

State News for NSPE Members

Get Ready for Engineers Week: Finale Banquet, Order of the Engineer

NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK 2021

VIRTUAL FINALE BANQUET

IMAGINING TOMORROW



Engineers Week Banquet

This year's Engineers Week Finale Banquet will be held as a virtual event on **Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 5pm**. The banquet will be followed by a virtual after party.

Please register by **Friday, February 12, 2021**. All registered attendees will receive a registration goodie bag and will have a chance to win a GRAND PRIZE and other door prizes! [Visit the registration page for more details.](#)

Order of the Engineer Ceremony

Please join us for this year's Engineers Week Virtual Order of the Engineer Ceremony on **Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 12pm**! A link to the virtual event will be provided to all registered attendees. [See Registration for more details.](#) The last day for registration is Friday, February 12.

This is a separate event from the Engineers Week Finale Banquet and participation in the banquet is not required to join the Order of the Engineer Ceremony. NSPE-NV asks that participants register so they can pick up their ring and event package at the UNLV pick-up location.

The Order of the Engineer was initiated in the US to foster a spirit of pride and responsibility in the engineering profession, to bridge the gap between training and experience, and to present to the public a visible symbol identifying the engineer. The Order is not a membership organization; there are never any meetings to attend or recurring dues to pay. Instead, the Order fosters a unity of purpose and the

honoring of one's pledge to the engineering profession.

All attendees that register by Friday, February 12, 2021 will be included in the inductee video and will be able to invite friends and family at no additional cost to cheer them on during the ceremony.

Virtual Meeting Recap—RNG: Renewable Fuel

On January 19, the NSPE-NV Southern Nevada Chapter sponsored a virtual meeting to put a spotlight on Southwest Gas' first renewable natural gas project in southern Nevada. The supply of renewable natural gas (RNG) is sufficient to meet energy demands, [according to a 2019 study](#), and by 2040 RNG has the potential to play a substantial role in significantly lowering emissions, with costs that are lower or competitive with other emission reduction approaches.

Tori Dickey and Ryan Stemmerik served as webinar presenters to share their knowledge and experience working on the RNG project.

Tori Dickey has worked in the natural gas industry at Southwest Gas for 6 years starting as an intern until graduation in 2016, then she became an engineer. She works in the New Business department designing infrastructure for new developments. Dickey graduated from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering.

For the last 7 years, Ryan Stemmerik has worked exclusively in the energy industry, ranging from electric generation to natural gas. He worked as an intern for NV Energy at their Tracy Generating Station in northern Nevada and then transitioned to residential solar electric generation after college to work for SolarCity in Las Vegas. In 2016, Stemmerik was hired at Southwest Gas starting as a New Business engineer and then transitioned to a System Planning engineer, focusing on gas infrastructure planning and system improvements. He graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering.

Will California-Las Vegas High Speed Line Construction Start in the Spring?

High-speed rail company Brightline West hopes to begin construction of its \$8.4 billion, 168-mile California–Las Vegas high speed line in the second quarter of 2021.

Work on the project was originally scheduled to begin at the end of 2020, but was delayed due to a failure to source buyers for \$2.4 billion of private bonds, according to a *Railway Age* article.

The bonds, approved for the project by the states of California (\$600 million) and

Nevada (\$200 million), were later repurposed to support affordable housing projects in the two states.

[Read more.](#)

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

Society Announces New Executive

NSPE has announced Monika Schulz as the Society's new executive director and CEO, beginning February 15.

"As we embark on the new year, we are starting a new chapter in NSPE's history," says NSPE President Tricia Hatley, P.E., F.NSPE. "It is thrilling to be in this place where NSPE's volunteer leadership recognized the value that Monika's expertise and authentic leadership style will bring to our organization. Her collaborative, yet-data-driven, approach to management will facilitate the successful execution of our strategic plan, and she's demonstrated her ability to collaborate with state and local chapters to increase impact at her prior organizations."



Schulz has a long history in associations and a passion for the contributions they make to society. Before joining NSPE, she served for over five years as the CEO of the American String Teachers Association in Fairfax, Virginia. In this role, she collaborated with the organization's board on strategic planning, implementing data-driven decision making, and carrying out a rebranding initiative. She also built stronger ties among the organization's 50 state and local chapters, bolstered member engagement, and expanded a national conference and tradeshow as well as a national orchestra festival.

"I'm very excited to be joining the NSPE team," says Schulz, "and I look forward to collaborating with leadership, state societies, and the NSPE management team to further NSPE's vision, mission, and initiatives. Engineers make the world a better place in which to live, and I feel incredibly fortunate and proud to champion the important work of professional engineers."

Prior to serving as ASTA's CEO, Schulz spent 18 years at the Association for Healthcare Philanthropy, in multiple leadership roles, including six years as chief operating officer.

The Virginia Tech graduate is active in the American Society of Association Executives and holds the CAE designation as a certified association executive.

EWeek 2021 Focuses on the Future

Engineers Week, with the theme “**Imagining Tomorrow**,” will take place **February 21–27**, and this year’s focus will be on virtual role models, distance learning, and diversity and belonging.

[Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day](#), or “Girl Day,” will also carry this theme forward and will be held on February 25. The focus will also be on virtual role models and diversity and belonging, but it will also feature special editions of DiscoverE’s “[Chats With Change Makers](#)” series in which a high school student interviews engineers and technicians who are working hard to make the world a better place.



This year’s [Future City Competition](#) theme is “Living on the Moon.” To adapt to the pandemic, teams will be allowed to work remotely and competitions will be virtual. Teams will make a video presentation of their cities, and their models will be presented in a slideshow format. There will be a live Q&A for the teams to answer questions about their models and presentations.

EWeek Event Dates

- Chats with Change Makers: new “season” began on September 25 and continues monthly.
- Future City Competition: September through April
- The Persist Series (formerly Global Marathon): begins January and continues monthly.
- Engineers Week: February 21–27, 2021
- Girl Day: February 25, 2021
- World Engineering Day: March 4, 2021

Access Your Member Benefit: 15 Free Webinars for 2021

To help members meet their continuing education requirements, NSPE has released a new slate of **15 free webinars** that will be available throughout 2021.

Members may earn credits by viewing the webinars from the



comfort of their home or office and will receive an attendance certificate after passing a quiz with a score of 70% or higher. PDHs from these courses are recognized by most US states, including Florida.

Here's a sample of available webinar topics:

1. [Ethics Forum: Conflicts of Interest - Serving the Public *](#)
2. [How to Lead Without Authority](#)
3. [Leading Project Teams: Emerging Technologies and Smart Design *](#)
4. [Licensing for Profitability, Agility and Growth for Small and Mid-Sized Engineering Firms](#)
5. [Passing Down Institutional Knowledge Through Coaching, Mentoring and Storytelling](#)
6. [The Saint Joseph Water Crisis: Lessons Learned in the Age of Deteriorating Water Infrastructure](#) (New York approval pending)

*Webinar has been approved for continuing education credit in New York

[Check out the complete lineup of 2021 courses.](#)

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