

State News for NSPE Members

MSU Alums Aid New York Pandemic Response

The engineering skills of about half-dozen Montana State engineering alumni have gone into construction of field hospitals in New York, hard-hit by the Covid-19 pandemic.

AAON, a company founded by alumnus Norm Asbjornson and employing MSU alumni, provided 80 custom cooling and ventilation units for temporary hospitals built by the US Army Corps of Engineers at Stony Brook University and SUNY Old Westbury.

The company custom-designed the units for the purpose, and designated a production line at its Tulsa, Oklahoma, plant to double the normal production rate. The finished units arrived ahead of schedule and less than a week after AAON was first contacted.

MSU's engineering college was named for Asbjornson after a \$50 million gift in 2014.

[Read more.](#)

Interdisciplinary Team at Montana Tech Addressing PPE Needs

Engineers, scientists, and occupational health experts at Montana Technical University have teamed up to produce personal protective equipment such as masks and face shields for local healthcare workers.

The team is adapting the "Montana Mask," a 3D-printed reusable face mask designed by Billings inventors, while working to develop a filter material that could also be reused.

"It really has been a great opportunity to do something useful and good for our

community,” said Jack Skinner, associate professor of mechanical engineering. “That’s why students go into science and engineering: to improve the human condition and solve problems. I’m really proud of the group and how we responded to this need.”

[Read more.](#)

Big Sky Proceeds With Facility Expansion

Big Sky County Water and Sewer District is moving ahead with the Water Resource Recovery Facility expansion despite Covid-19. An update with a current rendering of the proposed plant expansion was presented via pre-recorded video on April 16.

The membrane bio reactor’s design is inspired by the grain elevators found throughout Montana.

The plant could be built in two phases. Said AE2S engineer Scott Buecker, “When you overbuild a treatment plant, it can be as bad as underbuilding a treatment plant because you have a lot of facilities there that aren’t necessary and so you’re mothballing them, trying to figure out how to preserve them.”

Final design is slated to be completed in September 2020, with bidding in October and construction starting by the end of the year.

[Read more.](#)

Welcome New Student Members!

- Kenneth Lang, Montana State University
 - Ashley Patera, Montana Tech
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Staying Connected in Montana

NSPE House of Delegates representative Michael Keene, P.E., wants to expand how Montana PEs/EITs and students communicate and help him provide better input during House of Delegates activities.

NSPE-MT members can share their contact information with Keene (mikekeenpe@gmail.com) to become a part of local group communications. Members can also join the Western Pacific Region community conversations by contacting Georgia Brensdaal, P.E. (mtmoosemom@aol.com; 406-431-7947).

Get Ready for *Virtual PE Conference 2020* (#NSPEVirtual)

To protect the health, safety, and welfare of our members, while continuing to provide meaningful and valuable education and engagement opportunities, NSPE leadership has decided to postpone this year's Professional Engineers Conference (**PECon**) in Philadelphia until summer 2021. In its place, the Society will host an online Virtual PE Conference in August. Events will be centered around the annual celebration of PE Day, August 5.



The new virtual program will make it easier for attendees to participate according to their schedules. Sessions can be experienced in a live virtual environment or by accessing recordings at a more convenient time. Virtual **PECon** will be easily accessible and affordable due to the elimination of travel costs and reduction in registration fees. PDH credits will be available for education sessions comparable to the amount you could earn at a regular **PECon**. The virtual conference will also provide networking and social connection with colleagues in addition to professional development opportunities.

Current plans include:

- Education tracks and sessions, featuring many of the sessions already planned for **PECon 2020**;
- Tracks spread throughout the week at various times of day, empowering attendees to take in more of the content they desire;
- Recording all sessions to make them available for on-demand viewing;
- Hosting keynote speakers and senior leaders allowing for interactive Q&A with attendees; and
- Networking/roundtable topic discussions with peers by region and areas of practice, geared to increase dialogue and member engagement.

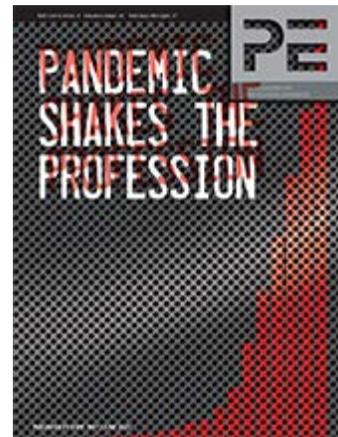
Stay tuned for more information on content and registration to come.

Pandemic Forces Profession to Adjust

NSPE and its certification division [NICET](#) , as well as state societies and individual

members, are all adapting to a changed world.

Our latest [PE cover story](#) highlights how organizations and individual PEs are meeting the challenges with courage, compassion, and innovation. NSPE and its state societies are continuing to provide information, advocacy, and continuing education as staffers are sheltering at home. PEs are running companies from their bedrooms or dining rooms and working to ensure employee well-being while keeping businesses afloat.



No one knows what the future holds. But professional engineers will be among those helping to create that future—as always, prioritizing the public health, safety, and welfare.

[Read more from May/June PE magazine.](#)

Update: NICET's certification testing for engineering technicians has started to return but on a reduced schedule. Pearson VUE, the company that manages testing centers for NICET exams as well as NCEES exams and those in many other professions, began reopening on May 1. Centers will be operating at 50% capacity and for limited hours. The reopening of testing centers in Pennsylvania and Alaska has not been scheduled, due to locally imposed restrictions. For the latest information, visit [NICET's COVID-19 response web page](#).

[Read the latest on NCEES's FE and PE exams.](#)

Don't Miss These Upcoming Webinars



NSPE is increasing the number of its webinars to serve members during the COVID-19 pandemic. Stay current in the profession, earn PDHs, and advance your career by tuning in.

- [Engineering Exemptions and Education: Diminish the First and Enhance the Second - May 20](#)

- [Negotiate It! How to Crush Your Fears, Develop Your Negotiation Muscle, and Gain Power in the Workplace - May 27](#)
- [Fire Protection Engineering in Property Risk Management - June 3](#)
- [Ethics in our Changing World - June 10](#)
- [Engineers, Building Water Systems and Legionella: What You Need to Know - June 24](#)

[Visit NSPE's PE Institute.](#)

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