Mississippi Officer Joins 2020 Class of NSPE Fellows

We are proud to announce that Harry Gong Jr., P.E., NSPE-MS's representative on the NSPE House of Delegates has been granted Fellow membership status by the NSPE Board of Directors.

NSPE named Gong and nine other professional engineers to this year’s class of members. He works for the Mississippi State Department of Health as the engineering coordinator for the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund Program.

The Fellow membership grade honors those active NSPE members who have demonstrated exemplary and devoted service to their profession, the Society, and their community. Requirements for the designation include holding at least one elected office at any level and active involvement at the national level.

“Being recognized for your service to the engineering profession, your successful career, and your involvement in NSPE is a great honor and no small feat, especially when that honor is bestowed by your peers,” said Amy Barrett, P.E., F.NSPE, the chairman of the executive committee of the Council of Fellows, in statement. “We are proud of this year’s Fellows and their accomplishments and look forward to more great contributions from them in the future.”
Truax Named ASCE President-Elect

Longtime NSPE-MS member Dennis Truax, P.E., F.NSPE, has been named president-elect of the American Society of Civil Engineers for 2021. He will serve as president in 2022. Truax is head of Mississippi State University’s Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and has been an NSPE member since 1981. He is also active in the university’s chapter of Engineers Without Borders. You can read about his work in the **PE** magazine article “In Service to Others.”

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NSPE- MS Holds Video Call for Members

NSPE-MS held an open videoconference call with members in the state and NSPE leadership on June 23. The call was organized by Harry Gong Jr, P.E., F.NSPE, Mississippi’s representative to the NSPE House of Delegates. Also taking part in the call were NSPE President-Elect Trish Hatley, P.E., F.NSPE, and NSPE Vice-President Rick Guerra, P.E., F.NSPE. Among the topics of discussion were leadership on protecting PE licensure, ethics, development of educational webinars to deliver valued content, and engagement of younger engineers.

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Are You “In the Know”?

Members who want to get a quick overview of the Society’s news should check out the June “In the Know with NSPE” video on YouTube. The 15-minute presentation by President-Elect Tricia Hatley, P.E., F.NSPE, covers topics like the reopening of licensing and certification exams, **PE** magazine highlights, a breakdown of the Society’s strategic plan, advocacy efforts on behalf of PEs, the upcoming Virtual Professional Engineers Conference, the Society’s statement on social injustice, and the Emerging Leaders Program.
Register for the *Virtual* PECon 2020

Registration is now open for the 2020 Virtual Professional Engineers Conference (PECon) on **August 3–7** with events centered around the annual celebration of **PE Day** on August 5.

Virtual PECon sessions can be experienced in a live virtual environment or by accessing recordings at a more convenient time. The virtual conference will also provide networking and social connection with colleagues by region and areas of practice in addition to professional development opportunities.

**PECon at a Glance**

- Keynote sessions featuring IBM’s Global Chief Technology Officer and the Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board

- Session: **Ensuring Successful Stakeholder and Community Involvement**

- Session: **Stormwater Pollution Prevention Planning: Compliance Guidelines for Your Facility**

- Session: **Professional Engineer’s Role in Artificial Intelligence and Technology**

- Session: **Ethics of Sustainable Design**

- Session: **Shrinking the Distance for Virtual Teams to Succeed**

**There are three registration options:**

1. **Single Session** provides individual one PDH sessions for $39 ($99 for nonmembers);

2. **Day Track** provides access to three PDH sessions, networking morning “coffee talk” roundtables, and evening post session discussions for $99 ($279 for nonmembers); and

3. **All-Access Pass** provides 15 PDH sessions with networking morning “coffee talk” roundtables each day and event post session discussions for $249 ($1,149 for nonmembers).
Nonmembers can join NSPE for $299 and receive member pricing.

**Virtual PECon 2020 Free for Students**
NSPE is providing the opportunity for student members to participate in the upcoming Virtual Professional Engineers Conference 2020 for free on August 3–7.

Student members who register for the conference can sign up for a track or an all-access pass and can also attend networking events, including morning coffee talks and evening round table discussions.

Register now.

Register now to customize your attendance package for live events August 3–7.

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**Call for 2020–21 Volunteers**

NSPE needs your knowledge, expertise, and time to assist our organization carry out its vision, mission, and meet the goals of the strategic plan. Volunteer positions begin in August and end at the annual conference in 2021.

These opportunities are organized into three types with various levels of engagement.

**Engagement Level 1:** Standing committees and select committees require the highest engagement level. They often involve attending at least one in-person meeting in conjunction with the annual meeting. Most meetings are held via conference call.

**Engagement Level 2:** These volunteer positions are responsible for organization activities and involve assignment to a committee, task force, or other group. Activities primarily include e-mail and conference calls.

**Engagement Level 3:** Ad hoc volunteers take part in activities on a project-by-project basis.

Submit forms by July 15 to be considered for a 2020–21 term.

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**Aiming for Leadership? This Program’s for You**

If you’re starting your engineering career and looking toward a future of leadership, NSPE is excited to offer an opportunity to participate in the Emerging Leaders Program.
The NSPE Emerging Leaders Program is an intensive seven month, professionally facilitated, focused, practical, virtual program for emerging leaders. Between August 5 (Professional Engineers Day) and February 27 (National Engineers Week) participants will receive specific, relevant training and application on how to be successful at higher levels of leadership responsibility.

The target audience for the Emerging Leaders Program is for promising early-career professionals with 5-8 years of experience who are just beginning to lead and think strategically in the profession and their careers. The reality-based curriculum focuses on the core skills necessary to think strategically, build effective teams, deliver great service for their most valued clients, and lead successfully.

Learn more and apply by July 1, 2020.

Advocacy Opportunity: Speak Out for Future PEs

You have an opportunity today to advocate for the future of the engineering profession!

H.R. 5339 (Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow’s Workforce Act) amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow students with 529 Education Accounts to use those funds for expenses related to obtaining a post-education credential—including the PE license. Funds could be used for expenses associated with both exam prep and the exam itself.

The bill needs additional cosponsors in order to move forward. As NSPE’s Government Relations team continues talking with House offices, your support of H.R. 5339 is crucial. The more support we have from NSPE members, the stronger position we’re in to ask House Representatives to sign on.

You have the opportunity to take multiple actions if you’d like, starting with writing a letter, then following up with either a Tweet or a phone call. Or all three, if you’re feeling especially ambitious!

Feel free to contact Stephanie Hamilton if you have any questions, or if you’d just like to talk about advocacy! Hamilton can be reached at 703-684-2844 or shamilton@nspe.org.

Take action on H.R. 5339.
To update your e-mail address, visit www.nspe.org and login to manage your account.

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