach to transportation and infrastructure

decisions.

[Read more.](#)



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

[Senior Engineer](#)

San Jose, CA

[Mechanical Engineer](#)

Los Angeles, CA

[Civil Engineers-Construction Engineering](#)

San Diego, 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](#).

Have You Registered for Virtual PECon 2021?

With sessions on leadership, innovation, diversity, ethics, time management, and more, there is a session for everyone at the [2021 Virtual Professional Engineers Conference](#) (Aug

3-5).

You won't want to miss out on the keynote speakers, networking with your friends and peers in Coffee Chats, solving everyday problems in MasterMind sessions, and [PE Day](#) (August 4). Here's a peek....



- [Managing Up, Out and Within](#) (Stephanie Buckingham and Paula E. Miles, P.E.)
- [Cyber-attacks and Resilience](#) (James Livermore and Dave Ubert)
- [NSPE Engineering Excellence Awards](#)
- [Mars Is a Harsh Mistress \(So is the Moon\)](#) (George Hamilton, P.E., F.NSPE)
- [Delegation: How to Manage the Monkeys on Your Back](#) (Shelley Rowe, P.E.)

Iowa Approves PE Exam Before Experience

PE license candidates in Iowa will have the opportunity to take the PE exam prior to meeting the four years of experience requirement.

Legislation (H.F. 284) signed by Governor Kim Reynolds in April eliminates the requirement that applicants for a professional engineer license must show necessary practical experience in engineering work prior to taking the PE exam. The bill does not alter other experience requirements for applicants.

Individuals applying for licensure in Iowa should access the Iowa Engineering and Land Surveying Examining Board [website](#) for updates on implementation of the rule change.

In states that have “decoupled” the experience and examination requirements, applicants are still required to complete all education, examination, and experience requirements before being granted a PE license.

NSPE believes that licensing boards should provide the option of taking the PE exam as soon as applicants for licensure believe they are prepared to take the exam and have passed the FE exam. Applicants, upon passing the exam, should not be eligible for licensure before meeting all other jurisdictional requirements.

Can the Engineering Profession Achieve Racial Equity?

Engineering occupations are some of the highest-paying and most prestigious in the US labor market, but they are also some of the least diverse. A [new report](#) from the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce finds that between 1990 and 2019, the total number of Black/African American and Latinx students who graduated with a bachelor's degree in engineering increased nearly fourfold, but there is still far from equitable representation.



Over the same time period, the Latinx share of bachelor's degrees in engineering increased from 3% to 13%, while the Black/African American share held steady at 4%. At this pace, achieving racial equity in engineering on par with population share would take 76 years for Latinx and Black/African American workers as a group and up to 256 years for Black/African American workers alone.

“Having a career in engineering means you’ve made it,” said Anthony Carnevale, CEW director and report lead author in a statement. “While it’s a marker of climbing the wage and status occupational pyramid, it’s also a social indicator of progress on racial and gender justice.”

The report addresses how Black and Latinx are underpaid in a profession that pays very well. A person with an engineering bachelor's degree (and no graduate degree) earns 25% more on average than the typical bachelor's degree holder in the first job after graduation.

However, as with almost all fields, Black/African American and Latinx workers earn less than the average. While White and Asian workers with a bachelor's degree in engineering earn 61% and 71% more, respectively, than the average for all bachelor's degree holders, Black/African American and Latinx engineering majors earn just 15% and 18% more, respectively. To attain earnings comparable to those of White engineering majors, Black/African American or Latinx engineers must earn an additional degree beyond the bachelor's degree.

The report authors emphasize that it shouldn't take decades or centuries to ensure diversity in the engineering workforce mirrors diversity in society. It will take a comprehensive, committed, and innovative approach from employers and universities to close the gap.

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