

State News for NSPE Members

Louisiana Granted Power to Approve Carbon Capture Wells

The Biden administration is handing Louisiana regulators new power to attract and approve carbon capture projects at a time when the state's influential energy sector wants to make the Gulf Coast a hub for the rapidly expanding industry, [the AP reports](#).

Louisiana will be able to issue permits for wells that store carbon dioxide, a critical component of carbon capture and removal technology. In all but two other states, the Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for permitting. Proponents of the change say it will speed up approvals of new projects that are critical for reducing climate-warming greenhouse gas emissions.

Environmental groups had opposed the move, doubting that a state home to a concentrated stretch of oil, gas and petrochemical plants commonly called “cancer alley” is capable of proper industry oversight and protecting residents. The EPA said the Louisiana agreement includes safeguards to protect poorer, often majority-Black communities that live near those facilities — and that those standards will serve as a model for other states.

“It can be done in a way that builds in environmental justice principles that allow for the community to participate in the process and ensures that these communities are safe,” EPA Administrator Michael Regan said. [Read more](#).

Louisiana Board Approves Universal College Transfer Pathways

Louisiana's oversight board for higher education adopted new transfer pathways that will make it easier for students at two-year colleges to obtain four-year degrees, the [Louisiana Illuminator reports](#).

The action from the state Board of Regents was mandated by a law state Senator Cleo Fields, D-Baton Rouge, sponsored during the 2022 legislative session and will take effect during the fall 2024 semester.

According to a Regents press release, students who transfer to a university from a two-year college take four years, on average, to obtain a bachelor's degree, despite taking courses at the two-year school. The new plan will allow students to transfer 60 hours of coursework from an approved program to any four-year bachelor's program at a public university in Louisiana offering a related degree.

The Board of Regents approved 24 subject-specific universal transfer pathways: art, biology, accounting, finance, general business, management, marketing, engineering, chemical, civil engineering, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, communication, computer science, criminal justice, cybersecurity, English, history, sports management, pre-allied health, nursing, psychology, social work, and sociology.

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

Help Guide the Future of NICET's SSI Program

The National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET), a division of the NSPE, is developing a certification program for the Systems Software Integrator (SSI) certification program. NICET invites you to [participate in the SSI Job Task Analysis survey](#) to provide vital feedback needed to develop the program.

The SSI certification program seeks to reduce risk, improve quality, and ensure public safety from new emerging technologies as software and information technology increasingly converges with the operation of physical processes and machinery affecting our lives.

We highly value the insight you can provide and would greatly appreciate you taking the time to complete the survey by February 5. After completing the survey, participants can enter into a drawing for a \$100 Amazon gift card.

Take the Survey

Nominations Open: 2024 Excellence Awards

Please consider nominating a colleague for an NSPE Excellence Award.

NSPE Award : The NSPE Award is the highest award given to an individual by the

Society. It is presented to an engineer who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession, the public welfare, and humankind. The nomination deadline is March 1.

New Professional Award : This award recognizes a young NSPE member who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession and the community during the early years of one's career. The nomination deadline is March 1.

Engineering Education Excellence Award : This award recognizes engineering faculty who have demonstrated the ability to link engineering education with professional practice. The recipients must be licensed and have a faculty appointment in an ABET-accredited engineering program. The nomination deadline is March 31.

Call for NSPE Fellow Membership Nominees

Nominations for the **NSPE Fellow Membership Grade** are **due by March 1**. This prestigious national program aims to recognize dedicated professional engineers who have demonstrated outstanding and sustained service at the chapter, state, and national levels of NSPE. [Access more information about the nomination process](#) .

You received this e-mail because you are subscribed to *PE Matters* e-newsletter.

To update your e-mail address, visit www.nspe.org and login to manage your account.

If you do not wish to receive any more issues of *PE Matters*, [click here](#) to unsubscribe .

Share with your network



**National Society of Professional Engineers | 1420 King Street | Alexandria, VA
22314**