

## *State News for NSPE Members*

### **NSPE Member Takes on New Role at Neel-Schaffer**

NSPE Member and Mississippi resident Steve Twedt, P.E., F.NSPE, was recently promoted to senior vice president by construction management firm Neel-Schaffer Inc. Twedt, a native of southern Mississippi, joined Neel-Schaffer in 2010 and serves as the south Mississippi area manager, coordinating work among the Neel-Schaffer offices in Biloxi, Gulfport, Hattiesburg, Laurel and Pascagoula.

“Working at Neel-Schaffer has given me an opportunity to serve my native area,” Twedt said. “Our team in South Mississippi is creative, innovative and efficient – all keys to providing great engineering projects.”

Before joining Neel-Schaffer, Twedt worked for the Mississippi Department of Transportation for more than 23 years working in various positions from bridge design, to project engineer, resident engineer, and finally to district engineer where he oversaw all highway construction and maintenance in southeastern Mississippi—which includes 14 counties.

Twedt is currently the president of the Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and has previously served as a Mississippi representative in the NSPE House of Delegates. Additionally, Twedt is a graduate of Mississippi State University and is licensed in Mississippi and Alabama.

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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 [medwards@nspe.org](mailto:medwards@nspe.org).

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## Event Announcements: MATHCOUNTS, MS/AL Engineering Society Meeting

The [MATHCOUNTS state competition](#) originally scheduled for Saturday, March 28, at Madison Middle School in Madison, Mississippi has been cancelled due to the coronavirus/COVID-19 outbreak.

The MS/AL Engineering Society Meeting scheduled for June 14-16 is still scheduled to occur at this time. The meeting will take place at The Lodge at Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores, Alabama.

To keep track of up to date information on the annual meeting, visit [NSPE.org](https://www.nspe.org).

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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

The screenshot displays the 'My Account' page for Mrs Rhoda Chari. On the left is a profile picture with an 'EDIT' button. The main section shows member details: Member ID 300182816, Membership Expiration Date 12/31/2019, and contact information (1420 King St, Alexandria, VA 22314-2794, email rzzchari@nspe.org). Two red arrows point to 'EDIT CONTACT INFO' and 'EDIT DEMOGRAPHICS' buttons, labeled 'Step 1: Update your profile'. Another red arrow points to 'NSPE COMMUNITIES', labeled 'Step 2: Select your email preferences'. A 'RENEW NOW' button is also visible. On the right, a 'My Account Links' sidebar lists options like 'My Degrees', 'My Donations', 'My Downloads', 'My Expertise', 'My Committees', 'Manage my Subscriptions', 'My Interest Groups', 'My Social Media', and '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.](#)

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## Share with your network



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