

State News for NSPE Members

NSPE-NV Members Share Perspectives on Outreach During a Pandemic

As the pandemic continues taking a heavy toll, the profession finds new ways of reaching students—from a distance. MATHCOUNTS, DiscoverE, and other STEM outreach programs, are using virtual technology to provide creative initiatives and programs.

In a recent *PE* magazine article, Brook Demitropoulos P.E., and Claire Kohatsu P.E., shared how NSPE-NV shifted its focus to provide STEM Outreach resources and programs despite the challenges.



[Read the full article.](#)

Engage and Celebrate During Engineers Week!

Engineers Week is [a time to celebrate](#) the important work of engineers and engage the next generation of innovators. Even with social distancing, you can make a difference. Here are a few activities that will be of interest to NSPE-NV members.

NSPE-NV Events

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 5p.m.** The banquet will be followed by a virtual after party. Registered attendees will receive a registration goodie bag and will have a chance to win a

GRAND PRIZE and other door prizes!

Order of the Engineer Ceremony

The Engineers Week Virtual Order of the Engineer Ceremony will take place on **Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 12p.m.** A link to the virtual event will be provided to all registered attendees.

NSPE Events

Future of Engineering

Join NSPE leaders Tricia Hatley, P.E., F.NSPE and Rick Guerra, P.E., F.NSPE, as they discuss the future of engineering and how our changing world will impact the profession during a free webinar on **Monday, February 22** (1 p.m.-2p.m. ET/10 a.m.-11 a.m. PT). Webinar participants can earn one professional development hour.

2021 NSPE Federal Engineer of the Year Award Webcast

NSPE celebrates the 2021 federal agency winners, the Top 10 Finalists, and announces the 2021 NSPE Federal Engineer of the Year via pre-recorded webcast on **Wednesday, February 24 at 12 p.m. ET/9 a.m. PT** on the NSPE [website](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

NSPE Trivia Hour

Cap off your Engineers Week with some Friday fun. Join your peers for a lively game of trivia on **Friday, February 26 at 1 p.m. ET/10 a.m. PT**. The cost is just \$15 for members or \$25 for non-members. Sign up to show off your trivia knowledge—or just to play a fun game with new friends.

Nevada Receives Funding to Deploy Emerging Technologies on Las Vegas Freeways

The Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada, the Nevada DOT, and partners received a \$6 million grant to expand emerging technologies on Las Vegas freeways.

The 5-mile expansion will extend west of downtown Las Vegas between I-15 and Summerlin Parkway on US 95, a critical corridor that carries approximately 230,000 vehicles daily, according to a *Roads & Bridges* article. These technologies will help enhance safety by mitigating congestion, decreasing the number of crashes, reducing travel time, and increasing overall efficiency of the freeway.

The \$6 million in funding comes from the Federal Highway Administration Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment (ATCMTD) program. The ATCMTD program funds early deployments of forward-looking technologies that can serve as national models.

[Read more.](#)

Nevada DOT Accepting Internship Applications

The Nevada Department of Transportation is looking ahead to the summer road construction season by accepting applications for paid summer internships through February 26.

The internship program allows students to gain real-life engineering and construction experience with on-the-job training in civil and environmental engineering, including highway construction, maintenance, surveying and asset management, as well as traffic engineering, ADA compliance and civil rights, environmental stewardship and bridge inspection.

The internships take place May through August 2021 and pay up to \$19 per hour, depending on education and experience. Applicants must be a high school graduate and currently enrolled in a college program. All interns will also be provided a health safety class including COVID-related health safety protocol.

Applications are being accepted for positions in Carson City, Las Vegas, Reno, Elko, Ely, Tonopah and Winnemucca. Applications can be submitted by selecting the [“careers” link](#) of [nevadadot.com](#).

New Report Highlights Benefit of Clean Car Standards

Transportation is the number one source of climate pollution in Nevada, and without bold action in this sector, the state will fall short of its goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to zero or near-zero by 2050. A new report highlights the environmental and economic benefits of the Clean Cars Nevada program, which is designed to bring more low- and zero-emission vehicles to dealerships, increasing affordability and delivering cleaner options for sale in the state.

In 2020, Governor Steve Sisolak directed the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection to start the process of adopting Clean Cars Nevada. The initiative includes a public process to establish low-emission vehicle and zero-emission vehicle requirements for automakers similar to those that have already been adopted in several states.

The Nevada Department of Environmental Protection is launching a series of [technical sessions](#) on February 23 to gather public input on the proposed Clean Cars Nevada program.

[Access the report.](#)



NSPE's **Job Board** is your one-stop resource for professional engineering employment. Whether you are on the hunt for your next career move or looking for today's top engineering leaders and talent, you will find it here.

NSPE provides the tools PEs need to keep current in the profession and advance their careers.

Featured Jobs

[Director Engineering & Operations](#)

Wells, NV

[Civil Project Engineer/Project Manager](#)

Reno, NV

Find more job openings or reach the right employees on the [NSPE Job Board](#).

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

New Report: Valuing Professional Licensing

For years, professional associations and regulatory boards lacked hard data that demonstrated the value of licensing. In 2020, the Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing (ARPL) sought to fill that information gap by commissioning Oxford Economics to help better understand the nuanced impacts of licensing on professions and trade and vocational occupations. NSPE is a founding member of ARPL.

The report [Valuing Professional Licensing in the United States](#), includes several key findings:

- Across all professions and occupations, **licensing is associated with a 6.5% average increase in hourly earnings**, even after accounting for the job holder's educational attainment, gender, and racial demographics.
- Among professionals in technical fields requiring significant education and training, a

license narrows the gender-driven wage gap by about one third and the race-driven wage gap by about half.

- Those in trade and vocational occupations can expect a **7.1% hourly wage increase** after becoming licensed, while those in a profession requiring advanced education and training can expect a **3.6% wage increase** after becoming licensed.

ARPL will host a **live webinar on February 24, 2021 (3:00 p.m. eastern standard time)** to review findings and conclusions of the report and share new strategies for lawmaker outreach. [Register now](#) .

Licensing Reform Must Prioritize Public Safety, Says NSPE President

NSPE President Tricia Hatley has once again made the case for keeping public health, welfare, and safety at the forefront of efforts to reform occupational licensure and increase mobility.

In a recent column directed to state and local government leaders, Hatley warns of the risks of implementing one-size-fits-all universal licensure proposals that do not maintain necessary education and experience standards.

Most people agree professionals should be allowed to move across state lines and earn a living with the least cost and hassle possible. Likewise, most people want to protect the public's health, safety and welfare by ensuring they are being served by qualified professionals who have the knowledge, skills and experience for the job. This is especially true in highly technical, high-impact professions that the Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing represents like certified public accountants, architects, engineers, surveyors and landscape architects.

Here comes the rub: many of the universal licensing proposals being pitched to state lawmakers, including those put forth by the American Legislative Exchange Council and in Arizona, tend to focus exclusively on the first point—improving mobility—while disregarding the second—ensuring standards necessary to protect the public.

In other words, universal licensing mandates don't consider the critical importance of substantially equivalent requirements between states. Instead, they dictate that states must accept a license issued by any state without regard for, understanding of, or any input in, the underlying minimum competency requirements behind the license.

[Read the full op-ed column.](#)

PEs Can Strengthen Autonomous Vehicle Safety

NSPE is calling on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to rely on the expertise of professional engineers and follow recommendations in the Society's [Autonomous Vehicle Policy Guide](#) as part of the federal safety frame work for automated driving systems.



In [recent public comments](#) , NSPE President Tricia Hatley informed the agency that NSPE is committed to creating a world where the public can be confident that engineering decisions affecting their lives are made by qualified and ethically accountable professionals. NSPE [Position Statement No. 03-1772](#) states that the testing and deployment of AVs must include a professional engineer. The rationale for the position is rooted in a professional engineer's ethical obligation to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

The Society also recommends that the NHTSA implement a third-party verification process. A third-party verification process should establish that the ADS technology under review meets a minimal level of safety, as determined by an assessment of risk. This can be done through the submittal of risk assessments audited by a professional engineer who is in responsible charge of the third-party verification process.

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