

State News for NSPE Members

MSU Educator Adjusts to New Teaching Environment

Like every segment of society, engineering education has undergone profound change during the COVID-19 pandemic. Shuttered campuses have turned learning virtual, with engineering faculty forced to adopt new technology for teaching and to figure out how to turn what is often a hands-on education into a remote practice.

Institution-wide, students are dealing with loss of on-campus jobs and housing and increased need for financial aid. Universities are taking budget hits from refunding student payments for housing and dining and expecting drops in future enrollment, as a recent AP article explained.

Mississippi member Robert Green, Ph.D., P.E., F.NSPE, is among those adapting to the new reality. Green, assistant dean at Mississippi State University's college of engineering, says despite understandable anxiety about the pandemic and moving to a new learning environment, faculty and staff seem to be coping well and communications have been positive. MSU has announced plans to resume in-person classroom and laboratory instruction in the fall 2020 semester.

Read more about Green and other engineering educators who are adapting to "[Engineering Education in the Time of Covid.](#)"

Welcome New Members!

Robert Boyd, P.E., Mississippi Power Company
Richard Lee, Mississippi Power Company
Brian Mathews, P.E., Taylor Machine Works
Richard Matson, P.E., Southern Pine Electric Cooperative
Brandon Rut, P.E., Wildstone Construction Services

Welcome New Student Members!

Arteus Nelson, Alcorn State University

Landon Malley, Jones County Junior College
William Kyle, Mississippi State University
Grey Tyler, Mississippi State University

Longtime Member Hayden Kaiser Jr. Remembered



Hayden Kaiser Jr., who ran Jordan Kaiser & in Natchez, died on April 25. He joined the Society in 1956, two years after forming the firm Jordan & Kaiser Jordan & Kaiser, which later became Jordan Kaiser & Sessions. The LSU graduate completed more than 2,000 civil engineering and surveying projects in the area over 64 years. On May 14, 2018, Kaiser's 90th birthday, the City of Natchez celebrated "Hayden Kaiser Day" in honor of his service to the community, [according to the Natchez Democrat](#).

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to St. Mary Basilica, Cathedral School, or the charity of one's choice. Due to the Covid-19 quarantine, a celebration of his life will be announced at a later time. Read the [complete obituary](#).

Get Ready for *Virtual PE Conference 2020* (#NSPEVirtual)

To protect the health, safety, and welfare of our members, while continuing to provide meaningful and valuable education and engagement opportunities, NSPE leadership has decided to postpone this year's Professional Engineers Conference (PECon) in Philadelphia until summer 2021.



In its place, the Society will host an online Virtual PE Conference in August. Events will be centered around the annual celebration of PE Day, August 5.

The new virtual program will make it easier for attendees to participate according to their schedules. Sessions can be experienced in a live virtual environment or by accessing recordings at a more convenient time. Virtual **PECon** will be easily accessible and affordable due to the elimination of travel costs and reduction in registration fees. PDH credits will be available for education sessions comparable to the amount you could earn at a regular **PECon**. The virtual conference will also provide networking and social connection with colleagues in addition to professional development opportunities.

Current plans include:

- Education tracks and sessions, featuring many of the sessions already planned for **PECon** 2020;
- Tracks spread throughout the week at various times of day, empowering attendees to take in more of the content they desire;
- Recording all sessions to make them available for on-demand viewing;
- Hosting keynote speakers and senior leaders allowing for interactive Q&A with attendees; and
- Networking/roundtable topic discussions with peers by region and areas of practice, geared to increase dialogue and member engagement.

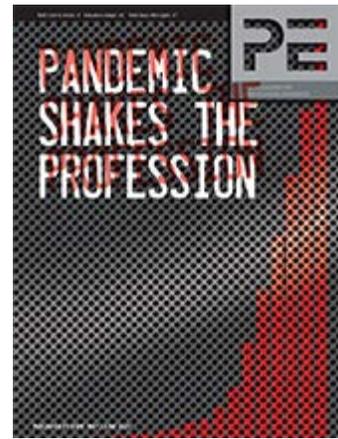
Stay tuned for more information on content and registration to come.

Pandemic Forces Profession to Adjust

NSPE and its certification division [NICET](#) , as well as state societies and individual members, are all adapting to a changed world.

Our latest [PE cover story](#) highlights how organizations

and individual PEs are meeting the challenges with courage, compassion, and innovation. NSPE and its state societies are continuing to provide information, advocacy, and continuing education as staffers are sheltering at home. PEs are running companies from their bedrooms or dining rooms and working to ensure employee well-being while keeping businesses afloat.



No one knows what the future holds. But professional engineers will be among those helping to create that future—as always, prioritizing the public health, safety, and welfare.

[Read more from May/June PE magazine.](#)

Update: NICET's certification testing for engineering technicians has started to return but on a reduced schedule. Pearson VUE, the company that manages testing centers for NICET exams as well as NCEES exams and those in many other professions, began reopening on May 1. Centers will be operating at 50% capacity and for limited hours. The reopening of testing centers in Pennsylvania and Alaska has not been scheduled, due to locally imposed restrictions. For the latest information, visit [NICET's COVID-19 response web page](#).

[Read the latest on NCEES's FE and PE exams.](#)

Don't Miss These Upcoming Webinars



NSPE is increasing the number of its webinars to serve members during the COVID-19 pandemic. Stay current in the profession, earn PDHs, and advance your career by tuning in.

- [Engineering Exemptions and Education: Diminish the First and Enhance the Second - May 20](#)
- [Negotiate It! How to Crush Your Fears, Develop Your Negotiation Muscle,](#)

and Gain Power in the Workplace - **May 27**

- Fire Protection Engineering in Property Risk Management - **June 3**
- Ethics in our Changing World - **June 10**
- Engineers, Building Water Systems and Legionella: What You Need to Know - **June 24**

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