

## State News for NSPE Members

### Louisiana Lawmakers Propose National Disaster Safety Board

Two Louisiana legislators have proposed a measure that would create an independent board that would recommend ways local governments could strengthen their resilience to severe weather events, [according to Transportation Topics](#). Sen. Bill Cassidy and Rep. Garret Graves “The board would be modeled after the independent National Transportation Safety Board, which produces reports after investigating plane crashes, and major commercial highway and railroad accidents,” the article states. On October 9, Cassidy said, “Americans across the country from the Gulf Coast to California are dealing with the results of natural disasters. Another hurricane is zeroing in on Louisiana right now. By establishing a natural disaster safety board, lessons learned from past disasters save lives and perhaps even prevent future disasters.”

*Interested in taking action on legislative issues of interest to professional engineers? Visit [NSPE's Advocacy Center](#).*

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### Solar Grows in Baton Rouge Area

A new solar facility with nearly 200,000 panels on a former sugarcane field is now plugged into the capital area’s electrical grid, [reports the Advocate](#). The nearly 600-acre facility near Port Allen is part of Entergy’s plan to deliver more renewable energy to customers. The solar panels, according to the article, “face the eastern sky in the morning and track the sun’s path as they rotate throughout the day, which allows them to capture 30% more energy than stationary panels.”

In other solar news, [the West Side Journal reports](#) that a San Francisco-based firm has plans to build a solar energy manufacturing facility in West Baton Rouge Parish. The firm has filed an advanced notice with Louisiana Economic Development to begin building in 2022 and complete the project in 2023.

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## We Want to Hear from You!

Do you know of engineering news in Louisiana that would be great for this newsletter? Maybe it's a project you or your firm is working on, or perhaps you read some interesting engineering news in your local newspaper. Or maybe you know of a fellow PE or student who deserves a little recognition. If so, we want to hear from you. Email your ideas to [pemagazine@nspe.org](mailto:pemagazine@nspe.org).

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

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## NSPE President Warns Against Broad-Brush Licensing Reform



NSPE President Tricia Hatley, P.E., F.NSPE, recently challenged an opinion piece that advocates making temporary licensing deregulation permanent, measures that were enacted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a letter to the editor of the *Oklahoman*, Hatley warns that efforts to weaken licensing, however well-intentioned, make no distinction for highly complex, technical professions. This is a critical distinction that broad-brush proposals like those referenced in the article fail to make—and puts thousands of lives at risk in Oklahoma and elsewhere.

She also states that professions like engineering, architecture, accounting, landscape architecture and surveying are responsible for the safety of our physical spaces and the integrity of our financial systems. Because of this, they are required to meet rigorous standards based on education, experience, and examination to demonstrate a minimum qualification level.

[Read more.](#)

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## An Adventure to the Moon with Future City

Future City is a project-based learning program where middle school students imagine, research, design, and build cities of the future. This year's Future City theme is "Living on the Moon." Teams will be challenged to design a lunar city and provide examples of how their city uses two moon resources to keep citizens safe and healthy.



Due to COVID-19, Future City [transitioned this year's program into a virtual format](#) to offer impactful volunteer opportunities you can do from the comfort of your home or office.

### **Inspiring the Next Generation**

Kay Bailey is a senior research and development engineer currently working on an innovative mechanical device that relieves back pain and pressure. She knows firsthand the added challenges in academia—and professional settings—when few people look like you. “When I was a middle school student, I didn’t see many examples of African Americans doing engineering,” she says.



This inspired Kay Bailey to volunteer as a Future City mentor in a predominantly African American school in Milwaukee. “I wanted to do whatever I could to show these students that it’s okay to be interested in engineering. Right away I could tell Future City would be a great way to get involved.”

Over the last two years, Bailey has loved working with these young scholars. Sometimes she helps them shape their creative ideas or explains STEM concepts, and other times they simply want to hear about what she is working on at her job. “I want these young people to be encouraged to pursue whatever they want.”

If, like Kay Bailey, you’re interested in inspiring the next generation, you can sign up to be a mentor by [clicking here](#) or email [Info@FutureCity.org](mailto:Info@FutureCity.org) with any questions. This year, the program (including mentoring) will be virtual.

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## **Upcoming Webinars: Roundabout Design Safety, the Engineering Team**



NSPE’s [PE Institute](#) helps members stay current in the profession, earn PDHs, and advance in their careers through webinars on important topics. The webinars

are held at 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST at a member price of \$99 (\$129 for nonmembers).

### October 28

#### [Put Me in Coach! The Engineering Team from Concept to Completion](#)

Within the construction industry, engineering-based decisions are made by professional engineers closely engaged with technicians. Working as an efficient team, a project moves smoothly and is successfully completed. A panel of PEs and technicians will share engineering best practices and approaches to overcoming technical challenges.

This webinar is **FREE** for members and non-members.

*Presenters: Kent D. Dvorak, P.E., Chip Hollis (moderator), William Kenneth Johnson, Jr., P.G., Shannon Looney P.E., and John W. Quidley S.E.T.*

### November 2

#### [Canon 1, NSPE Code of Ethics for Engineers: “Hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public”](#)

This webinar will introduce you to four of the current members of the [NSPE Board of Ethical Review](#) (BER). Discussion will focus on four ethics cases that illuminate multiple aspects of Canon 1, to “hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public.” These cases are personal favorites selected by each BER member from the more than [600 opinions](#) the BER has published since the late 1950s.

*Presenters: Mark Dubbin, P.E., FPE, Jeffrey H. Greenfield, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, F. NSPE, David Kish, Ph.D., P.E., William D. Lawson, P.E., Ph.D., F. NSPE*

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