

## State News for NSPE Members

### Stuff the Stocking: Nevada PEP Donations

NSPE-NV members are encouraged to help stuff the stocking to support [Nevada PEP](#) (Parents Empowering Parents). Nevada PEP is a nonprofit organization that offers education, empowerment, and encouragement to families of children with disabilities. The fundraising goal is \$10,000.

The Southern Nevada chapter of the American Public Works Association is overseeing this year's fundraiser in addition to hosting a joint luncheon on December 16. Donations can be made by credit card (see the QR code below) or checks (made payable to APWA) can be delivered to Gina Venglass at the City of Las Vegas City Hall. Gina Venglass can also be [contacted by email](#) if there are any questions about the fundraiser.



**STUFF THE STOCKING**

Help APWA Southern NV Branch support Nevada PEP, a local non-profit increasing opportunities for home, community and school success for children with disabilities, their families and their service providers through education, encouragement and empowerment activities.

Community need is greater ~ please be more generous than ever!  
FUNDRAISING GOAL = \$10,000

Accepting credit card donations via the QR code above or checks.

Checks can be delivered to Gina Venglass, City of Las Vegas City Hall, payable to APWA.

Questions?  
Email [gvenglass@lasvegasesnvada.gov](mailto:gvenglass@lasvegasesnvada.gov)

**NEVADA PEP**  
Strengthening Families with Education • Empowerment • Encouragement  
<https://nep.org>

**APWA**  
AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION  
in partnership with  
ASCE, NSPE, ITE, CMAA

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## Meet the Fall 2021 Scholarship Winners

NSPE-NV wants to congratulate the Charlie Vaughn Scholarship winners! The recipients are **Savanna Vacek** (junior, civil engineering major), **Johnil Kim** (junior, computer science major), and **Daunte Wade** (junior, mechanical engineering major). These students attend the University of Las Vegas.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
CHARLIE VAUGHN SCHOLARSHIP FALL 2021 WINNERS!

  
**SAVANNA VACEK**  
UNLV – Junior  
Major: Civil Engineering  
Minor: Spanish  
My name is Savanna Vacek and I am a junior at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas studying civil engineering with a minor in Spanish. I am a new member of NSPE, but I am really looking forward to going to events! Currently, I am the Vice President of Engineers without Borders, a member of Sigma Kappa Sorority, a Resident Assistant for the residence halls here on campus, and an undergraduate research assistant under Dr. Erica Marsi. I like to keep myself busy and involved within my community! I have a strong interest in water/wastewater resources, which is the focus of my research. This past summer, I interned in Omaha, Nebraska (my hometown) with Wade Trim as a Water Resources Engineering Intern and I was on the construction site of a 160 million gallon wastewater retention treatment basin. It was such a great learning experience, and now I am looking for experience in design. In this upcoming semester, I am also going to be involved in the WEFTEC Student Design Competition. Outside of school, I love going to festivals, concerts, movies, bowling, or hiking.

  
**JOHNIL KIM**  
UNLV – Junior  
Major: Computer Science  
Minor: Technology  
Commercialization  
Greetings! My name is Johnil Kim, and I am a junior student at UNLV majoring in Computer Science with a minor in Technology Commercialization. I am currently a member of NSPE, Association for Computing Machinery, Layer Zero, and LSAMP. I am interning with the Zhou Group at the UNLV Department of Physics and Astronomy as their lab programmer to help them automate experiments and store experiment results in a secure database. Furthermore, I will be joining Mission Support and Test Services for an internship in December. My interests include reverse engineering, database management, CTF challenges, and network traffic monitoring.

  
**DAUNTE WADE**  
UNLV – Junior  
Major: Mechanical Engineering  
My name is Daunte Wade, and I am a junior majoring in mechanical engineering at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Some of my hobbies include working on cars, flying airplanes, and developing my life skills. As the effects of the pandemic die down, I am hoping to join and apply for more clubs, organizations, and internships to get hands-on experience and mentoring. My main involvement outside of my studies has been in UNLV's Reserve Officers Training Corps. Here, I have learned the necessary skills needed to not only be an Air Force officer, but also an effective leader with strong character. My biggest goal is to become a test pilot in the USAF and apply everything I have learned along the way towards something greater than myself.

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## Calling All Future City Engineering Judges and Mentors!

NSPE-NV is looking for volunteers to help judge and score Future City Competition deliverables in January 2022 to decide which teams will advance to the regional competition. Some schools are also seeking engineering mentors to help provide some guidance.

If you are interested in helping young budding engineers, donating a few service hours, and obtaining some additional PDH credits, please contact Anthony Fiti ([anthony.fiti@snvfuturecity.org](mailto:anthony.fiti@snvfuturecity.org)) or Brian Kalina ([Brian.Kalina@swgas.com](mailto:Brian.Kalina@swgas.com)) before **January 6**.

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## State Licensing Board Meeting

The Nevada Board of Professional Engineers & Land Surveyors will hold a board meeting on **Thursday, January 20**.

The meeting agenda can be accessed on the licensing board [website](#).

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## Infrastructure Act Will Fund Extensive Road and Bridge Repairs, Transportation Upgrades

The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will pay to repair and rebuild roads and bridges in Nevada with a focus on climate change mitigation, resilience, equity, and safety for all users, including cyclists and pedestrians.

There are 28 bridges and over 1,090 miles of highway in poor condition in Nevada, according to the [US Department of Transportation](#). Since 2011, commute times have increased by 7.7% in Nevada, and on average, each driver pays \$558 per year in costs due to driving on roads in need of repair. The state will expect to receive approximately \$2.7 billion over five years in federal highway formula funding for highways and bridges.

Nevada will also receive about \$468 million over five years to improve public transportation options. Funding will also cover modernization of freight rail, increased EV charging options, airport improvements, and other infrastructure updates.

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

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## Share Your Story #IAMNSPE

### Who is NSPE?

NSPE is its members. NSPE members—like you—bring a unique story and perspective to the engineering profession. Learn more about your peers and [share your own story](#) with a 30-second video and the hashtag, #IAMNSPE.

### I Am Innovative

**Ben Amaba, P.E., LEED AP, CPIM, BD+C**  
**CTO Digital Transformation with Technology Innovation**

**NSPE is “the perfect venue to learn, network, and advance your skills,” according to Ben Amaba, an innovator at IBM. It brings together a diverse set of professionals who are innovating the world, and has helped him both personally and professionally.**



## Honor Awards Open for Nominations

The NSPE Honor Awards promote the professional engineer's contributions to society and recognize the achievements of the profession's very best. The deadline for [award submissions](#) is **January 31, 2022**.

### NSPE Award

The NSPE Award is the highest award given to an individual by the Society. It is presented to an engineer who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession, the public welfare, and humankind. **Steven Arndt, Ph.D., P.E., F.NSPE**, a world-renowned authority in the field of nuclear engineering, received the award in 2020.



### New Professional Award

This award recognizes a young NSPE member who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession and the community during the early years of one's career. **Stephanie Blain, P.E.**, received the award in 2021. She is employed with Palmer Engineering Company in Lexington, Kentucky.



## Get Your 15 Free PDHs for 2021—While They Last

Access to the 2021 selection of 15 free courses ends in January, so claim them before it's too late. Members can conveniently view courses from the comfort of their home or office.

PDHs from these courses are recognized by most US states, including Florida, and are earned after passing a quiz with a score of 70% or higher. Simply “purchase” the webinars and add them to your NSPE member account.

Webinars in your account can be accessed for up to one year.



Here's a sample of available webinar topics:

- [Ethics Forum: Conflicts of Interest - Serving the Public](#)
- [How To Be An Effective Witness](#)
- [Leading Project Teams: Emerging Technologies and Smart Design](#)
- [Your System Now and in the Future - Ensuring Sustainability through Strategic Planning](#)

[Start earning your PDHs.](#)

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