

## State News for NSPE Members

### NSPE-NV September Luncheon Meeting Recap

NSPE-NV hosted a luncheon meeting on September 19 featuring a presentation on **"Going Beyond Education in Traffic Safety"** by **Andrew Bennett**, the director of the Clark County Office of Traffic Safety and the chairman of the Nevada Advisory Committee on Traffic Safety.

Prior to serving as a director with the county, Andrew Bennett has been working towards the goal of zero fatalities in Nevada for the last 14 years with several different traffic safety organizations, including the Nevada Office of Traffic Safety, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, and Clark County School District.



Thanks to our sponsor!



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**Licensing Board News and Meeting**

The [Nevada State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors](#) has released the latest issue of [The Nevada Connection](#) to keep you up to date on board news and activities. The newsletter features a message from the new board chair Angelo Spata, P.E.

### **Upcoming Meeting**

The board will hold an interim meeting on **Thursday, October 12**. Access the meeting information and Zoom link [here](#).

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## **Las Vegas to Consider Water Use Plans for Business Expansions**

Las Vegas isn't just a hot spot for revelers. Thousands of businesses, particularly from California, have moved to the region over the past few decades, and the population is booming alongside other Southwestern cities, [Business Insider reports](#).

All of that growth in a region plagued by extreme heat, drought, and a dwindling water supply raises tough questions for city and state officials who want to spur economic growth without draining the Colorado River dry. In one example of that challenge, Arizona's governor in June halted construction in areas around Phoenix, citing a lack of groundwater.

Yet officials in greater Las Vegas told Insider their city is well positioned for growth thanks to decades of water-conservation measures — the latest of which involves a new tool that evaluates the water use of companies interested in moving to the region or expanding operations.

"We realized that water didn't have a seat at the table when economic-development decisions were being made," Dave Johnson, the deputy general manager of the Southern Nevada Water Authority, told Insider. "We needed to change that." [Read more](#).

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## **Nevada Universities Collaborate to Train STEM Educators**

STEM education in Nevada is getting a boost through a new undergraduate student training program. Nationally, elementary students, on average, only receive 17 minutes of science instruction each day. That's according to a 2018 study from the National Science Foundation. It's why the Nevada-based Desert Research Institute (DRI) launched a new program to boost STEM education. "We are currently short on teachers to fill the needs of the classrooms statewide," said DRI STEM Education Program Manager Emily McDonald-Williams.

Using a \$1 million grant from the federal Department of Education, DRI is pairing University of Nevada, Reno and University of Nevada, Las Vegas students with elementary teachers to bring more science, technology, engineering, and math into classrooms.

"This program is really designed to help increase the confidence of the students who are majoring in education, so that when they are ready to enter a classroom, they feel more prepared," McDonald-Williams said.

The program will encourage learning at all levels by creating teams of undergraduate students and local teachers. Each team has one student majoring in elementary education, and another in a STEM field, like biology or environmental science. [Read more of this KUNR Public Radio report.](#)

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## Are You Ready to Lead Within NSPE-NV?

NSPE-NV is seeking individuals to serve as vice president at the Southern Nevada chapter level and secretary for the state society/foundation boards.

Please contact Martin Jensen ([mjensen@teamues.com](mailto:mjensen@teamues.com)) or Bob Thomsen ([Bob.Thomsen@gesnevada.com](mailto:Bob.Thomsen@gesnevada.com)) if you are interested.

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

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## Workability Webinars Series to Focus on Emerging Tech

NSPE offers a live webinar series free to members—"WORKability Wednesdays"—to support members with their professional development goals. The first webinar of this season took place on September 13 - [How New PFAS Regulations Will Impact Water and Wastewater Utilities](#). A webinar on [What Utilities Want Fleets to Know About Moving to Electric Vehicles](#) will take place on September 27.



NSPE members get free access to the webinars, but must register to attend. Visit the [PE Institute](#) to review the full series line-up and to mark your calendar for these live, online events.

**Registration Open: 2023 NSPE Women's Leadership Virtual Fall Symposium**

Join us for these live, one-time events to hear from experts in the field and join your colleagues in important discussions organized by NSPE's Women Leadership Program Task Force: [The Cost of Leadership](#); [Leading Yourself: Learning to Increase Your Emotional Intelligence](#); and [Networking Strategies: An Unconventional Approach to Connecting with Others](#) . The webinars will take place on October 12, October 19, and October 26 at 1:00 p.m. (ET). This exclusive package is free and includes all three live, one-time sessions. The sessions will not be recorded and PDH credits will not be issued for them.

[Register now.](#)

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## #NSPECon23 Revisited

NSPECon23 provided an opportunity to learn and build community in the heart of Louisville, Kentucky. Find photos from the All Things Louisville reception, the first-time attendee mixer, PE Day celebrations, recognition and installation ceremonies, and more on [NSPE's Flickr account](#) . Relive the fun and excitement with all your PE peers that gathered to celebrate the engineering profession.



**Save the Date: NSPECon24—Raleigh, North Carolina—August 7–9**





## A False Solution for Our Workforce Challenges

*The Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing (ARPL) recently posted an opinion column that highlights the risks of weakening professional licensing requirements to address workforce challenges. NSPE is a member of ARPL.*

Workforce shortages, talent pipelines at a trickle and expensive labor are all-too-familiar challenges facing businesses and the public sector. In an attempt to tackle these problems, there is a growing trend of exploring the weakening or elimination of certain key job requirements. These proposals include getting rid of college degree requirements without equivalency alternatives, doing away with requisite testing, and downgrading credentials and licensure for professionals.

To be sure, there are some elements of the occupational licensure process that require continuous improvement and elimination of impediments disparately impacting underrepresented groups. However, in the rush to address workforce challenges, legislators and other policymakers must be cautious not to create new problems that leave employers and the public at risk.

Weakening professional licensing requirements is a false solution to various workforce ills. Minimum qualifications ensured by licensing exist to protect employers and the public they serve. This is particularly important for technical professions with high public impact, such as architecture, certified public accountancy, engineering, landscape architecture and land surveying. Care must be taken to ensure that critical licensing systems for such professions, designed to ensure public and economic protection, are not compromised and swept up in

broad-brush calls for occupational licensing reform. [Read more](#) .

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