

State News for NSPE Members

NSPE-NV August Luncheon Meeting Recap

NSPE-NV held a monthly luncheon meeting on August 19 featuring a presentation on **"From Start Line to Finish Line"** by **Humberto Rivas, P.E.**, a senior civil engineer at Clark County Public Works. With over 10 years of design experience specializing in land development and transportation projects, Rivas has managed various engineering projects throughout the Las Vegas Valley that includes capital improvements, safety roadway, signal modifications, flood control, and community master plans.



State Licensing Board Meeting

The [Nevada Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors](#) will host a meeting on **Thursday, September 11**. Access the meeting agendas and Zoom links [here](#).

NSPE-NV Volunteer Opportunity: The Future City Program

Engineering mentors are needed for the **Future City Program** for the 2025-2026 season, which kicks off in August 2025 and concludes in February 2026. The theme for this year's program is **Farm to Table** —Design a city that eliminates food waste from farm to table and keeps your citizens healthy and safe. We have mentor opportunities available throughout the valley, as well as virtually, with a middle school in Las Vegas.

Who can be a mentor? Engineers, technicians, urban planners, project managers, architects, undergrad or graduate students studying in a related field. A background check is required and can be reimbursed. Mentors work alongside the educator and act as a coach and role model, share real-life STEAM experiences, offer technical guidance, and help translate academic concepts to the real world of engineering and city design. The time commitment is 15 – 25 hours (average of 1-2 hours/week)

The winning team (three students, a teacher, and a mentor) from Las Vegas can win a trip to Washington, DC, for the national competition.

For more information about the program, check out the [Future City website](#). If you are interested in being a mentor, please email brook.demitropoulos@jacobs.com.

Nevada Lithium Says Nye County Mine Worth \$6.8 Billion

Nevada Lithium announced that its Nye County lithium mine is worth quadruple initial estimates — over \$6.8 billion, [The Center Square reports](#).

The Lithium boom in Nevada has seen the industry become one of the state's most important exports — but it is not clear how much the “white gold” benefits the average Nevada resident.

“Developing this vital resource will not only complement existing energy sources but also play a key role in advancing our shared goal of achieving US energy independence,” said Governor Joe Lombardo (R-NV) in a press release on lithium. “Nevada has already become a hub for energy technology and remains committed

to attracting and driving continued growth in this space.”

The burgeoning industry has seen support among Nevada’s political leaders as the raw material shot up to become the state’s 7th largest export in 2023, as per the Governor’s Office of Economic Development, or GOED. Both Nevada US Senators recently toured a Northern Nevada mine in the Thacker Pass region.

Used in rechargeable batteries, lithium has become a key ingredient in the nearly \$100 billion US electric vehicle market. [Read more.](#)

Southwest in a ‘Mega-Drying’ Zone Due to Groundwater Loss, Study Finds

Nevada, the driest state in the nation, is only getting drier as the region’s supply of groundwater quickly disappears.

The American Southwest – including Arizona, New Mexico, and portions of Nevada, Colorado, Utah and California – is linked to one of four continental-scale “mega-drying” regions worldwide that have undergone unprecedented rates of drying, according to a recent study in Science Advances.

The loss of freshwater from the regions is the result of two key factors: severe droughts and groundwater overuse.

Two decades of satellite observations revealed that as the dry areas of the world become drier and surface water in rivers and lakes declines, communities are becoming more reliant on groundwater, leading to rapid depletion of freshwater.

The lower Colorado River Basin – which supplies water for Nevada, Arizona, and California – has lost groundwater equivalent to Lake Mead’s full storage capacity in the last 20 years, or about 28 million acre-feet of water. An acre-foot of water is enough to supply roughly two urban households with indoor and outdoor water needs for a year. [Read more in the Nevada Current.](#)

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



Julia M. Harrod, P.E., F.NSPE, was installed as NSPE's 2025-2026 president during a ceremony at NSPECon25 on August 7. With over two decades of leadership and engineering experience, she brings a unique interdisciplinary perspective to the role—combining backgrounds in architecture, civil engineering, and business strategy.

“It’s a tremendous honor to lead NSPE and help advance the mission of fostering licensed professional engineers in service to society,” Harrod said. “We have an opportunity to expand our reach in advancing ethical leadership, innovation, and inclusion in engineering – and that starts with engaging and supporting the next generation of PEs.”

Harrod leads MWM DesignGroup as its president and CEO. The Texas-based firm provides integrated services in architecture, landscape architecture, civil engineering, land surveying, and permitting. She holds a degree in architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a master’s degree in engineering from the University of Texas at Austin.

After earning her PE license in Texas, Harrod quickly emerged as a dedicated leader and passionate advocate for the profession. She began her service with NSPE and the Texas Society of Professional Engineers in 2001 as a volunteer with the Travis Chapter in Austin. Since then, she has held numerous leadership roles, championing ethical standards and professional excellence across the engineering community.

The 2025-2026 NSPE Board of Directors (BOD) were installed during NSPECon25. [Get acquainted with the members of the BOD](#) .

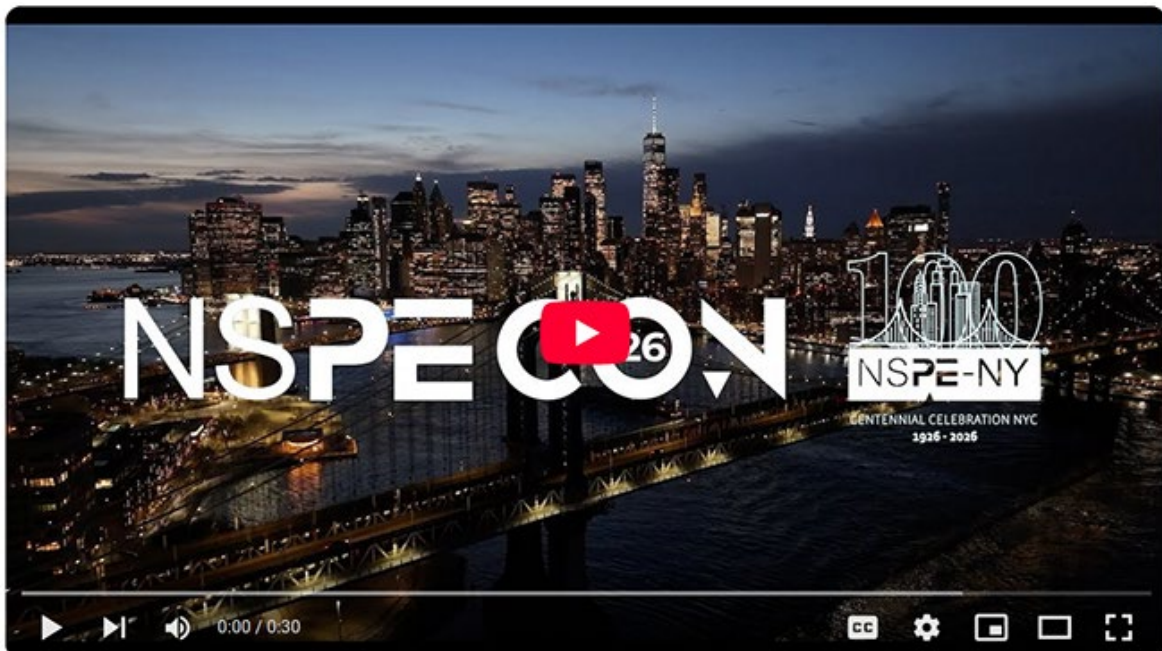


Save the Date: NSPECon26

We enjoyed seeing the NSPE community come together in Kansas City for NSPECon25 to celebrate PE Day, participate in sessions covering timely topics and engage in impactful conversations. Stay tuned for information on how to access photos from the event on the conference website.



Next year will be about bright lights and big opportunities, so add NSPECon26 to your calendar, because we're going to New York City, August 5-7. Help us celebrate NYSSPE's centennial anniversary in The Big Apple.



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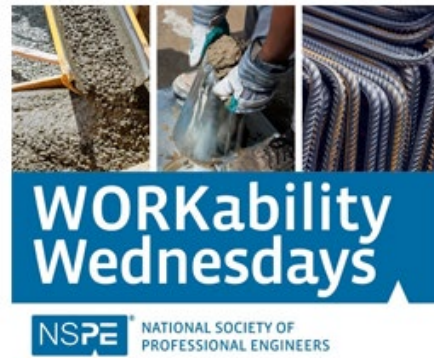
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Registration Open: 2025 Fall WORKability Webinars

NSPE offers a live webinar series free to members —“WORKability Wednesdays”— to support members with their professional development goals through [NSPE's PE Institute](#) . The first webinar of the fall season will kick off on September 10 (2:00

p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET). Registration is open for the September webinars. Stay tuned for notifications to register for the additional webinars.



- September 10: [Decarbonizing Concrete: Overcoming Challenges, Unlocking Opportunities](#)
- September 24: [The Case for AI in Forensic Engineering: Enhancing Expert Testimony and Avoiding Obsolescence](#)
- October 8: **Marketing & Sales Best Practices for Engineering Firms**
- October 22: **Board of Ethical Review – Discussion of New Ethics Cases**
- November 5: **Winning More Business: Using Forensic Engineering Expertise as a Competitive Differentiator**
- November 12: **The Ethics of Sustainability in the Water, Food, and Energy Nexus**

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