

State News for NSPE Members

Virtual Meeting Recap—Challenges and Innovations: Using Concrete in Sustainable Infrastructure

On April 20, the NSPE-NV Southern Nevada Chapter sponsored a virtual meeting on the topic of challenges and innovations around using concrete in sustainable infrastructure. The meeting featured **Thomas J. Van Dam, Ph.D., P.E.**, a principal at Nichols Consulting Engineers with over 35 years of civil engineering experience, specializing in concrete design, assessment, sustainability, and resiliency.



Van Dam is a co-principal investigator on the FHWA's Sustainable Pavements Program and principal author of the FHWA's Toward Sustainable Pavements—A Reference Manual amongst other documents focused on bringing sustainable design into practice. He is active in the American Concrete Institute where he serves on the Technical Activities Committee as well as numerous other technical committees.

Van Dam has also published over 100 technical articles and is a frequent presenter on pavements, pavement materials, and sustainability.

NSPE-NV Member David James Reflects on 30-Year UNLV Career

Did you know that NSPE-NV member **David James, Ph.D., P.E., F.NSPE**, pursued an engineering career because his parents believed that he should be in a fun field? Also, did you know that his interest in K-12 STEM outreach began in 2010 when he attended a science and technology festival at the National Mall to help attendees with a "Pop Fly Catapult" activity?



A recent article on the UNLV News Center site spotlights David James' 30-year career as civil and environmental engineering faculty member at the Southern Nevada institution in addition to his contributions to increase environmental research and advocacy, as well as K-12 outreach.

[Read more.](#)

Volunteer Opportunity at the Mobile Food Market

The NSPE-NV STEAM Outreach Committee wants to thank members for their past and current commitment to serving the community.

The society is calling on members to volunteer for the next **Mobile Food Market** distribution project on **Saturday, April 24** from 7:45 a.m. to 11 a.m. at **Canyon Springs High School** (350 E Alexander Rd, North Las Vegas, NV 89032).

If you can volunteer, please RSVP to brook.demitropoulos@jacobs.com or 702-336-9896. If you can't make it to this location, you can still [register online](#) for a different location.

How the Infrastructure Report Card Could Benefit the State

Nevada's drinking water infrastructure will need more than \$5 billion in maintenance costs over the next two decades, according to a *Las Vegas Sun* article. Internet access in portions of the state's vast rural areas is lacking. And extreme weather has brought more than \$1 billion in repairs over the last decade.

These issues were part of a list of Nevada infrastructure needs released by the Biden administration in a push for support of the president's \$2.3 trillion jobs and infrastructure bill, the American Jobs Plan.

[Read more.](#)

Nevada Continues to Embrace an Autonomous Vehicle Future

Nevada has been at the forefront of recognizing the role autonomous vehicles will have in its transportation future. A recent article featured on the Sierra Nevada Ally website examines the legislative activities that are paving the way for this technology.

The article points out that Nevada became the first state in the US to authorize the operation of autonomous vehicles by passing [Assembly Bill 511](#) in 2011. In 2017, state lawmakers made [Assembly Bill 69](#) law, a measure that authorized fully autonomous vehicles to be tested or operated on state highways, as long as certain safety requirements are met.

Nevada recently took another step in evaluating and licensing of autonomous vehicles during an Assembly Growth and Infrastructure Committee hearing to consider [Assembly Bill 412](#). The bill is a measure that would update sections of state law to reflect technological advances in the autonomous vehicle industry.

[Read more.](#)



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

[Civil Engineer and CAD Drafter](#)

Reno, NV

[Engineering Associate](#)

North Las Vegas, 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](#).

We Need Your Input on Proposed Changes to Engineers' Creed

The [Engineers' Creed Survey](#) will be open until 9:00 pm EDT on April 23. As outlined in previous communications, NSPE is collecting feedback on proposed modifications to update outdated language without altering the philosophical underpinnings of the organization. The hope is that the use of broad, inclusive language will help all engineers within our organization incorporate their personal beliefs and experiences to better the profession.

Thank you to members who have already completed the survey. Please note: If you previously completed the survey, you will not be able to take it again.

If you have not had a chance to provide feedback, we encourage you to do so. Your input is important.

Thank you for your assistance, and thank you for being a member of NSPE.

Watch NSPE's New YouTube Vlog on Legislative and Regulatory Issues

Episode 3 of NSPE's new [Committee Corner](#) vlog covers the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and the March 24 markup of S.914 - the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021.

Ask Your Senators to Back Drinking and Wastewater Infrastructure

Professional Engineers play an integral role in the development and maintenance of the nation's infrastructure, including infrastructure that provides clean drinking water and safe wastewater treatment.

Every community in the United States needs clean drinking water, and wastewater treatment facilities that keep the community clean and safe. The Senate is expected to vote this week on a bill to fund these vital systems.

[Ask Your Senators to Vote "Yes" on S.914](#)

S. 914, The Drinking and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021, ensures that communities have both, by providing much-needed funding for our drinking and wastewater systems. The bill authorizes funding for the Safe Drinking Water Act programs, and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. It also establishes programs that direct services and funding to low-income and under-served communities, and allocates money to respond to cyber threats. Share your engineering expertise with your lawmakers, and ask them to support this crucial funding.

S. 914 was voted out of the Senate Environment and Public Works committee with unanimous, bipartisan support. And in a press release dated April 15th, Majority Leader Schumer said the bill could be voted on by the full Senate as early as this week.

[Ask Your Senators to Vote "Yes" on S.914](#)

Please take a moment to contact your Senators, express your support, and ask them to vote "yes" on S. 914.

Society Backs House Bills on Engineering Education and 529 Savings Plans

NSPE supports the WORKER Act ([H.R. 594](#)), which establishes a \$20 million grant program to make specialized engineering programs available in K–12 schools. The bill was introduced by Rep. Tim Ryan (D-OH) and Rep. Susan Wild (D-PA) to improve worker training, retention, and advancement.

The grants will assist with teaching students the overall analytical and experimental approaches used in engineering and engineering technology; and increase participation of under-represented student groups in the engineering and engineering technology pipeline.

NSPE continues to advocate for passage of the Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act ([H.R. 2171](#)). This legislation was successfully reintroduced by Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-VA) with support from the Professional Certification Coalition. The bill allows the beneficiaries of tax-advantaged 529 education savings plans to pay the costs associated with obtaining or maintaining postsecondary credentials—including professional licensing and private certification—with funds

from their plan. As introduced, the legislation supports both new and existing PE licenses and NICET certifications. A companion bill, [S. 905](#) , was introduced by Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN).

NSPE will work with the Professional Certification Coalition leadership to help move these bills through the legislative process.

Members can view and participate in advocacy campaigns at the [NSPE Advocacy Center](#) .

Scammers Target Licensed Professionals

Scammers typically pose as someone from your bank, the IRS, or tech-support services to steal sensitive information and money, but these bad actors have added a twist to their schemes. Now, authorities are warning professional licensees that they are becoming prime targets for fraud.

In March, Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge issued a fraud alert to licensees and state licensing boards. Scammers are calling license holders with claims that their licenses are under investigation and at risk of being suspended if they don't make an immediate payment. The license holder's caller ID may even display the legitimate licensing office's phone number that has been spoofed by the scam callers.

These latest scams have increased for nurses and other licensed medical professionals, but they aren't limited to a particular state, region, or profession. In February, the Maryland Department of Labor issued an alert about phishing emails targeting licensees. The Hawaii Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs warned licensees in July 2020 about individuals posing as state officials or law enforcement agents to intimidate potential victims into divulging personal information. And as early as 2019, the California Department of Consumer Affairs issued a fraud scheme alert to licensees of the agency's boards and bureaus, including the board that licenses design professionals.

Take Advantage of NSPE's Spring Webinars

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Throughout April and May, NSPE will host a webinar every Wednesday starting at 2 p.m. EST. The webinars are available to members for \$99 (\$129 for nonmembers) and will include an online discussion and a 10-question quiz for the sessions to qualify for continuing education credit.

April 28: [Turn Your Ideas Into Gold - A Guide to Intellectual Property](#)

May 5: [Engineering Ethics: Canon IV - Fidelity to Employers/Clients](#)

May 12: [Engineering Leadership Success By Design - Emotional Intelligence and Neuroscience as Career Differentiators](#)

May 19: [Energy Storage: The Other Half of Renewable Energies](#)

May 26: [Catapult Your Win Rate by 50%](#)

[Register now.](#)

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