

## State News for NSPE Members

### **‘Prompt Pay Act’ Court Case Offers Lessons for Construction Industry**

Last November, Arizona’s Court of Appeals issued a memorandum decision analyzing Arizona’s Prompt Pay Act. Though the decision was not published and is not binding authority, it does guide the construction industry and practitioners as to how this court analyzed Prompt Pay Act enforcement, according to a JDSupra analysis.

To set the table, *Shea Connelly Dev. LLC v. Ariz. Registrar of Contrs.* was limited to a payment dispute between the general contractor Shea Connelly, and its subcontractor, Revive. The project owners effectively had no role in the dispute.

Critically for Shea Connelly’s arguments, Revive was hired to provide framing work on two separate Arizona projects, one in Glendale, and one in Fountain Hills called Park Place. The Glendale subcontract included a cross-default term providing that if Revive defaulted on any subcontract with Shea Connelly, it would be deemed to have defaulted on all of its subcontracts with Shea Connelly.

On the Glendale project, Revive never did any work. It’s not clear from the record why, but it appears that Revive was paid nearly \$60,000 without doing any work on the Glendale Project. However unfair it may be, this fact had no impact on the court’s Prompt Pay Act analysis.

[Read more.](#)

---

### **University of Arizona Seeks to Increase Native American Students in STEAM Majors**

The University of Arizona has been awarded a four-year grant to encourage and support Diné College students to transfer to the university to pursue degrees in science, technology, engineering, agriculture, and math majors, according to an Arizona Public Media report.

The Advancing Postsecondary Attainment and Research in STEAM for Tribal Students project aims to increase the number of Native American students in STEAM majors through mentorship and other forms of institutional assistance. (The “A” in STEAM is commonly used elsewhere to refer to “arts.” )

These are the fields where some communities in tribal lands could use more experts. During the pandemic the lack of running water, electricity, food, access to health care or communication infrastructure in some Indigenous towns in Arizona have made national news.

[Read more.](#)

---

## **Is Arizona Leading the Way on Clean Energy?**

A new report released by The Western Way, an environmental advocacy organization, and the Arizona Technology Council reveals that Arizona is on track to continue building on its booming carbon-free energy sector, according to a *Chamber Business News* article.

Beyond recording Arizona’s progress to this point, the report outlines recommendations that the groups hope lawmakers and policymakers will implement in order to “incorporate the energy innovation sector into Arizona’s economic recovery plan.”

According to the report authors, the innovation sector at-large is the most significant nexus between good business and good environmental stewardship.

[Read more.](#)

---

## **Mining Industry Steps Up to Meet Skyrocketing Demand for Copper**

From consumer goods to crafting American icons to operating power plants and sustaining green energy, the demand for copper is growing at greater rates than ever, according to a recent AZ Big Media article.

Recent reports demonstrate that the global need for copper is anticipated to rise by as much as 50% over the next two decades. And, guess which corner of the world holds 27.1% of the global market size in copper? The United States. Zooming in closer, you’ll see that Arizona accounts for 75% of the copper mined in the US.

So, the million-dollar question — or perhaps, more appropriately, the 28-million-tonnes question (28 million tons is the annual amount of copper in demand) is—will Arizona rise to meet the growing demand for copper? Arizona’s mining experts

collectively say, “yes.”

[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**

[Beavers-Ames Lecturer in Heavy/Civil Construction](#)

Tempe, ZA

[Project Manager](#)

Lake Havasu City, AZ

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](#) .*

---

## **Society Announces New Executive**

NSPE has announced Monika Schulz as the Society’s new executive director and CEO, beginning February 15.

“As we embark on the new year, we are starting a new chapter in NSPE’s history,” says NSPE President Tricia Hatley, P.E., F.NSPE. “It is thrilling to be in this place where NSPE’s volunteer leadership recognized the value that Monika’s expertise and authentic leadership style will bring to our organization. Her collaborative, yet-data-



driven, approach to management will facilitate the successful execution of our strategic plan, and she's demonstrated her ability to collaborate with state and local chapters to increase impact at her prior organizations."

Schulz has a long history in associations and a passion for the contributions they make to society. Before joining NSPE, she served for over five years as the CEO of the American String Teachers Association in Fairfax, Virginia. In this role, she collaborated with the organization's board on strategic planning, implementing data-driven decision making, and carrying out a rebranding initiative. She also built stronger ties among the organization's 50 state and local chapters, bolstered member engagement, and expanded a national conference and tradeshow as well as a national orchestra festival.

"I'm very excited to be joining the NSPE team," says Schulz, "and I look forward to collaborating with leadership, state societies, and the NSPE management team to further NSPE's vision, mission, and initiatives. Engineers make the world a better place in which to live, and I feel incredibly fortunate and proud to champion the important work of professional engineers."

Prior to serving as ASTA's CEO, Schulz spent 18 years at the Association for Healthcare Philanthropy, in multiple leadership roles, including six years as chief operating officer.

The Virginia Tech graduate is active in the American Society of Association Executives and holds the CAE designation as a certified association executive.

---

## **EWeek 2021 Focuses on the Future**

Engineers Week, with the theme "**Imagining Tomorrow**," will take place **February 21–27**, and this year's focus will be on virtual role models, distance learning, and diversity and belonging.

[Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day](#) , or "Girl Day,"



will also carry this theme forward and will be held on February 25. The focus will also be on virtual role models and diversity and belonging, but it will also feature special editions of DiscoverE’s “ [Chats With Change Makers](#) ” series in which a high school student interviews engineers and technicians who are working hard to make the world a better place.

This year’s [Future City Competition](#) theme is “Living on the Moon.” To adapt to the pandemic, teams will be allowed to work remotely and competitions will be virtual. Teams will make a video presentation of their cities, and their models will be presented in a slideshow format. There will be a live Q&A for the teams to answer questions about their models and presentations.

### **EWeek Event Dates**

- Chats with Change Makers: new “season” began on September 25 and continues monthly.
- Future City Competition: September through April
- The Persist Series (formerly Global Marathon): begins January and continues monthly.
- Engineers Week: February 21–27, 2021
- Girl Day: February 25, 2021
- World Engineering Day: March 4, 2021

---

## **Access Your Member Benefit: 15 Free Webinars for 2021**

To help members meet their continuing education requirements, NSPE has released a new slate of **15 free webinars** that will be available throughout 2021.

Members may earn credits by viewing the webinars from the comfort of their home or office and will receive an attendance certificate after passing a quiz with a score of 70% or higher. PDHs from these courses are recognized by most US states, including Florida.

**FREE**  
**15**

Here's a sample of available webinar topics:

1. [Ethics Forum: Conflicts of Interest - Serving the Public \\*](#)
2. [How to Lead Without Authority](#)
3. [Leading Project Teams: Emerging Technologies and Smart Design \\*](#)
4. [Licensing for Profitability, Agility and Growth for Small and Mid-Sized Engineering Firms](#)
5. [Passing Down Institutional Knowledge Through Coaching, Mentoring and Storytelling](#)
6. [The Saint Joseph Water Crisis: Lessons Learned in the Age of Deteriorating Water Infrastructure](#) (New York approval pending)

\*Webinar has been approved for continuing education credit in New York

[Check out the complete lineup of 2021 courses.](#)

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

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



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

