

State News for NSPE Members

NHSPE and Partners Present 2021 S.T.E.M. Excellence in Teaching Awards

NHSPE has joined forces with the NH Joint Committee of Engineering Societies and the University of New Hampshire to recognize deserving teachers at the elementary, middle, and high school levels who are promoting S.T.E.M. curriculum in the classroom.

This year marked the 15th consecutive year of this exciting program, and we have had the pleasure of honoring many outstanding teachers throughout New Hampshire. These great teachers are the motivators and educators for our next generations of engineers, inventors, mathematicians, and scientists.

This year's winners were:

High School - *Mr. James Miller, Bishop Brady High School, Concord, NH*



High School - *Mr. John Tietjen, Lebanon High School, Lebanon, NH*



Elementary School - *Ms. Sandy Fitzmorris, Milan Village School, Milan, NH (No picture available)*

All three of this year's winners were honored at a ceremony this past spring at their school. Attending the ceremonies were faculty and administrators, and in some cases family and students. Each teacher received a plaque honoring their achievement along with a stipend check.

Submitted by [Robert Rotier](#), NHSPE Teachers Awards Chair.

In Memoriam: Benjamin Pratt, P.E.



The New Hampshire Society of Professional Engineers is sad to report the passing

of Benjamin Pratt. Ben served a crucial role with the New Hampshire MATHCOUNTS program and was a part of the NHSPE community for over three decades. Ben was also the 2014 recipient of the New Hampshire Engineer of the Year award.

Ben started with MATHCOUNTS in 1983, when the competition was established, and for 37 years (until 2020), he served as the Keene Regional Coordinator. From 2003 to 2018 (15 years) he also served as the State MATHCOUNTS Coordinator of the six New Hampshire regions. Ben devoted many hours to help grow the New Hampshire MATHCOUNTS program to a point where hundreds of middle-grade students now compete each year for a chance to represent their region at the state competition and then to represent New Hampshire at the national competition.

Ben's importance to the MATHCOUNTS program is perhaps best expressed by the following sentiments sent by staff at the National MATHCOUNTS office in Alexandria, Virginia: "It was always evident that Ben took great pride in his chapter and state program and cared a great deal for the students and coaches they served. MATHCOUNTS was truly fortunate to have been represented by him."

Ben spent 44 years in the engineering field working for Kingsbury Machine Inc., Raytheon, Anderson-Nichols Inc. and finally with New Hampshire Ball Bearing (NHBB) until his retirement in 2004. Ben was also extremely active in the Town of Antrim, where he served as library trustee, chairman of the Zoning Board, and as a member of the Board of Selectmen, the Antrim Water and Sewer Commission, and as the town treasurer.

Ben enjoyed 35 years of marriage to his wife Patricia until she passed in 1988. Shortly after retirement Ben met his partner Diane Chauncey with whom he shared the rest of his life. Ben is survived by Diane Chauncy, his oldest son Peter Pratt, his daughter Debbie Brown, and several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

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

Have You Registered for Virtual PECon 2021?

With sessions on leadership, innovation, diversity, ethics, time management, and more, there is a session for everyone at the [2021 Virtual Professional Engineers Conference](#) (Aug 3-5).

You won't want to miss out on the keynote speakers, networking with your friends and peers in Coffee Chats, solving everyday



problems in MasterMind sessions, and [PE Day](#) (August 4). Here's a peek....

- [Managing Up, Out and Within](#) (Stephanie Buckingham and Paula E. Miles, P.E.)
- [Cyber-attacks and Resilience](#) (James Livermore and Dave Ubert)
- [NSPE Engineering Excellence Awards](#)
- [Mars Is a Harsh Mistress \(So is the Moon\)](#) (George Hamilton, P.E., F.NSPE)
- [Delegation: How to Manage the Monkeys on Your Back](#) (Shelley Rowe, P.E.)

Iowa Approves PE Exam Before Experience

PE license candidates in Iowa will have the opportunity to take the PE exam prior to meeting the four years of experience requirement.

Legislation (H.F. 284) signed by Governor Kim Reynolds in April eliminates the requirement that applicants for a professional engineer license must show necessary practical experience in engineering work prior to taking the PE exam. The bill does not alter other experience requirements for applicants.

Individuals applying for licensure in Iowa should access the Iowa Engineering and Land Surveying Examining Board [website](#) for updates on implementation of the rule change.

In states that have “decoupled” the experience and examination requirements, applicants are still required to complete all education, examination, and experience requirements before being granted a PE license.

NSPE believes that licensing boards should provide the option of taking the PE exam as soon as applicants for licensure believe they are prepared to take the exam and have passed the FE exam. Applicants, upon passing the exam, should not be eligible for licensure before meeting all other jurisdictional requirements.

Can the Engineering Profession Achieve Racial Equity?

Engineering occupations are some of the highest-paying and most prestigious in the US labor market, but they are also some of the least diverse. A [new report](#) from the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce finds that between 1990 and 2019, the total number of Black/African American and Latinx students who graduated with a bachelor's degree in engineering increased nearly fourfold, but there is still far from equitable representation.



Over the same time period, the Latinx share of bachelor's degrees in engineering increased from 3% to 13%, while the Black/African American share held steady at 4%. At this pace, achieving racial equity in engineering on par with population share would take 76 years for Latinx and Black/African American workers as a group and up to 256 years for Black/African American workers alone.

“Having a career in engineering means you’ve made it,” said Anthony Carnevale, CEW director and report lead author in a statement. “While it’s a marker of climbing the wage and status occupational pyramid, it’s also a social indicator of progress on racial and gender justice.”

The report addresses how Black and Latinx are underpaid in a profession that pays very well. A person with an engineering bachelor's degree (and no graduate degree) earns 25% more on average than the typical bachelor's degree holder in the first job after graduation.

However, as with almost all fields, Black/African American and Latinx workers earn less than the average. While White and Asian workers with a bachelor's degree in engineering earn 61% and 71% more, respectively, than the average for all bachelor's degree holders, Black/African American and Latinx engineering majors earn just 15% and 18% more, respectively. To attain earnings comparable to those of White engineering majors, Black/African American or Latinx engineers must earn an additional degree beyond the bachelor's degree.

The report authors emphasize that it shouldn't take decades or centuries to ensure diversity in the engineering workforce mirrors diversity in society. It will take a comprehensive, committed, and innovative approach from employers and universities to close the gap.

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