State Licensing Board Meeting
The Montana Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors will hold its next meeting on Friday, September 15. A full agenda will be posted within 10 days of the meeting date. Access more information here.

Montana Gives Regulatory Approval for 3D Printed Walls
Building code regulators in Montana have made history as the first in the US to approve 3D printed walls as an equal replacement for walls made with concrete masonry units (CMUs), or a standard cored concrete block, the 3D Printing Media Network reports.

The approval was granted to Tim Stark, a contractor based in Billings, Montana, after filing documents, specifications, and testing reports developed by Apis Cor, the Florida-based construction technology company that holds the Guinness World Record for the largest (volume) 3D printed building globally.

Apis Cor is currently the only construction company that has designed 3D printed walls that comply with international building codes. The company's 3D printed walls and material have been tested by an independent, third-party lab in Boston, Massachusetts, and at the Civil and Environmental Engineering School of the University of Connecticut. Read more.

CHIPS Act Expected to Spur Manufacturing in Montana
Two Montana lawmakers are hoping the CHIPS and Science Act, which President Joe Biden recently signed into law, will help address a semiconductor shortage. It could help spur manufacturing project growth across the state, they say, the Flathead Beacon reports. Applied Materials, one of the country's largest semiconductor manufacturers, operates 350,000 square feet of engineering and manufacturing space in Flathead Valley.
Montana US Senators Jon Tester and Steve Daines voted in favor of CHIPS. In a statement, Daines said, "Investing in American semiconductor production, innovation, STEM education, and R&D is essential to strengthening our national security, reinforcing the United States' position as a global leader and winning the race against China."

The act represents a $280 billion investment to help American tech companies build, expand, and modernize domestic facilities and equipment for semiconductor production and accelerate research in AI, quantum computing, 6G, hypersonics, and other national security technologies.

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**Electric Vehicle Deployment Plan Under Federal Review**

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality and the Montana Department of Transportation have finalized Montana's Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment Plan and submitted it to the Federal Highway Administration for approval in early August.

The plan encompasses a proposed strategy for spending the state's $43 million allocation of federal funds over the next five years under the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program. The NEVI Program was established through the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to fund direct-current electric vehicle charging infrastructure along interstate and US highway corridors over the next five years. Find out more about the final plan [here](#).

*Stay up to date on legislative issues through the [NSPE Advocacy Center](#).*

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**Honoring Excellence in the Profession**

NSPE members were honored for their outstanding contributions to the profession during NSPECon22 in Philadelphia.

**NSPE Award**

Howard (Skip) Harclerode II, P.E., F.NSPE, F.AIChE, received the Society's most prestigious award presented to a professional engineer who has been committed to the profession, public welfare, and humankind. Harclerode, the founder and president of KBD Engineering Company Inc., based in Phoenix, Maryland, has been an active member of NSPE and the Maryland Society of Professional Engineers since 1980. He is also a past chair of the Maryland Board for Professional Engineers.
Engineering Education Excellence Award
Mohamed El-Sayed, Ph.D., P.E., a professor of mechanical engineering at Eastern Michigan University, received this award for licensed engineering faculty who have demonstrated the ability to link engineering education with professional practice. El-Sayed has vast technical and industrial expertise in the areas of vehicle realization, quality, reliability, durability, and optimization. He has also worked in various positions in the automotive industry. He has several granted patents, one authored book, and over a hundred technical and educational publications.

New Professional of the Year Award
This award recognizes a young NSPE member who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession and the community during the early years of one’s career.

Holly Ahumada, P.E., CFM, is employed with Freese and Nichols in the firm’s stormwater group. Throughout her career, Ahumada has specialized in stormwater and floodplain management, as well as supporting public entities with long-term planning, and the analysis and mitigation of flooding issues. She is an active member of the Fort Worth Chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers and serves as the chapter’s president.

Dylan Ward, P.E., MPA, is a project manager for the City of Henderson in Kentucky and oversees the Engineering, Mass Transit, and Safety/Training divisions. For the Kentucky Society of Professional Engineers, he serves as vice president for the Western Region and is president of the Green River Chapter.

Fact Check: The Myths of Anti-Licensing
Time and again, calls for anti-licensing return to a handful of myths and purported problems that can only be solved by drastically weakening or outright eliminating licensing. The NSPE-led Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing takes a closer look at those myths and sets the record straight.

Myth #1: Education requirements to obtain licenses are too onerous and arbitrary.
Fact: Some occupations are rightly calling for a careful review and recalibration of
the education requirements to become licensed. This is what should be done. It is not, however, what anti-licensors are calling for. What anti-licensing seeks to do is broadly and arbitrarily lower education standards for all professions. Some proposals go so far as to disallow minimum education requirements for highly complex, technical professions that impact public safety and welfare.

**Myth #2: Licensing creates an undue burden for spouses of military personnel who have to contend with red tape and new costs every time they move.**

**Fact:** Well-designed professional licensing systems already include interstate practice and mobility and provisions for military spouses. The real threat comes from “universal licensing” proposals that would dilute existing mobility systems that have been working well for military personnel and the public for decades. What’s more, some of these proposals impose arbitrary residency requirements that create new barriers to practicing that would otherwise not exist. Most importantly, “universal licensing” will create a race to the bottom, hurt the public’s welfare, and create business insurance and liability implications.

**Myth #3: Licensing creates barriers to employment for women, minorities, and the socio-economically disadvantaged.**

**Fact:** Licensing helps level the playing field for women and minorities. A 2021 study by Oxford Economics finds that licensing narrows the gender-driven wage gap by about a third and the race-driven wage gap by about half. In any industry, responsible licensing systems create well-defined career paths for workers—regardless of gender or ethnicity—and opportunities to achieve higher earnings.

**Myth #4: Licensing is anti-competitive.**

**Fact:** Licensing is pro-consumer and pro-competition because it enables consumers to choose from a pool of qualified licensed professionals. These qualifications are verified upfront by independent licensing boards composed of experts in a given professional field. Licensing also helps level the playing field for women and minorities, increasing fairness, competition, and merit-based career opportunities.

Read more on the truth about professional licensing.

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**EJCDC Documents: 2022 Construction Manager as Advisor Series**

The Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee has released the [2022 Construction Manager as Advisor Series](#). This series is completely new to EJCDC and is intended for projects in which the owner’s primary representative
During construction will be the Construction Manager as Advisor (CM).

The CM as Advisor Series is an alternative to the use of the EJCDC Construction Series, in which the engineer that prepared the design subsequently serves as the owner's construction contract administrator. The CM as Advisor Series is comprised of contract documents, administrative forms, bonds, bidding, and procurement documents.

Shop now and save.