

## State News for NSPE Members

### NSPE-AZ Member Named Top Advocate for April

On April 19, NSPE's Government Relations staff announced the [Top Advocates for April](#), who are being recognized for their March advocacy activity.

NSPE-AZ member **Scott Wertel, P.E.**, and seven other NSPE members achieved this top status by consistently participating in the [NSPE Advocacy Center](#) campaigns during the month of March.

Each NSPE Advocacy Center campaign is worth a certain number of points. The more campaigns a member participates in, the more points he or she earns. At the end of each month, staff tabulates the total number of points each participating member has accumulated. The top point-earners are recognized the following month.

As a thank you for their high level of engagement and commitment to the profession, all top performers have been invited to an exclusive online event with NSPE and state society staff.

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### ASU Researchers Release Data on COVID's Impact on Transportation

Just over a year ago, governments around the world issued stay-at-home orders, significantly changing day-to-day lives in an instant. Working from home, postponing travel, having groceries delivered to front doors and ordering "to go" at restaurants are just a few ways many habits have changed. But which of these changes are likely to be maintained in a post-COVID-19 world?

Researchers from Arizona State University (alongside colleagues from the University of Illinois Chicago) conducted a nationwide survey to measure the potential for lasting changes and what they could mean for our cities, according to an *ASU News* report.

"Many observers have put forth ideas about how the pandemic will change how we

live for the long term, but nobody that we've seen has concrete evidence to support or refute these predictions," said Deborah Salon, associate professor in ASU's School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning and co-principal investigator of the COVIDFuture Survey. "We collected the data in order to provide this evidence, and we are sharing it so that it can be used to help plan for what's next."

The COVIDFuture research team—which also includes Sybil Derrible, co-principal investigator and associate professor from the University of Illinois Chicago, and Ram Pendyala, professor with ASU's School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment—collected online survey responses from over 8,700 adults across the US and weighted the dataset to be representative of the US adult population, according to the report.

The group is now releasing the full de-identified Wave 1 dataset to be used by city planners, businesses, researchers, and others interested in understanding how people's choices in the US have evolved during the pandemic and their expectations for the future. The data include information about travel-related behaviors and attitudes.

[Read more.](#)

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## **Arizona Tech Leaders Transforming Mining into Zero-Harm Industry**

Major mining operations worldwide are becoming safer and more sustainable with the use of new and emerging technologies designed specifically for the sector, according to an AZ Biz Media report. Leading the way? Arizona companies and University of Arizona researchers who are making the industry safer, sustainable—and profitable.

Climate change is inspiring these companies and researchers to find solutions, said Claudio Cossio, project manager for Stantec Mining, a global mining technologies firm headquartered in Chandler that provides technology solutions focused on sustainability for every stage of operation, from mine exploration to closure and reclamation.

Investors are also demanding it. They want to see a positive return, not just on financial performance, but on keeping the planet safe, Cossio said.

"Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) is becoming like safety in the mining industry. Right now, it's still a priority, but it's becoming more ingrained as a core value as part of our culture. A lot of the major mining corporations are setting pretty high goals to get to net-zero emissions by 2030 or 2040, depending on the mining company," he said.

[Read more.](#)

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## State Licensing Board Meeting

The Arizona State Board of Technical Registration will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, April 27. The meeting agenda can be accessed [here](#).

Individuals that want to attend the meeting remotely must make a request in advance. Contact Kurt Winter at [kurt.winter@azbtr.gov](mailto:kurt.winter@azbtr.gov) if you're interested in attending remotely.

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**We Need Your Input on Proposed Changes to Engineers'**

## Creed

The [Engineers' Creed Survey](#) will be open until 9:00 pm EDT on April 23. As outlined in previous communications, NSPE is collecting feedback on proposed modifications to update outdated language without altering the philosophical underpinnings of the organization. The hope is that the use of broad, inclusive language will help all engineers within our organization incorporate their personal beliefs and experiences to better the profession.

Thank you to members who have already completed the survey. Please note: If you previously completed the survey, you will not be able to take it again.

If you have not had a chance to provide feedback, we encourage you to do so. Your input is important.

Thank you for your assistance, and thank you for being a member of NSPE.

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## Watch NSPE's New YouTube Vlog on Legislative and Regulatory Issues

Episode 3 of NSPE's new [Committee Corner](#) vlog covers the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and the March 24 markup of S.914 - the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021.

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## Ask Your Senators to Back Drinking and Wastewater Infrastructure

Professional Engineers play an integral role in the development and maintenance of the nation's infrastructure, including infrastructure that provides clean drinking water and safe wastewater treatment.

Every community in the United States needs clean drinking water, and wastewater treatment facilities that keep the community clean and safe. The Senate is expected to vote this week on a bill to fund these vital systems.

[Ask Your Senators to Vote "Yes" on S.914](#)

S. 914, The Drinking and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021, ensures that communities have both, by providing much-needed funding for our drinking and wastewater systems. The bill authorizes funding for the Safe Drinking Water Act programs, and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. It also establishes programs that direct services and funding to low-income and under-served communities, and allocates money to respond to cyber threats. Share your

engineering expertise with your lawmakers, and ask them to support this crucial funding.

S. 914 was voted out of the Senate Environment and Public Works committee with unanimous, bipartisan support. And in a press release dated April 15th, Majority Leader Schumer said the bill could be voted on by the full Senate as early as this week.

[Ask Your Senators to Vote "Yes" on S.914](#)

Please take a moment to contact your Senators, express your support, and ask them to vote "yes" on S. 914.

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## **Society Backs House Bills on Engineering Education and 529 Savings Plans**

NSPE supports the WORKER Act ( [H.R. 594](#) ), which establishes a \$20 million grant program to make specialized engineering programs available in K–12 schools. The bill was introduced by Rep. Tim Ryan (D-OH) and Rep. Susan Wild (D-PA) to improve worker training, retention, and advancement.

The grants will assist with teaching students the overall analytical and experimental approaches used in engineering and engineering technology; and increase participation of under-represented student groups in the engineering and engineering technology pipeline.

NSPE continues to advocate for passage of the Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act ( [H.R. 2171](#) ). This legislation was successfully reintroduced by Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-VA) with support from the Professional Certification Coalition. The bill allows the beneficiaries of tax-advantaged 529 education savings plans to pay the costs associated with obtaining or maintaining postsecondary credentials—including professional licensing and private certification—with funds from their plan. As introduced, the legislation supports both new and existing PE licenses and NICET certifications. A companion bill, [S. 905](#) , was introduced by Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN).

NSPE will work with the Professional Certification Coalition leadership to help move these bills through the legislative process.

Members can view and participate in advocacy campaigns at the [NSPE Advocacy Center](#) .

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## **Scammers Target Licensed Professionals**

Scammers typically pose as someone from your bank, the IRS, or tech-support services to steal sensitive information and money, but these bad actors have added a twist to their schemes. Now, authorities are warning professional licensees that they are becoming prime targets for fraud.

In March, Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge issued a fraud alert to licensees and state licensing boards. Scammers are calling license holders with claims that their licenses are under investigation and at risk of being suspended if they don't make an immediate payment. The license holder's caller ID may even display the legitimate licensing office's phone number that has been spoofed by the scam callers.

These latest scams have increased for nurses and other licensed medical professionals, but they aren't limited to a particular state, region, or profession. In February, the Maryland Department of Labor issued an alert about phishing emails targeting licensees. The Hawaii Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs warned licensees in July 2020 about individuals posing as state officials or law enforcement agents to intimidate potential victims into divulging personal information. And as early as 2019, the California Department of Consumer Affairs issued a fraud scheme alert to licensees of the agency's boards and bureaus, including the board that licenses design professionals.

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## Take Advantage of NSPE's Spring Webinars



Throughout April and May, NSPE will host a webinar every Wednesday starting at 2 p.m. EST. The webinars are available to members for \$99 (\$129 for nonmembers) and will include an online discussion and a 10-question quiz for the sessions to qualify for continuing education credit.

**April 28:** [Turn Your Ideas Into Gold - A Guide to Intellectual Property](#)

**May 5:** [Engineering Ethics: Canon IV - Fidelity to Employers/Clients](#)

**May 12:** [Engineering Leadership Success By Design - Emotional Intelligence and](#)

Neuroscience as Career Differentiators

**May 19:** Energy Storage: The Other Half of Renewable Energies

**May 26:** Catapult Your Win Rate by 50%

[Register now.](#)

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