

State News for NSPE Members

Call for Nominations: Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the Year Awards

NSPE-NH is seeking nominations for the Engineer of the Year (EOY) and Young Engineer of the Year (YEOY) Awards for 2024. Nominations are due by **Wednesday, January 17, 2024.**

EOY and YEOY are the highest awards given to individuals by the New Hampshire Engineering Societies. Each award is presented to an engineer who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession, the public welfare, and humankind. The awards will be presented at the 2024 Engineers Week Awards Banquet on February 22. Access more information about the awards and nomination forms [here](#).

NH Towns Benefit from Tidal Crossing Flood Reduction Project

[The Office For Coastal Management has announced](#) that the New Hampshire Resilient Tidal Crossings project has received \$2.9 million to upgrade priority tidal culverts on state roads in the towns of Rye and Stratham, New Hampshire. The NOAA grant was funded through the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The upgrade will improve tidal flow, which reduces flooding and erosion and positively affects the ecosystem. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2025.

This multi-year effort started in 2014 when the Nature Conservancy and the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services worked together to create the state's [tidal crossing assessment protocol](#). Multiple organizations and professionals participated in nearly every step of the protocol's development. The state used this information to assess all of New Hampshire's tidal crossings in 2018, and determined that 80 percent of crossings were moderately to highly restrictive of tidal flows. These two lead organizations, along with other stakeholders, advanced the effort with design and engineering projects from 2020 through 2023. This

funding helped move these three tidal-crossing replacement and restoration projects toward the final step: implementation. [Read more.](#)

New Hampshire Schools Awarded \$700,000 in Robotics Grants

The New Hampshire Department of Education is awarding 77 schools a total of \$713,601 to fund robotics programs for their students, the [New Hampshire Business Review reports](#).

“This is such an incredible opportunity for so many schools throughout the state that are eager to establish robotics teams and participate in competitive events. Not only will this initiative motivate public and charter school students to potentially pursue careers in STEM, but it will also help build critical life and work-related skills — all while students are having fun and connecting with their teammates,” said Frank Edelblut, education commissioner.

Grants are being awarded to expand existing robotics programs within schools and to create new programs for schools that have not yet launched robotics teams.

Funding will be used to purchase robotics kits, parts and tools, as well as pay for registration fees, competition fees, transportation to events, team shirts and stipends for coaches or advisors. Grants range from \$2,000 to \$14,850 per school, depending on their needs. In addition to implementing robotics programs, some grants will be used to launch drone programs in select schools, including the Cooperative Middle School in the Exeter Region Cooperative School District. [Read more.](#)

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

Looking Toward a Promising Future

By Bill Atkinson, P.E., F.NSPE, President 2023–24



As I continue on my professional journey as the NSPE president, I often reflect on what our organization has done since its founding in 1934 and what NSPE needs to do going forward. The next stage of NSPE's future begins with our vision to ensure that the public lives in a world where engineering decisions are made by qualified and ethically accountable professionals. This will require that a unified engineering community step up to protect licensure laws across the nation and maintain high standards for professional practice. It will require that we embrace innovation and emerging technologies. This future will be bolstered by a new generation of engineers that we must encourage to understand that they can truly make a difference in the world. I look forward to playing my part and supporting others in these efforts.

Licensure and Emerging Technologies

Protection of the public health, safety, and welfare is at our core as professional engineers. Licensure is key to ensuring consistent standards of practice and professional competencies. We must make sure that these standards and competencies remain relevant to how we do things today, while looking toward the future.

We must continually question ourselves and the regulations that are in place. Are state licensing laws adequately regulating the profession of engineering without precluding otherwise qualified individuals from practicing? Is our current licensure model adequately serving its purpose? Are engineering licensure exemptions creating gaps where the public could be harmed? The answers to these questions can help drive us to better ways of safeguarding the public.

I believe that most individuals that become engineers do so because they are good at making things better. They are not tied to the world they are in today and are always pursuing excellence and improvement. I believe that by pooling our experiences as engineers, we can bring the best and brightest together to tackle any challenge that we may face as we seek to evolve. This evolution will involve the development and use of emerging technologies to spur innovative solutions. NSPE is supporting members by providing professional development that showcases the use of these technologies in a manner that is ethical and will benefit the public. [Read more](#).

NSPECon24 – Call for Presentation Proposals

Prepare to share your expertise during NSPECon24 in Raleigh, North Carolina, August 7-9, 2024. [Review the topics](#) NSPE seeks in the areas of career development, leadership, and issues and trends, and think about how you can contribute. The submission site will open on November 1 and the proposal deadline is **January 10, 2024**.

The [NSPECon23 program](#) is still available online and may give potential presenters some ideas about the caliber of sessions needed for next year.

Volunteers are the Heart of NSPE: Get Involved and Share Your Voice



Volunteers are essential to advancing NSPE's vision to ensure a world where the public can be confident that engineering decisions affecting their lives are made by qualified and ethically accountable professionals. Volunteering is also a great opportunity for members to grow their professional network and connect with other leaders in the field.

There are [several ways to get involved](#)...here a few opportunities to consider

Serve as a mentor for an engineering student. If interested, send an email to education@nspe.org.

NSPE online community champion. Virtual opportunity to promote community and sharing of ideas through NSPE's online channels. If interested, send an email to membership@nspe.org.

Write an article for *PE* magazine. Share your expertise and insights on professional practice, education, ethics, leadership, licensure, public policy, DEI, emerging technologies, and sustainability and resilience by serving as a guest writer for *PE* magazine. If interested, email pemagazine@nspe.org for submission guidelines.

Collaborate with staff to draft/supply input on federal legislation, regulations or public comments to federal Congressional staff and committees (Identify your area(s) of vocational expertise.) If interested, send an email to governmentrelations@nspe.org.

To update your e-mail address, visit www.nspe.org and login to manage your account.

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