Upcoming Event: VTC Architectural Engineering Technology Programs' Senior Project Presentations

NSPE-VT members are invited to attend the presentation of senior class capstone engineering design projects of senior students in the Vermont Technical College Architectural Engineering Technology program on **Wednesday, May 3**. The presentations will take place on the Randolph Center campus (in Conant Building Room 102, known affectionately as "The Pit") from 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Attendees are encouraged to ask questions at the conclusion of the presentations and provide words of advice to the students as they prepare to enter the workforce. If you plan to attend or have questions about the presentations, please contact Scott Sabol, P.E., via email.

**Student Project Presentations**

This year's students will make a presentation on two distinct projects. The first team involves students Alex Coyle, Ryder Lalonia, Matt Korpics, and Levi Wetherald. They are completing the structural engineering design of a research lab facility in Boise, Idaho. The building is the basis for a competition among HVAC students (the ASHRAE student competition). The second team involves students Allyssa Downs, Jeremy Hammond, and Samone Sturkey who undertook a more open-ended project. They investigated issues of importance to Vermont and the nation in the architectural engineering realm, and then focused on a primary area of investigation. Their focus ended up being a potential partial solution to the Vermont homeless population issue.

Each team will discuss the goals of the project, the specifics of their engineering systems, issues they considered, plus costs, and other related information. Access more information about the projects [here](#).

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**Vermont MATHCOUNTS Team Gets Ready for National Competition**
Congratulations to the Vermont mathletes who will represent the state during the upcoming **2023 Raytheon Technologies MATHCOUNTS Competition** finals that will take place May 14–15 in Orlando, Florida. Access more national competition information [here](#).

The team representing Vermont includes the following students and coach:

- **Xavier Chandler** (7th grade) Edmunds Middle School-Burlington, VT
- **Connor DuBois** (8th grade) Williston Central School-Williston, VT
- **Erica Hermann** (8th grade) NEK Homeschool-North Concord, VT
- **Evan Xia** (8th grade) Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School-Burlington, VT
- **Alan Matson** (Coach) Edmunds Middle School-Burlington, VT

NSPE-VT supports the next generation of PEs through engagement in the MATHCOUNTS program. Each year, middle school students from across our state come together for the Vermont MATHCOUNTS Competition. These students are some of the most capable and hardworking young mathematicians in our state, and the top scoring students earn the prestigious honor of representing Vermont at the national level.

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**Federal Funding Opens for Rural Renewables**

Vermont’s renewable energy goals could get a boost from a billion-dollar federal program aimed at rural areas. But questions remain about whether rural areas of the grid can handle the increased transmission load, [WCAX reports](#).

"The grid that was built to bring power to those places, in many cases, isn't well suited to export power out of those locations," said Tom Dunn with the Vermont Electric Power Company, which manages the local grid. He says that smaller renewables like solar panels on a house shouldn’t overload the grid. But in some areas, too much large renewable generation could slow down the system. "There are better places to put solar than others."

The Department of Public Service says infrastructure upgrades are going forward that will prevent the kind of curtailments that force major renewable producers like Kingdom Wind and the Sheffield wind project, to shut down at times because of transmission capacity.

Sarah Waring with USDA Rural Development says they are aware of the energy distribution challenges and that it's important rural Vermonters aren’t left behind and that new federal funding targets those communities. [Read more](#).

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**GlobalFoundries Spotlights Opportunities for Women in**
Semiconductor giant GlobalFoundries wants more women to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and math, according to a report by WCAX. On April 12, the company invited several employees, students, and other organizations to talk about the importance of encouraging women to pursue STEM careers.

Tim Kemerer, a GF manufacturing engineer says women offer different perspectives essential in their workplace. "That's a big thing -- is helping you know, encourage everybody to speak up," he said. "We need to be innovative, we need all kinds of diverse viewpoints."

Sophia Rivera, a Vermont Technical College student, was among the over 150 attending the conference. The aspiring manufacturing engineer says she attended to learn better ways to conduct herself as a woman in the profession. She says in her experience, it seems like women have to go above and beyond to be recognized.

Tinotenda Rutanhira, with the Vermont Professionals of Color Network, says it's important to address the opportunities for BIPOC women in the workplace. "When you look at metrics in business across every sort of sphere of business, we can see that diversity is one of the leading factors in which companies can be productive," she said. Read more.

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the NSPE Advocacy Center.

Don’t Hesitate to Share Your PE Story

By Britt Smith, P.E., F.NSPE, President 2022–2023

Have you ever thought about how many people will ever need to hire an engineer? Probably not very many. But as engineers, we have a huge impact on their lives and in countless ways. For example, we all expect clean water to come out of the faucet, the lights to come on when we want, the bridge we cross on the way to work to be safe, the air we breathe to be clean, and the products we buy for our kids to be safe. When engineers do their best work, most people don’t even notice. Yet, as a profession we strive to make everyone’s life better.

The work of our profession by design affects the lives of many people—likely tens of thousands on a daily basis. In my case, I work in the public works department in the community that I reside and that means the decisions I make don’t just affect
nameless strangers. The people in this community are my neighbors, my friends, and my family. Read more.

New Policy Documents: The Signature and Stamp, Key Issues for the PE

The Committee on Policy and Advocacy has released the “What a PE Says with their Signature and Stamp” document. The document provides a general awareness of the PE signature and stamp process and includes best practices and lessons learned for those considering developing or improving their own process. The committee recently updated and released the documents, “What is a PE?” and “Key Issues for the Professional Engineer.” Updated position statements can be accessed here.

QBS Awards Program Accepting Nominations

NSPE is seeking nominations for the 2023 QBS Awards. The QBS Awards program promotes and recognizes the exemplary use of the qualifications-based selection process.

Award winners serve as examples of how well the QBS process works, and they help NSPE promote the practice of QBS in jurisdictions that do not use, or underuse, QBS to procure engineering services. A maximum of one QBS Award may be presented to the federal government sector, the state government sector (includes all governmental units under the state level), and nongovernment sector.

The deadline for nominations is Monday, May 1 (close of business). Access the awards information and nomination form here.