

State News for NSPE Members



New Hampshire Celebrates 68th Annual Engineers Week

On February 19th, engineers throughout the State of New Hampshire gathered at the Grappone Center in Concord to celebrate the 69th Annual Engineers Week. The day began with an afternoon of technical presentations, followed by a reception with exhibitors, dinner, presentation of the engineering awards, and ended with a keynote presentation by Jason Moon of New Hampshire Public Radio. Over 200 engineers, students, educators, and guests attended the technical presentations and reception. Over 40 engineering firms, engineering societies, and exhibitors sponsored the event.



GOVERNOR SUNUNU ADDRESSES THE AUDIENCE

The technical sessions included presentations on the distribution and fate of per-

and poly-fluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) in the Great Bay Estuary, the Southern New Hampshire Regional Water Project, the Atlanta Botanical Gardens Walkway Collapse Investigation, and the design of Dry Dock 1 Super Flood Basin at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

Once the educational sessions concluded, the attendees had a chance to grab a drink, catch up with peers, and chat with exhibitors before they headed into the banquet hall for dinner. Tony Puntin, P.E., of BETA Group Inc., welcomed everyone to the reception and provided emcee duties for the evening. Governor Sununu stopped in to say a few words. Dinner began soon after.



YOUNG ENGINEER OF THE YEAR JEREMY BELANGER, LEFT, AS INTRODUCED BY NICK GOLON

After dinner, Tony recognized past engineering award winners in the audience. This year, there were two additions to the group of engineering award winners. [Jeremy Belanger, P.E.](#), a project engineer at TFMoran in Bedford, was awarded the 2020 Young Engineer of the Year Award. [Robert “Bob” Henry, Ph.D., P.E.](#), an associate professor of civil and environmental engineering at UNH, was awarded the 2020 Engineer of the Year Award. A panel of their peers selected Jeremy and Bob after being nominated by one of their professional society affiliations. Both recipients received recognition for their achievements and contributions to their profession and community. Congratulations Jeremy and Bob!



ENGINEER OF THE YEAR BOB HENRY, RIGHT, AS INTRODUCED BY RAY COOK

The banquet was capped off with keynote speaker Jason Moon of New Hampshire Public Radio and the [Bear Brook podcast](#). Jason discussed how genetic genealogy was used to identify three of the victims of the Bear Brook murder victims, as well as the potential uses, good and bad, for genetic genealogy in the future.

As the planning process for next year's Engineers Week Banquet gets underway, we welcome your ideas and input on ways to improve the event and possible speakers for next year. We also welcome volunteers who wish to offer their skills to help continue making the Annual Engineers Week Banquet a success. A big thank you to all the sponsors, exhibitors, attendees, and volunteers that made this year's event possible. We could not have done it without you!



KEYNOTE SPEAKER JASON MOON

MATHCOUNTS Winners Advance to National Competition



From left to right: Winners of the New Hampshire State MATHCOUNTS competition held on March 7th at Plymouth State University who will represent New Hampshire at the National competition in Orlando, FL in May. From left to right: Coach Karen Legault (Academy for Science and Design), Garima Rastogi (Rastogi Home School), David Cong (Ross. A. Lurgio Middle School), Vedant Patil (Elm Street Middle School), and Andrew Carratu (Cardigan Mountain School).

Winners of the New Hampshire State MATHCOUNTS competition held on March 7th at Plymouth State University will represent New Hampshire at the National competition in Orlando, FL in May.

Approximately 90 middle grade students from 26 schools participated. At the state meet, the students are given three written tests. Based on those results, the 12 top-scoring competitors then compete in the Countdown Round, a fast-paced test in which the questions are projected on a screen and the students have a maximum of 45 seconds in which to answer. After the exciting Countdown Round the winners are announced and awarded trophies and plaques.

Based on the State meet results, the four very talented and excited individual winners who will make up the NH State Team that goes to Orlando are:

- 1st Place: Garima Rastogi, Rastogi Home School, Anshul Rastogi (Coach)
- 2nd Place: Andrew Carratu, Cardigan Mountain School, Rob Edson (Coach)
- 3rd Place: David Cong, Ross A. Lurgio Middle School, Sean Morin (Coach)
- 4th Place: Vedant Patil, Elm Street Middle School, Preeti Sinha (Coach)

Karen Legault, Coach for the winning team, will coach the State Team and accompany them to the National Competition.

MATHCOUNTS is a national mathematics competition to provide engaging math programs to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students of all ability levels to build confidence and improve attitudes towards math and problem solving. In New Hampshire, it is

sponsored by the New Hampshire Society of Professional Engineers and the New Hampshire Teachers of Mathematics.

The state is divided into six regions. The students first compete at their local schools and then at the regional level in February. The three winning teams from each region, together with top-scoring individuals not represented on those teams, then compete at the state level in March to determine the four top individuals who will represent New Hampshire at the national competition in Orlando, FL in May.

The following students won the State Countdown Round:

1st Place: Garima Rastogi, Rastogi Home School

2nd Place: Deetya Nagri, Academy for Science and Design

3rd Place: Pratham Mukewar, Academy for Science and Design

4th Place: Vedant Patil, Elm Street Middle School

The three winning teams at the State Meet are as follows:

1st Place: Academy for Science & Design, Karen Legault (Coach)

2nd Place: Richmond Middle School, John Kitzmiller (Coach)

3rd Place: Elm Street Middle School, Preeti Sinha (Coach)

Dr. Natalya Vinogradova of the Mathematics Department coordinated the activities at Plymouth State University.

If you are interested in coaching a team, volunteering to help at a competition or making a donation to MATHCOUNTS, please contact Gregg Comstock, P.E., at info@nhspe.org.

Member Spotlight: Katy Ward, P.E.

Principal Engineer, Aries Engineering, Concord

Since graduating from Michigan State in 2002, Katy Ward has worked for a year as Manager of Technical Services at a stack testing company in Maine prior to joining Aries in 2003. While at Aries, she worked her way up from an entry-level Engineer I in 2003 to Principal Engineer and President in 2016. She is responsible for conducting multimedia environmental compliance assessments, environmental permitting, air quality engineering, site assessments, site characterizations, and site remediation. Among her clients: hospitals, educational institutions, maintenance facilities, and various industrial facilities, including wood priming and painting, chemical manufacturing, structural steel manufacturing, hi-tech manufacturers, and food production.

Katy is also a New Hampshire Certified Hazardous Waste Coordinator and holds a

BS in chemical engineering from Michigan State University.

Tell us about the projects are you working on right now.

We are in the middle of designing a full-scale remediation program to remove fuel oil that has impacted soil and groundwater extending beneath several city blocks in a residential area. This project has several challenges, including community relations and access restrictions, that impact effective implementation of the remediation program. We also have several interesting compliance-related projects, including an air permitting and air pollution control evaluation for a new acid etching process, a multi-media environmental compliance audit for a facility with operations covering over 80 acres, and hazardous waste audits for an industrial facility as a part of an enforcement settlement.

When did you know you wanted to be an engineer?

I came from a family of teachers and grew up in a small town. I didn't have a lot of exposure to other careers, but I knew teaching wasn't for me. During my Junior year in college when I had to declare a major, I picked up an environmental engineering brochure in my academic advisor's office, and it was a lightbulb moment. I knew that's what I would do. At the time, Michigan State didn't offer an exclusive environmental engineering degree, so I graduated with a chemical engineering degree with an environmental focus.

What does the PE license mean to you?

As engineers, we are taught to face challenges and solve problems. The PE license demonstrates that you've successfully overcome a very difficult challenge and have met the highest standard of the engineering profession. Licensed Professional Engineers have an obligation to uphold a strict standard of ethics, which drives engineers to be technical experts, honest communicators, and effective advocates for their clients. In my experience, Professional Engineers take these obligation seriously.

In my free time, I love to....

I love to be active outside including skiing, hiking, camping, and running. I also enjoy watching my two kids play sports, which seems to take up most of my free time these days.

Spread the Word: Scholarship Deadline Nears

The [application deadline](#) for an NSPE-NH scholarship is fast approaching—April 30. The scholarship(s) have a minimum value of \$1,000. One or more scholarships are awarded depending on the performance of the scholarship fund for that year.

Scholarships are granted to high school seniors or college undergraduate students who are currently, or will be, enrolled in an ABET-EAC accredited engineering program. Applicants must be New Hampshire residents, and preference will be given to students planning on attending a New Hampshire university or college.

Last year's winner, Jared Fortier, is attending the University of New Hampshire in Durham, majoring in computer engineering. He expects to graduate in May 2023 and plans to get a job here in New Hampshire as a computer hardware engineer once he earns his degree. At UNH, Jared is involved with the UNH Hamel Scholars Program and the UNH Honors Program. His GPA at UNH is 4.0.



Our scholarship fund can also use your support. Please [make a donation](#) to support the future of the profession.

New Tools Available for PE Advocates

As “occupational reform” bills spring up across the country and put professional licensing at risk, an NSPE-formed coalition has prepared a useful resource kit that can be used by PE advocates to set the record straight.

The [Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing](#) is working to remind lawmakers that highly complex and technical professions, like engineering, rely on a rigorous system to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. It’s this rigor that clearly sets these professions apart from the vocational occupations that lawmakers often cite in defense of their efforts to weaken licensing requirements.

You can learn more about the threat in an ARPL-produced [webinar](#) covering the organization’s background, its work on behalf of highly technical licensed professions, and the state advocacy tools it’s created.

You’ll also find advocacy and messaging resources on the [main page](#) of the public Drop Box, titled “State Partner Tools and Resources (ARPL).” On this page, you’ll see folders for Key Messages and Talking Points, Lawmaker Outreach Handouts, Public Opinion Research, Sample Letters to the Editor and Op-Eds, Social Media, State Specific Folders, Video Files, and a folder for the webinar.

In addition to NSPE, alliance members include the American Institute of Architects, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards, the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy, the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, and the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying.

If you have questions, please contact Margaret Edwards at medwards@nspe.org.

What Will New Hampshire's Future Workforce Look Like?

As New Hampshire's population ages, questions about the future of work in the state are becoming a greater concern. At a February 5 event in Manchester, academic, business, and government leaders met to discuss the way forward, according to a [report](#) by the New Hampshire Business Review. Dean Kamen, founder of DEKA Research and Development, hosted the event and noted that finding qualified people is a challenge. "While technology is moving faster and faster, education isn't," Kamen said. "Kids need project-based ways to see how exciting tech is."

North Country Residents: Stop Private Landfills

State legislators are considering a two-year moratorium on the development of private landfills while investigating public options. Residents of Dalton urged lawmakers to introduce the legislation, according to [New Hampshire Public Radio](#). As one resident said, "I think that no private corporation has the right to dump trash from all over New England into our state in order to earn money for themselves and their shareholders."

Climate Change Special Issue

As climate change effects proliferate, professional engineers are taking on the crisis. They're working to provide solutions as part of their responsibility to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

The [March/April issue of PE magazine](#) includes three articles highlighting PEs' work in this area:

- "[Climate Changers](#)" –Young engineers feel a responsibility to take action on climate with their



work—and they’re increasingly choosing to work for companies that share this perspective.

- **“Harsh Realities Drive Adaptation”** – Cities are targeting climate-change impacts with comprehensive policies. Professional engineers and AEC firms are showing that their expertise can help bring these plans to fruition.
- **“A Grand Challenge Needs to Inspire Grand Solutions”** – Professional engineers have an abundance of opportunities to invent creative, innovative solutions to issues surrounding environmental sustainability and resilience.

Share Your Views on the Engineering Profession

Do you support the elimination of state licensure exemptions? Should states align their licensing requirements to help PEs easily practice in multiple jurisdictions? Does your place of employment welcome diverse perspectives?

These are just some of the issues facing the professional engineering community. NSPE encourages you to provide your perspectives on these topics and more by participating in the [2020 Engineering Outlook & Salary Survey](#).

The 15-minute survey is open to NSPE members, engineering students, and engineering professionals. Participants will be eligible to enter a drawing for one of four \$50 Amazon gift cards.

The results of the survey will be made available to participants and will also be shared in *PE* magazine and other NSPE publications.

[Access the 2020 Engineering Outlook & Salary Survey.](#)

Communication on Your Terms: Update Your Preferences

My Account

Step 1: Update your profile

Step 2: Select your email preferences

My Account Links

- My Degrees
- My Donations
- My Downloads
- My Expertise
- My Committees
- Manage my Subscriptions
- My Interest Groups
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- My Payment Info

NSPE is committed to providing the best service possible. To that end, we need to verify that member profile information is accurate. This includes preferred names and titles, and employer and contact information. NSPE asks all members to [review their member profile and update their information](#).

Thanks to updates to the NSPE database, members can now also choose exactly what emails they want to receive. With new subscription management options, members can unsubscribe from some mailing lists without missing out on information of interest to them. In order to make this possible, all members' email settings have been reset to the default. Everyone will need to log into their account to manage their preferences, even if they have previously unsubscribed from a mailing list.

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