

State News for NSPE Members

Show Your PE Pride!

NSPE members recently celebrated the contributions of the profession during the sixth annual [PE Day](#). But don't wait until next year's national event to show off this commitment to the profession. NSPE President Rick Guerra, P.E., F.NSPE, believes that proud members of the NSPE community can do so in the following ways all year round:

- Introduce yourselves as Licensed Professional Engineers
- Get to know your fellow PEs
- Use [#ProudPE](#) in your communications and social media posts

MSU Seeks Sponsors for Engineering Projects

The [Norm Asbjornson College of Engineering](#) at Montana State University is once again seeking sponsors for capstone projects that senior engineering students conduct each year.

Sponsors can be businesses, MSU faculty and staff, nonprofits, state and federal agencies and labs, or individuals—anyone who has an engineering or computer science challenge they would like help with, according to Craig Shankwitz, a capstone instructor in the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering. Sponsors don't need to be located in the Bozeman area.

"This is a great opportunity for people to tap into the engineering and computer science resources we have here at MSU," Shankwitz said. "Our students have access to state-of-the-art facilities, and they're able to tackle really significant projects with guidance from dozens of capstone faculty advisers who are experts in their fields."

[Read more.](#)

What's in the Infrastructure Package for Montana?

US Senator Jon Tester [released a statement](#) following the Senate's passage of the bipartisan *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* to highlight the investments that will benefit Montana.

The following are some of the investments that are featured in the legislation

Transportation

- Approximately \$2.82 billion for Montana highways.
- Montana will also receive approximately \$225 million in additional funding for a new bridge initiative to replace and repair bridges in poor condition.
- Approximately \$164 million for Montana over five years to bolster public transit infrastructure, a roughly 30% increase.
- \$15 million to study Amtrak long-distance passenger rail travel.

Water

- \$1 billion to complete all authorized rural water projects through the Bureau of Reclamation, including Fort Peck/Dry Prairie, Rocky Boys/North Central, and Musselshell-Judith rural water systems.
- Up to \$100 million for rehabilitating the Milk River Project.
- \$2.5 billion to complete all authorized Indian water rights settlements, including settlements for Montana Tribes.
- Clarifies that American Rescue Plan state and local fiscal recovery funds may be used towards the state or federal cost share to rehabilitate Bureau of Reclamation water infrastructure.

Broadband

- \$42.45 billion grant program for broadband deployment to areas of the country lacking access to internet service.
- \$2 billion to the US Department of Agriculture programs, which provide loans and grants to fund broadband service deployment and maintenance in rural areas.
- The Telecommunications Skilled Workforce Development Act, which will help address the workforce needs of the telecommunications industry to ramp up the human resources necessary to deploy broadband infrastructure efficiently and effectively.

Fire

- Tester-Moran bill to extend the IRS tax filing deadlines in Fire Management Assistance Grants for areas after significant fires.
- \$3.37 billion for reducing wildfire risk.

Resiliency (Flood, Drought)

- \$7 billion for Army Corps of Engineers infrastructure priorities to improve flood mitigation.
- \$3.5 billion for FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance program.
- \$1 billion for the FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program. This is a pre-disaster mitigation program, supporting states, local communities, tribes, and territories undertaking hazard mitigation projects to reduce the risk they face from disasters and natural hazards.
- \$2.2 billion for the Aging Infrastructure Account, including to The Bureau of Reclamation for water infrastructure projects across the West that need major upgrades or replacement.

Whitefish Eyes Clean Energy Economy

In an August 9 report that the United Nations called a "code red for humanity," the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change charted the pace of Earth's warming as nearing its limits, estimating that within a decade planetary temperatures will have exceeded a level world leaders previously identified as a preventable threshold.

As the planet warms, regions will be hit more frequently not just by extreme weather events but by multiple climate disasters at once, the report warned, describing the situations unfolding across the western US, where heat waves, drought and wildfires compound the damage, as the new normal.

However, the report also identified "strong and sustained reductions in emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases" as a measure to mitigate the acceleration of climate change and its consequences, including through local and regional initiatives, according to a *Flathead Beacon* article.

For example, in Whitefish, city leaders in 2018 adopted the Whitefish Climate Action Plan (CAP), with the overarching goal of reducing city facility emissions by 26% by 2025, using 2016 emissions as a baseline. That emission reduction goal aligns with the Paris Climate Agreement.

At a recent Whitefish City Council work session, city leaders considered going a step further by creating a full-time sustainability coordinator position, per a recommendation from the city's CAP Standing Committee.

"This summer, Whitefish, as well as the rest of the Western United States, is experiencing record heat waves, drought, wildfires, and unhealthy air quality," according to the committee's recommendation to council.

[Read more.](#)

State Licensing Board Meeting

The Montana Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors will hold a virtual meeting on **Thursday, August 26** (10 a.m.). New agenda items may be added up to three business days before the meeting. Access the licensing board [website](#) for more information.

Save the Date: Montana Annual Joint Engineers Conference

The Annual Joint Engineers Conference will be held **November 3-5, 2021**, at the Delta Colonial Hotel in Helena.

Visit the Montana Society of Engineers [website](#) for more details.



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 Job

[Field Engineer](#)

Missoula, MT

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](#).

Texas PE Takes Lead of the Society

Rick Guerra, P.E., F.NSPE, was recently installed as NSPE's 2021–22 president during the [2021 Installation Ceremony](#) at NSPE headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. In the latest issue of *PE* magazine, he [offers a perspective](#) on the engineering workforce pipeline, climate change, and engineering licensure.



Guerra is the president and CEO of Jose I. Guerra, Inc. a full-service, facilities engineering firm with offices in Austin, San Antonio, and Corpus Christi, Texas. The firm provides a comprehensive range of civil, structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing and fire protection engineering services to clients throughout the state.

As an active member of NSPE since 1994, Guerra has served in numerous leadership roles at the chapter, state, and national levels, including as president of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers in 2016-17 and was named a NSPE Fellow in 2018. In 2007, he was appointed by Governor Rick Perry as the licensed professional engineer member of the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners, serving until 2019. He received his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in 1982 and a master's degree in engineering in 1988, both from the University of Texas at Austin.

Guerra continues to promote the engineering profession by serving as a guest lecturer at UT Austin, acting as a high school career day host and serving as an engineering mentor for local high school students. He is also an active volunteer for his church, the Boy Scouts of America, and various other community organizations.

Celebrating Excellence in the Profession

NSPE members were honored on August 4 for their outstanding contributions to the profession during the 2021 Virtual Professional Engineers Conference.

Young Engineer of the Year Award

Stephanie Blain, P.E. was named the 2021 Young Engineer of the Year for her outstanding contributions to the engineering profession and the community. She is employed with Palmer Engineering Company in Winchester, Kentucky.



Engineering Education Excellence Award

Scott R. Hamilton, Ph.D., P.E., received the Engineering

Education Excellence Award, which recognizes licensed engineering faculty who have demonstrated the ability to link engineering education with professional practice. He is chair of the Civil & Mechanical Engineering Department at York College in York, Pennsylvania.



The Milton F. Lunch Ethics Contest winner and the QBS Award winners were also recognized during the conference.

The [2021 Milton F. Lunch Ethics Contest](#) provides an opportunity for NSPE members to put their ethics knowledge to the test on topics that present ethical challenges such as artificial intelligence, climate change, and the industrial exemption. **Michael Rademacher, P.E.**, of St. Louis, Missouri (Burns & McDonnell), is this year's winner. He will receive \$2,000, a certificate, and recognition in *PE* magazine.



The [QBS Awards](#) are cosponsored by NSPE and ACEC to recognize public and private entities that make exemplary use of the qualifications-based selection process at the federal, state and local levels. The **City of San Diego** was honored in the state/city government category and the **Idaho QBS Facilitators Council** received a special recognition award.

The award winners serve as examples of how well the QBS process works, and they help promote the practice in jurisdictions that do not use, or underuse, QBS to procure engineering services.

Introducing the 2021 Class of Society Fellows

By demonstrating exemplary and devoted service to their profession, the Society, and their community, 12 professional engineers have been honored as the 2021 Class of Fellow members.

- **Susan Best, P.E.** (PA)
- **Lee Czor, P.E.** (KY)
- **Beth Fifield Hodgson, P.E.** (WA)
- **Erin Gates, P.E.** (WY)
- **Angela Hanz, P.E.** (WI)



- **Kiel Johnson, P.E.** (KS)
- **Sharon Kimbrough, P.E.** (AL)
- **Matt Kruse, P.E.** (NE)
- **Andy Rogers, P.E.** (SC)
- **Breck Washam, P.E.** (MO)
- **Hardy Willis, P.E.** (NC)
- **Brian Malm, P.E.** (MN)

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