

## State News for NSPE Members

### NSPE-LA Member Lt. Col. James Caldwell, Ph.D., P.E., Named FEYA Finalist

NSPE-LA member Lt. Col. James Caldwell, Ph.D., P.E., was honored in as a top 10 finalist for the [Federal Engineer of the Year](#) award at the National Press Club in Washington, DC in February. The award honors the best and brightest engineers employed at federal agencies.



Caldwell serves in the US Department of the Air Force, Air Force Materiel Command as the Materiel Leader & Chief, Integrated Experiments & Evaluation Division. Here are just a few of the accomplishments that earned Caldwell this recognition from his agency.

The LSU and Air Force Institute of Technology graduate successfully managed and coordinated systems engineering analysis across the Department of Defense on emerging threat to nuclear command, command, and communication satellites (\$1 billion each). He identified hardware and software solutions to mitigate emerging threat along with cost and schedule impacts.

Caldwell revamped a \$158 million GPS demonstration program and gained partnership buy-in with \$78 million from Space and Missile Systems Center. He also resurrected \$200M program demonstrating how to mitigate effects of high-altitude nuclear explosion effects on satellites. There was a successful launch on

## Threats to Licensure in Louisiana

What are the threats to licensure that could affect professional engineers and engineering in Louisiana? NSPE's [State Watch tool](#) allows easy drilling down by state, with threats categorized as

- Active threat—introduced in the current legislative session;
- Potential threat—prior licensure threats that could resurface;
- Enacted—signed into law;
- Consumer choice bill—allows unlicensed persons to practice professions that require licensure;
- Right to engage in a lawful occupation act—often assumes market competition is sufficient to protect the public and that licensure is unnecessary.

[Learn about the latest threats and potential threats in Louisiana.](#)

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## 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 [meedwards@nspe.org](mailto:meedwards@nspe.org).*

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## **Legislators Approve \$1B for Infrastructure Projects**

On March 9, state legislators approved more than \$1 billion for infrastructure projects.

The current construction budget for roads projects is \$729.5 million with \$103.2 million coming from the state and the rest from federal funding, according to a [New Orleans City Business](#) article. Flood control projects are estimated to exceed \$258.7 million with partially funded port projects with costs of more than \$326 million.

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## **Saving Louisiana's Vanishing Coast**

A mix of climate change and environmental calamities has contributed to the destruction of Louisiana's coastal wetlands. Since 1930s, the state has lost more than 2,000 square miles of land to subsidence, sea level rise and the loss of sediment caused by the construction of levees along the Mississippi River. While wetlands experienced damage due to channels being created for oil and gas exploration, according to a February 25 *New York Times* article.

Researchers and engineers aren't giving up on restoring and protecting the coast. They are investing in a project to create a river diversion to restore eroded wetlands and rebuild land in critical areas where people live, work, and play. The plan is expensive, but will it work?

[Read the full article in the New York Times.](#)

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## **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.



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## 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.](#)

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## 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
- My Social Media
- 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.

[Update information and preferences.](#)

Share with your network



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