

## State News for NSPE Members

### **NSPE-NV November Virtual Lunch and Learn Recap** ***Tracer Study and Hydrodynamic Modeling in an Alpine Lake***

On November 17, the NSPE-NV Southern Nevada Chapter hosted a free virtual lunch and learn event with a presentation by **Dave James, Ph.D., P.E.**, on “Tracer Study and Hydrodynamic Modeling in an Alpine Lake.”

Dave James is an associate professor of civil engineering at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He earned his bachelor’s degree in chemistry from the University of California, Davis in 1975 and his MS and PhD degrees environmental engineering science from the California Institute of Technology in 1983 and 1989, respectively.



James has been licensed as a civil engineer (Nevada) since 1998. He formerly served as President of the Nevada Society of Professional Engineers, Chair of the Nevada Professional Engineers Foundation, and as Western Region Director for NSPE (2010-2012). He currently serves as the liaison for NSPE Link 154 of the Order of the Engineer, on the Nevada PE Foundation Board of Trustees, and is a member of the Nevada Society’s Outreach Committee.

On the UNLV faculty since 1990, James teaches courses in senior design, wastewater treatment and air pollution control. His areas of research expertise comprise acquisition and interpretation of field data in water quality and dust

emissions.

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## Volunteer Opportunity—Mobile Food Market

NSPE-NV is calling on members to volunteer for a **Mobile Food Market** distribution project on **Saturday, December 12** from 8:45 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Schofield Middle School (8625 S Spencer St, Las Vegas, NV 89123).

This activity is just one of many coordinated by the NSPE-NV STEM Outreach Committee to support the [Just One Project](#)'s "Pop Up & Give" program designed to bring groceries into food deserts and food insecure neighborhoods across Southern Nevada. The program has provided 300,000+lbs of groceries to 20,000+ people. Since its founding in 2014, the Just One Project has become one of the fastest-growing nonprofit organizations in southern Nevada with a mission to connect the community through giving back.

NSPE-NV members participated in a distribution of goods hosted at Orr Middle School on October 24 and at Schofield Middle School on November 14.



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## In Response to Pandemic, NCEES Schedules Regional Testing for PE Civil Exam

To accommodate as many pencil-and-paper examinees as safely as possible, NCEES has added a regional exam administration on January 26, 2021, for PE Civil examinees only. **Las Vegas, Nevada** is a host city.

Registration for the regional PE Civil exam administration opened on **November 1, 2020**, and closes on **December 14, 2020**, at 3:00 p.m. EST. The exam will be administered in Las Vegas and the following cities: Phoenix, AZ; Pomona, CA; Denver, CO; Groton, CT; Orlando, FL; Topeka, KS; Louisville, KY; Minneapolis, MN; Raleigh, NC; Cleveland, OH; Salem, OR; Houston, TX; Salt Lake City, UT; and Seattle, WA.

Additional cities may be added. Visit the [NCEES website](#) for details.

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## **Reno Named a Top STEM City**

Reno, Nevada was recognized as a 2020 Top STEM City for being a community showcasing exceptional dedication to science, technology, engineering, and math education and careers.

The data science team at Insurify (an insurance quotes comparison site) analyzed both proprietary and publicly accessible data to determine the top STEM city in each state. The team identified cities with the highest proportion of residents in STEM-based careers and compiled data from Niche on the colleges and graduate schools with the best programs in STEM, as well as the best cities for women in tech.

[Read more.](#)

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## **Construction of High-Speed Rail Line Delayed as Bond Sale Postponed**

Construction on a long-anticipated high-speed train between Las Vegas and Southern California that was to begin this year has been delayed indefinitely because of financing issues, according to a *Las Vegas Review-Journal* article.

Brightline West announced it is delaying a \$2.4 billion bond offering that would have funded the initial work on the planned \$8 billion project. Brightline tied the delay to market conditions brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and this being an election year. Nevertheless, Brightline insisted there's still investor interest in the project and it will continue to move forward.

[Read more.](#)

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

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## **PEs, Technicians, and Teamwork**

Construction projects come with numerous roles and responsibilities that must be carried out with skill and efficiency to achieve success. For professional engineers, perhaps the most critical relationship is with the project's engineering technicians.

In a recent [NSPE webinar](#) on PEs, technicians, and the engineering team, Shannon Looney, P.E., F.NSPE, called the contributions of skilled technicians "invaluable." As the senior project manager for the Glenn E. Mitchell and Company

Inc. in Knoxville, Tennessee, Looney specializes in concrete construction. He relies heavily on the data collected by technicians—“the technicians with their hands on the ground that work directly with the labor force and is able to tell us the data we need...to make real-time decisions on important aspects of production.”

The webinar covers many aspects of the PE-technician dynamic and the factors that make a strong team. In addition to Looney, the webinar panel included Kent Dvorak, P.E., of Terracon’s Salt Lake City office; John Quidley, SET, president and senior quality consultant with Caliber Consulting Services LLC; and Kenny Johnson Jr., P.G., with expertise in the geotechnical and materials testing industry.

The webinar, “Put Me in, Coach! The Engineering Team from Concept to Completion,” can be [accessed online for free](#).

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## **Georgia Adopts Structural PE Requirement**

Beginning January 1, a professional engineer who designs, signs, and seals plans for “designated structures” in Georgia must be licensed as a structural engineer. Legislation signed into law in August, creates a professional structural engineer licensing process, which includes a requirement that a licensure applicant take the 16-hour PE Structural exam.

The process [establishes several paths](#) for current licensees to be grandfathered into obtaining an SE license, which is supplemental to the PE license. An individual licensed in Georgia will have to submit an affidavit form and pay fees to the [State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors](#) from November 1 to December 31, 2020 to participate in this grandfather process.

In June, NSPE and the Georgia Society of Professional Engineers expressed concerns that a SE license requirement would create an additional layer of bureaucracy, requiring an engineer who is qualified to practice in more than one area to obtain multiple licenses.

NSPE believes that fragmenting the professional engineering license into discipline-specific title or practice acts weakens rather than strengthens the integrity of the license. The Society advocates for an alternative structural engineering certification that could be obtained after earning a PE license to offer more flexibility and without drawing a hard line between structural and other engineering disciplines.

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## **Officer Nominations Open**

Nominations are now open for the positions of NSPE 2021–22 vice president and

2021–23 treasurer. The individual nominated for vice president will advance to president-elect in 2022–23 and president in 2023–24. The deadline for submitting nomination packages for either position is **January 11, 2021**.

Please share this information with those you believe should be considered for the next leaders in our Society. Additional details can be found in the [Leadership Toolbox](#). If you have any questions, email the NSPE Executive Office at [executive@nspe.org](mailto:executive@nspe.org).

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**National Society of Professional Engineers | 1420 King Street | Alexandria, VA  
22314**

