PE MATTERS STATE NEWS

NSPE-NH NEW HAMPSHIRE SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

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State News for NSPE Members

Paul Schmidt Named Engineer of the Year

Paul Schmidt, P.E., F.NSPE, vice-president and principal of CMA Engineers, Inc. of Portsmouth has been selected by a jury of his peers from New Hampshire's engineering societies as the 2021 New Hampshire Engineer of the Year. The New Hampshire Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE-NH) nominated Paul based on his record of professional accomplishments, service to his profession, record of contributions to his community, and dedication to his family. Paul is an environmental engineer, managing water, wastewater and solid waste projects.

Paul has been an active member of the New Hampshire engineering community for over 25 years and is a previous NH Young Engineer of the Year Award recipient and Fellow of the National Society of Professional Engineers. He received a BSCE from Clarkson University and an MS in Environmental Engineering from the University of Massachusetts. He is a licensed professional engineer in New Hampshire and Maine.

Paul provides project development for CMA Engineers, Inc., managing high-level projects and mentoring younger staff. In addition to significant project work state-wide, Paul managed the implementation of an innovative solid waste/wastewater project in Berlin that was selected as the NH Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award in 2014. The project was described as "the essence of good engineering" by the president of the American Society of Civil Engineers, as the project was accorded one of two annual national project awards by ASCE.

Paul masterfully balances his drive and passion for engineering while giving back to his profession and community. He has been actively involved in multiple New Hampshire engineering organizations including the New Hampshire Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE-NH) where he has held national and state positions and the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) – Northern New

England, where he currently serves as Treasurer.

Paul and his wife Cathy reside in Stratham, NH with their daughter, Andrea and son, Adam. They are active in their community and volunteer their time to a number of local, state, and national charities.

COVID-19 concerns have delayed the award presentation. Paul will be officially honored at the 2022 Engineers Week Awards Banquet & Exhibition.

New Hampshire's engineering societies also named Harrison Roakes, P.E., as the 2021 Young Engineer of the Year. Harrison is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire environmental engineering program ('12, '14G) and joined Sanborn Head in 2014. Over the past six years, he has steadily advanced in his career and is currently a project manager responsible for numerous projects for private and public-sector clients. He was nominated for the award by the American Council of Engineering Companies of New Hampshire.

Within the local environmental engineering community, Harrison is well-respected and was the recipient of the Environmental Business Council of New England's Ascending Leader award in 2019. In addition, he has been instrumental in building Sanborn Head's visibility and reputation within the environmental profession nationwide by becoming one of the firm's leading experts in per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) fate and transport, among other emerging topics.

Hampton Beach Seeks Expert Input On Coastal Resilience Master Plan

As Hampton Beach officials work on a new town master plan, they are turning to climate change scientists for help with coastal resilience, reports New Hampshire Public Radio. The village is experiencing more frequent low-level flooding on the streets, and scientists say it will get worse in the coming years. A 2019 state report estimated that sea levels off New Hampshire could rise a foot or more in the next thirty years, even with action on climate change.

Opinion: NH Needs the R&D Tax Credit

A bill to roll back the state's R&D tax credit would be a blow to New Hampshire's manufacturing sector, says the past chair of the Business and Industry Association. Val Zanchuk's commentary in *NH Business Review* explains that use of the tax credit has grown every year since it began in 2008. "Some legislators are opposed to targeted tax credits. I disagree," writes Zanchuk. "Promoting manufacturing by investing in the state R&D tax credit program encourages new products and

innovations, job growth (and job protection), and helps boost New Hampshire's economy in ways no other sector can match."

Granite State Job Opportunity

Civil Site Project Manager
Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.

See other engineering job opportunities on the NSPE Job Board.

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the ***NSPE Advocacy Center*** .

New Report: Valuing Professional Licensing

For years, professional associations and regulatory boards lacked hard data that demonstrated the value of licensing. In 2020, the Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing (ARPL) sought to fill that information gap by commissioning Oxford Economics to help better understand the nuanced impacts of licensing on professions and trade and vocational occupations. NSPE is a founding member of ARPL.

The report *Valuing Professional Licensing in the United States* , includes several key findings:

- Across all professions and occupations, **licensing is associated with a 6.5% average increase in hourly earnings**, even after accounting for the job holder's educational attainment, gender, and racial demographics.
- Among professionals in technical fields requiring significant education and training, **a license narrows the gender-driven wage gap by about one third and the race-driven wage gap by about half**.
- Those in trade and vocational occupations can expect a **7.1% hourly wage increase** after becoming licensed, while those in a profession requiring advanced education and training can expect a **3.6% wage increase** after becoming licensed.

ARPL will host a **live webinar on February 24, 2021 (3:00 p.m. eastern standard time)** to review findings and conclusions of the report and share new strategies for lawmaker outreach. Register now .

Licensing Reform Must Prioritize Public Safety, Says NSPE

President

NSPE President Tricia Hatley has once again made the case for keeping public health, welfare, and safety at the forefront of efforts to reform occupational licensure and increase mobility.

In a recent column directed to state and local government leaders, Hatley warns of the risks of implementing one-size-fits-all universal licensure proposals that do not maintain necessary education and experience standards.

Most people agree professionals should be allowed to move across state lines and earn a living with the least cost and hassle possible. Likewise, most people want to protect the public's health, safety and welfare by ensuring they are being served by qualified professionals who have the knowledge, skills and experience for the job. This is especially true in highly technical, high-impact professions that the Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing represents like certified public accountants, architects, engineers, surveyors and landscape architects.

Here comes the rub: many of the universal licensing proposals being pitched to state lawmakers, including those put forth by the American Legislative Exchange Council and in Arizona, tend to focus exclusively on the first point—improving mobility—while disregarding the second—ensuring standards necessary to protect the public.

In other words, universal licensing mandates don't consider the critical importance of substantially equivalent requirements between states. Instead, they dictate that states must accept a license issued by any state without regard for, understanding of, or any input in, the underlying minimum competency requirements behind the license.

Read the full op-ed column.

PEs Can Strengthen Autonomous Vehicle Safety

NSPE is calling on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to rely on the expertise of professional engineers and follow recommendations in the Society's Autonomous Vehicle Policy Guide as part of the federal safety frame work for automated driving systems.

In recent public comments , NSPE President Tricia Hatley informed the agency that NSPE is committed to creating a world

where the public can be confident that engineering decisions affecting their lives are made by qualified and ethically accountable professionals. NSPE Position Statement No. 03-1772 states that the testing and deployment of AVs must include a professional engineer. The rationale for the position is rooted in a professional engineer's ethical obligation to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

The Society also recommends that the NHTSA implement a third-party verification process. A third-party verification process should establish that the ADS technology under review meets a minimal level of safety, as determined by an assessment of risk. This can be done through the submittal of risk assessments audited by a professional engineer who is in responsible charge of the third-party verification process.

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