

State News for NSPE Members

Your Voice with Government—NSPE-CA Board Members Meet with Key Legislator

Your NSPE-CA Board of Directors met last month for the first time with the chair of the Assembly committee that reviews bills related to licensure. The board hoped the meeting would be the beginning of a relationship between your society and a key member of the California Legislature.

Assembly member Evan Low, chair of the Assembly Business and Professions Committee, said he wanted to meet with the board in hopes of establishing a relationship with NSPE-CA. He emphasized that he wanted to “demystify” politicians and open lines of communication between himself, the society, and members. He sees the California government and NSPE-CA members ideally working together to provide a greater sense of confidence to consumers.



In light of COVID-19, Low said there is “great uncertainty” regarding the budget as well as what the Legislature will be focusing on when it reconvenes in 2021. He sees “specific accommodations for small business” as a key concern.

NSPE-CA officers provided Low with background information on engineering. Vice

President Joseph Quinn made sure the NSPE-CA Emerging Technology Information Guide was provided to Low in advance, and Treasurer Ken Discenza shared the challenges in becoming licensed in California as compared with other states. NSPE-CA and legislative staff have a follow up meeting scheduled.

Members also have a role in influencing legislation. Low emphasized the importance of NSPE-CA members building a rapport with their local legislators. To find your local legislator, use this tool on [NSPE-CA's new Advocacy Center](#).



Welcome to our newest professional members!

Omar Bin Taleb

Adam Burwinkle, P.E.

Mansour Firouzian, P.E.

Joshua Henson, P.E.

Capt. Chris Meyer, P.E.

Lt. Michael Pollard, P.E.

Yipming Tang, P.E.

Scott Weinhardt, E.I.T.

Ashley CB Weiss, P.E.

Licensing Board Launches New Portals for EIT Applications and Complaints

The Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists launched the first phase of its [new application and licensing portal](#) designed to improve interactions between the board, applicants, and license holders. Engineers-in-Training and Land Surveyors-in-Training applicants can create a user profile and submit an application with a direct connection with board staff, through to the issuance of the EIT or LSIT certification. The board looks forward to extending this functionality to include all applications and license renewals in the near future.

The board also introduced a [new complaint submittal process](#) which is integrated with the new online application and licensing portal. It is designed to promote effective connection between the board and those who need assistance from the the enforcement program.

[Catch up on the latest licensing board news in the Fall 2020 issue of the *Bulletin*.](#)

EPA Announces \$108 Million to Improve Water Quality in the California Delta

The US Environmental Protection Agency has announced a \$108 million Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loan to the Stockton Public Financing Authority to help modernize the city's wastewater treatment facility and reduce nitrogen discharges to the San Joaquin River.

With this loan, EPA is supporting a regionally significant project that will improve water quality and support public health and the economies of the California Delta, as reported in an October 12 *Water World* article.

“Since the first WIFIA loan closed in April 2018, the program has become increasingly efficient and has established itself as a valuable tool to help finance needed water infrastructure improvements across the country,” said EPA Assistant Administrator for Water David Ross. “EPA’s 32 WIFIA loans are providing \$6 billion in credit assistance to help finance \$13 billion for water infrastructure while creating more than 28,000 jobs and saving ratepayers \$3.6 billion.”

[Read more.](#)

How to Help Overworked Employees Refuel for Another Stretch of Uncertainty

Several months into the pandemic, Peter Newell's Palo Alto, California-based innovation consulting firm BMNT hadn't skipped a beat. Business was up as more clients sought its advice on how to adapt to a world grappling with Covid-19 and his already distributed team made the remote work transition seamlessly, according to a recent *Inc.com* article. Still, Newell faced the same challenge all leaders faced, that of supporting a team that's juggling work, childcare, and countless other challenges.

Now six months into the pandemic—with no discernible end in sight—that task is all the more urgent.

[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.

NSPE provides the tools PEs need to keep current in the profession and advance their careers.

Featured Jobs

[Dean, Henry Samueli School of Engineering](#)

University of California, Irvine

[Electrical Manager of Engineering](#)

City of Palo Alto

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](#).

NSPE President Warns Against Broad-Brush Licensing Reform



NSPE President Tricia Hatley, P.E., F.NSPE, recently challenged an opinion piece that advocates making temporary licensing deregulation permanent, measures that were enacted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a letter to the editor of the *Oklahoman*, Hatley warns that efforts to weaken licensing, however well-intentioned, make no distinction for highly complex, technical professions. This is a critical distinction that broad-brush proposals like those referenced in the article fail to make—and puts thousands of lives at risk in Oklahoma and elsewhere.

She also states that professions like engineering, architecture, accounting, landscape architecture and surveying are responsible for the safety of our physical spaces and the integrity of our financial systems. Because of this, they are required to meet rigorous standards based on education, experience, and examination to demonstrate a minimum qualification level.

[Read more.](#)

An Adventure to the Moon with Future City

Future City is a project-based learning program where middle school students imagine, research, design, and build cities of the future. This year's Future City theme is "Living on the Moon." Teams will be challenged to design a lunar city and provide examples of how their city uses two moon resources to keep citizens safe and healthy.



Due to COVID-19, Future City [transitioned this year's program into a virtual format](#) to offer impactful volunteer opportunities you can do from the comfort of your home or office.

Inspiring the Next Generation

Kay Bailey is a senior research and development engineer currently working on an innovative mechanical device that relieves back pain and pressure. She knows firsthand the added challenges in academia—and professional settings—when few people look like you. "When I was a middle school student, I didn't see many examples of African Americans doing engineering," she says.



This inspired Kay Bailey to volunteer as a Future City mentor in a predominantly African American school in Milwaukee. "I wanted to do whatever I could to show these students that it's okay to be interested in engineering. Right away I could tell Future City would be a great way to get involved."

Over the last two years, Bailey has loved working with these young scholars. Sometimes she helps them shape their creative ideas or explains STEM concepts, and other times they simply want to hear about what she is working on at her job. "I want these young people to be encouraged to pursue whatever they want."

If, like Kay Bailey, you're interested in inspiring the next generation, you can sign up to be a mentor by [clicking here](#) or email Info@FutureCity.org with any questions.

This year, the program (including mentoring) will be virtual.

Upcoming Webinars: Roundabout Design Safety, the Engineering Team



NSPE's **PE Institute** helps members stay current in the profession, earn PDHs, and advance in their careers through webinars on important topics. The webinars are held at 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST at a member price of \$99 (\$129 for nonmembers).

October 28

[Put Me in Coach! The Engineering Team from Concept to Completion](#)

Within the construction industry, engineering-based decisions are made by professional engineers closely engaged with technicians. Working as an efficient team, a project moves smoothly and is successfully completed. A panel of PEs and technicians will share engineering best practices and approaches to overcoming technical challenges.

This webinar is **FREE** for members and non-members.

Presenters: Kent D. Dvorak, P.E., Chip Hollis (moderator), William Kenneth Johnson, Jr., P.G., Shannon Looney P.E., and John W. Quidley S.E.T.

November 2

[Canon 1, NSPE Code of Ethics for Engineers: "Hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public"](#)

This webinar will introduce you to four of the current members of the [NSPE Board of Ethical Review](#) (BER). Discussion will focus on four ethics cases that illuminate multiple aspects of Canon 1, to "hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public." These cases are personal favorites selected by each BER member from the more than [600 opinions](#) the BER has published since the late 1950s.

Presenters: Mark Dubbin, PE, FPE, Jeffrey H. Greenfield, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, F. NSPE, David Kish, Ph.D., P.E., William D. Lawson, P.E., Ph.D., F. NSPE

You received this e-mail because you are subscribed to *PE Matters* e-newsletter.

To update your e-mail address, visit www.nspe.org and login to manage your account.

If you do not wish to receive any more issues of *PE Matters*, [click here to unsubscribe](#) .

Share with your network



**National Society of Professional Engineers | 1420 King Street | Alexandria, VA
22314**

