

## State News for NSPE Members

### Call for Nominations: Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the Year

Planning for 2022 E-Week is now underway! As is the tradition, we will be honoring outstanding Vermont engineers and student engineers at the annual Engineers Week Banquet on February 25, 2022. As part of the preparations, each Vermont engineering society is eligible to nominate one candidate for Engineer of the Year and one candidate for Young Engineer of the Year. Nomination forms, selection procedures, and a copy of the evaluation sheet are attached to assist you in preparing your candidate packages.

Submit your application and nomination package electronically no later than Friday, January 21, 2022, in pdf format only to [Greg.edwardsvt@gmail.com](mailto:Greg.edwardsvt@gmail.com). Electronic transmissions received after the January 21, 2022, deadline will not be reviewed by the Selection Committee. Forms and details are [available online](#).

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### Hydroelectric Facility in Bennington Back Up and Running

North Bennington Hydroelectric, which purchased the old Vermont Tissue Paper mill hydroelectric facility, has brought one of its turbines back online and it is producing electricity, the [Bennington Banner reports](#). A two-year hiatus was caused by a high air-pressure drilling accident in 2018, which dredged up a large amount of silt and debris near the turbine intake areas. Work to remove debris from the second turbine continues. A spokesperson said the company plans to have the facility fully operational by the end of the year.

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### Community Broadband Networks Receive \$10 Million for Preconstruction Costs

The Vermont Community Broadband Board, in coordination with the Governor's office, awarded [Preconstruction Grants](#) to four [Communication Union Districts](#). The

Broadband Preconstruction Grant Program provides grants to Communications Union Districts for preconstruction costs related to broadband projects that are a part of a universal service plan. Eligible costs include expenses for feasibility studies, business planning, pole data surveys, engineering and design, and make-ready work associated with the construction of broadband networks, including consultant, legal, and administrative expenses.

The Vermont Community Broadband Board will issue grants for construction costs (materials, equipment, labor) early next year. Three of the four groups awarded in this first round of grants expect to begin construction in the spring of 2022.

A [recent survey](#) by Probolsky Research for Cisco revealed that local and regional government executives and managers consider broadband to be critical infrastructure on par with water, electricity, and telephone access. Additionally, the survey found that broadband gaps are most noticeable between suburban and rural communities.

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

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**Share Your Story: #IAMNSPE**

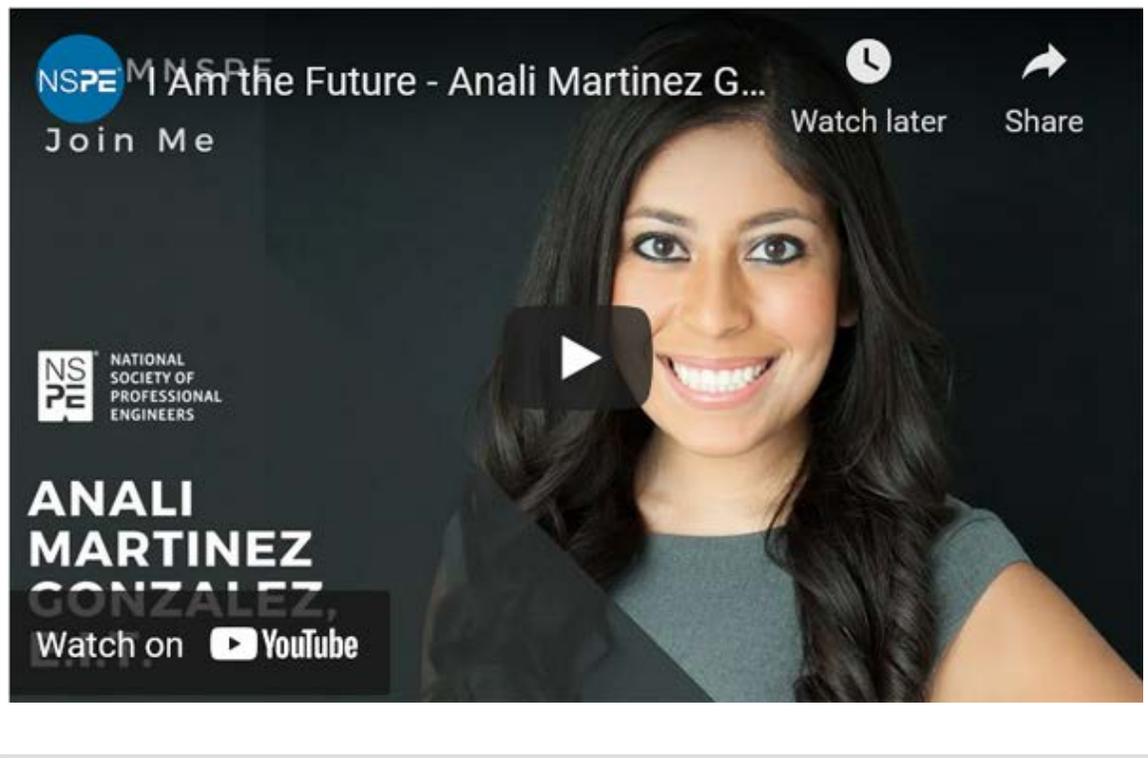


NSPE is its members. It's a society made up of dedicated individuals who each bring a unique story and perspective to the engineering profession. NSPE members are leaders. They are connected, inclusive, committed to ethical practice, and so much more. Members are [sharing their stories](#)....join them. #IAMNSPE

## I Am the Future

**Anali Martinez Gonzalez, E.I.T.**  
**Civil Engineer**  
**NSPE Emerging Leader Class of 2020**

**“I have taken advantage of opportunities to grow as a leader and seek to inspire the next generation of girls and women, especially Latinas, who want to be engineers one day.”**



## PECon 2022: Now Accepting Presentation Proposals

NSPE is now accepting presentation submissions for consideration for the 2022 Professional Engineers Conference, August 1–3, in Philadelphia. The deadline for proposals is **November 30**.

The Professional Engineers Conference provides presenters an opportunity to share their expertise at a national conference. The 2022 conference will focus on the theme of harnessing the power of PEs to create a better world.

### Conference Topics

- Amplify Your Leadership Power Skills—Beyond being technically qualified and committed to ethical practices, PEs are leaders. Presentations will be skills-focused for all career levels.

Stay Informed About Issues and Trends Impacting the Profession—The workplace environment is constantly changing and evolving. Presentations should address the latest issues and trends impacting PEs and the engineering industry.

- Invest in Your Career—Choosing a career as a professional engineer is an intentional act by engineers committed to the public health, safety, and welfare. Presentations should address career development topics that will help engineers at all career stages achieve their highest potential.

[Learn more and submit a proposal.](#)

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## **Maryland Society Defends PE Requirement for Public Works Director**

The Maryland Society of Professional Engineers is opposing efforts to end the requirement for a PE to serve as director of the Baltimore County Department of Public Works and Transportation. MDSPE believes a licensed professional engineer can provide the most effective administration to protect public health and safety.

In August, the Baltimore County Council revised the required qualifications for the director position, allowing an unlicensed individual to hold the position if they have at least 10 years of supervisory experience in infrastructure planning and construction, or transportation engineering and management. The existing county charter requires the director to hold a Maryland PE license and have at least 10 years of experience in responsible charge of engineering work. As this modification will require a change to the county charter, voters will have the final say in a ballot initiative on November 8, 2022.

In a letter to the county council chair, MDSPE emphasized that the county charter has historically required the department's director and deputy directors to be licensed professional engineers with extensive experience in their areas of practice because the department is responsible for significant engineering activities.

Without a license, the director would not be permitted to resolve differences in engineering decision-making between the PEs on staff, sign off on plans, or change plans without the approval of the PE. MDSPE believes that if an unlicensed director imposes undue influence on professional engineering decisions, it might create significant ethical and legal problems for the department and county.

To update your e-mail address, visit [www.nspe.org](http://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



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