

## State News for NSPE Members

### Tempe Named a Top STEM City

Tempe, Arizona was recognized as a 2020 Top STEM City for being a community showcasing exceptional dedication to science, technology, engineering, and math education and careers.

The data science team at Insurify (an insurance quotes comparison site) analyzed both proprietary and publicly accessible data to determine the top STEM city in each state. The team identified cities with the highest proportion of residents in STEM-based careers and compiled data from Niche on the colleges and graduate schools with the best programs in STEM, as well as the best cities for women in tech.

[Read more.](#)

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### In Response to Pandemic, NCEES Schedules Regional Testing for PE Civil Exam

To accommodate as many pencil-and-paper examinees as safely as possible, NCEES has added a regional exam administration on January 26, 2021, for PE Civil examinees only. **Phoenix, Arizona** will serve as a host city.

Registration for the regional PE Civil exam administration opened on **November 1, 2020**, and closes on **December 14, 2020**, at 3 p.m. EST. The exam will be administered in Phoenix and the following cities: Pomona, CA; Denver, CO; Groton, CT; Orlando, FL; Topeka, KS; Louisville, KY; Minneapolis, MN; Raleigh, NC; Las Vegas, NV; Cleveland, OH; Salem, OR; Houston, TX; Salt Lake City, UT; and Seattle, WA.

Additional cities may be added. Visit the [NCEES website](#) for details.

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### State Licensing Board Meeting

The Arizona State Board of Technical Registration will hold its next meeting on Tuesday,

**December 8** (9 a.m.). The meeting agenda and audio can be accessed [here](#).

Individuals that want to attend the meeting remotely must make a request in advance. The board uses Google Meetups for its remote meetings, which requires the meeting host to invite members to participate. Contact Kurt Winter at [kurt.winter@azbtr.gov](mailto:kurt.winter@azbtr.gov) if you're interested in attending remotely.

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## **ADOT Seeks Feedback on Sonoran Corridor Proposal**

The Arizona Department of Transportation is seeking community input from residents on the proposed Sonoran Corridor. The roadway would connect I-10 and I-19 near the Tucson International Airport.

According to a Pima County report, the corridor would stimulate economic growth in southern Arizona and would create an economic impact of \$32 billion along with 200,000 jobs in the area.

[Read more from KGUN9.](#)

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## **Algae Engineering Critical to Sustainable Solutions**

Among ways being explored to combine biology and engineering to remedy a range of growing global environmental problems, algae-based solutions look especially promising.

The encouraging viewpoint stems from progress in research that is revealing how the properties of algae can be harnessed to become the driving force for a slew of productive biotechnological pursuits, according to an *ASU Now* article.

Some of the research findings have been the result of efforts based at the Arizona Center for Algae Technology and Innovation, or AzCATI, embedded in the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering at Arizona State University.

Algae is an abundant and widely varied group of aquatic organisms capable of producing oxygen through photosynthesis and thereby harvesting energy from sunlight to grow and produce a range of biochemicals.

That capability and related characteristics can make algae a useful component in the development of advanced systems for effectively treating wastewater, producing cleaner energy and new biofuels, reducing harmful carbon dioxide emissions, and improving decontamination and pollution control techniques.

[Read more.](#)

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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**

[Engineer—Capital Improvement Projects](#)

Chandler, AZ

[Project Manager/Senior Engineers](#)

Tucson, 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](#).

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## **PEs, Technicians, and Teamwork**

Construction projects come with numerous roles and responsibilities that must be carried out with skill and efficiency to achieve success. For professional engineers, perhaps the most critical relationship is with the project's engineering technicians.

In a recent [NSPE webinar](#) on PEs, technicians, and the engineering team, Shannon Looney, P.E., F.NSPE, called the contributions of skilled technicians "invaluable." As the senior project manager for the Glenn E. Mitchell and Company Inc. in Knoxville, Tennessee, Looney specializes in concrete construction. He relies heavily on the data collected by technicians—"the technicians with their hands on the ground that work directly with the labor force and is able to tell us the data we need...to make real-time decisions on important aspects of production."

The webinar covers many aspects of the PE-technician dynamic and the factors that make a strong team. In addition to Looney, the webinar panel included Kent Dvorak, P.E., of

Terracon's Salt Lake City office; John Quidley, SET, president and senior quality consultant with Caliber Consulting Services LLC; and Kenny Johnson Jr., P.G., with expertise in the geotechnical and materials testing industry.

The webinar, "Put Me in, Coach! The Engineering Team from Concept to Completion," can be [accessed online for free](#).

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## Georgia Adopts Structural PE Requirement

Beginning January 1, a professional engineer who designs, signs, and seals plans for "designated structures" in Georgia must be licensed as a structural engineer. Legislation signed into law in August, creates a professional structural engineer licensing process, which includes a requirement that a licensure applicant take the 16-hour PE Structural exam.

The process [establishes several paths](#) for current licensees to be grandfathered into obtaining an SE license, which is supplemental to the PE license. An individual licensed in Georgia will have to submit an affidavit form and pay fees to the [State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors](#) from November 1 to December 31, 2020 to participate in this grandfather process.

In June, NSPE and the Georgia Society of Professional Engineers expressed concerns that a SE license requirement would create an additional layer of bureaucracy, requiring an engineer who is qualified to practice in more than one area to obtain multiple licenses.

NSPE believes that fragmenting the professional engineering license into discipline-specific title or practice acts weakens rather than strengthens the integrity of the license. The Society advocates for an alternative structural engineering certification that could be obtained after earning a PE license to offer more flexibility and without drawing a hard line between structural and other engineering disciplines.

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## Officer Nominations Open

Nominations are now open for the positions of NSPE 2021–22 vice president and 2021–23 treasurer. The individual nominated for vice president will advance to president-elect in 2022–23 and president in 2023–24. The deadline for submitting nomination packages for either position is **January 11, 2021**.

Please share this information with those you believe should be considered for the next leaders in our Society. Additional details can be found in the [Leadership Toolbox](#). If you have any questions, email the NSPE Executive Office at [executive@nspe.org](mailto:executive@nspe.org).

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