

## State News for NSPE Members

### BP Oil Spill Money to Fund Artificial Reefs, Protect Coastal Habitats

Mississippi will receive \$27 million in BP oil spill settlement money as part of restitution fines for damage caused by the Deepwater Horizon spill in 2010 and will fund measures to prevent future damage to natural resources. The money will support the expansion of and plans for future enhancements of artificial reefs across the Mississippi Sound and restore and protect vulnerable coastal habitats along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, according to the [Montgomery Advertiser](#).

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### Infrastructure Law Funds Bridge and Road Repair, Transportation Upgrades

The bipartisan infrastructure law will pay to repair and rebuild roads and bridges in Mississippi, with a focus on climate change mitigation, resilience, equity, and safety for all users, including cyclists and pedestrians. In Mississippi, there are 1,386 bridges and over 5,840 miles of highway in poor condition, according to [the Department of Transportation](#). The state is expected to receive approximately \$3.6 billion over five years in federal highway formula funding for highways and bridges.

In addition, \$218 million over five years will be spent on improving public transportation in Mississippi. Funding will also cover modernization of freight rail, increased EV charging options, airport improvements, and other infrastructure updates.

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

### Share Your Story #IAMNSPE

#### Who is NSPE?

NSPE is its members. NSPE members—like you—bring a unique story and perspective to the engineering profession. Learn more about your peers and [share your own story](#) with a 30-second video and the hashtag, #IAMNSPE.

## I Am Innovative

**Ben Amaba, P.E., LEED AP, CPIM, BD+C**  
**CTO Digital Transformation with Technology Innovation**

NSPE is “the perfect venue to learn, network, and advance your skills,” according to Ben Amaba, an innovator at IBM. It brings together a diverse set of professionals who are innovating the world, and has helped him both personally and professionally.



## Honor Awards Open for Nominations

The NSPE Honor Awards promote the professional engineer’s contributions to society and recognize the achievements of the profession’s very best. The deadline for [award submissions](#) is **January 31, 2022**.

### 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. **Steven Arndt, Ph.D., P.E., F.NSPE**, a world-renowned authority in the field of nuclear engineering, received the award in 2020.



### 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. **Stephanie Blain, P.E.**, received the award in 2021. She is employed with Palmer Engineering Company in Lexington, Kentucky.



## Get Your 15 Free PDHs for 2021—While They Last

Access to the 2021 selection of 15 free courses ends in January, so claim them before it's too late. Members can conveniently view courses from the comfort of their home or office.

PDHs from these courses are recognized by most US states, including Florida, and are earned after passing a quiz with a score of 70% or higher. Simply “purchase” the webinars and add them to your NSPE member account.

Webinars in your account can be accessed for up to one year.



Here's a sample of available webinar topics:

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- [Leading Project Teams: Emerging Technologies and Smart Design](#)
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