

State News for NSPE Members

Mark Your Calendar for Virtual Career Fair at Vermont Tech

The Vermont Technical College Spring Virtual Career Fair will be on Tuesday, March 16, from 9AM-4PM. This virtual event will be hosted on the College Central Network portal.

To register for the Vermont Tech Virtual Career Fair, go to www.collegecentral.com/vtc and choose 'employer' and then sign in with your employer log in information. You can get user name and password assistance by clicking on the links for forgotten user name or password. Once signed into your employer account, you will see the virtual career fair announcement with a registration link.

Once your career fair registration has been approved, please upload job descriptions and company information you'd like to share with students and alumni.

Email [Karry Booska](mailto:karry.booska@vtc.edu) if you have questions or need assistance.

Vermont Gas Pipeline Draws Scrutiny

Vermont Gas failed to bury a natural gas pipeline through Addison County at the 4-foot depth required by a construction permit, and the company also failed to ensure a PE signed off on the construction plan, according to state regulators, [reports VT Digger](#). Now area residents are raising concerns, particularly in light of the gas pipeline explosion in Lawrence, Massachusetts, in 2018. According to the article, Massachusetts utilities projects aren't required to have an engineer sign off on construction plans, while in Vermont they are.

University Orders Hybrid-Electric Research Vessel

A new research vessel featuring an emissions-reducing electric power and

propulsion system is currently under construction for the University of Vermont, [reports Marine Link](#). The 64-foot aluminum catamaran is scheduled to launch in April 2022. The catamaran will be able to run on all-electric power for trips under two hours and will two diesel engines as back up. “The future of vessel procurement will look quite different to its current form today, as operators worldwide begin to respond to increasingly stringent requirements for low-emission craft,” said Andy Page, naval architect and managing director for Chartwell Marine, the firm that designed the vessel.

Vermont Job Opportunity

Quality Assurance Manager

Champlain Cable

See other engineering job opportunities 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.

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**