

State News for NSPE Members

NSPE-NV Virtual Meeting Recap—City of Las Vegas Projects

NSPE-NV hosted a virtual meeting on July 20 that focused on innovative City of Las Vegas projects. City engineer **Steve Ford, P.E., C.E.M.**, provided updates on several projects involving the Las Vegas Gateway Arches, Project Enchilada, the Las Vegas Medical District, and Symphony Park.

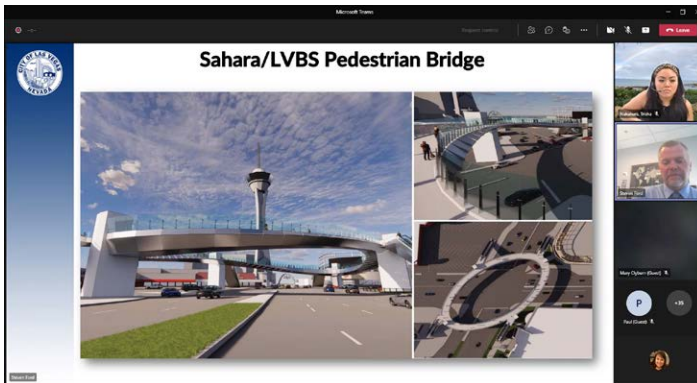
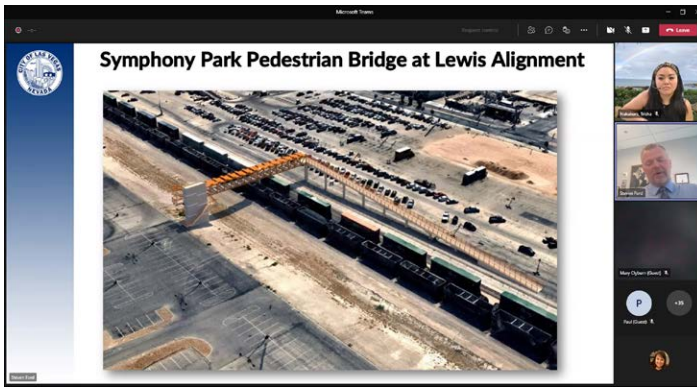
Project Highlights

The [Las Vegas Gateway Arches](#) are illuminated arches that are 80-feet-tall and form a gateway to downtown Las Vegas. They are located on Las Vegas Boulevard between St. Louis and Bob Stupak avenues at the base of The STRAT Hotel, Casino & SkyPod. The arches were conceived and designed by Selbert Perkins Design and fabricated and installed by YESCO, the 100-year-old company synonymous with Las Vegas' most iconic signs. The archway marks travelers' official arrival into the city.

[Project Enchilada](#) is based on the Downtown Master Plan adopted by the Las Vegas City Council in 2016. It is a public-private collaborative concept for the business of streetscapes, open space, retail development, retail renovation and enhancement of downtown areas. To begin, Project Enchilada will bring green, open space, illumination, and overall stabilization to East Fremont Street from Las Vegas Boulevard to 14th Street.

The [Las Vegas Medical District](#) is a collaborative effort between the City of Las Vegas and the downtown Las Vegas medical and healthcare community. The district is designed to build on the sense of community and to enhance the quality of healthcare for Southern Nevadans.

[Symphony Park](#) is located on 61 acres in the heart of downtown Las Vegas. It is home to arts, culture, science and medicine and offers opportunities for retail, restaurant or mixed-use development.



The Presenter

Steve Ford, P.E., C.E.M., is a graduate of Brigham Young University and the Air Force Institute of Technology. He started at the City of Las Vegas in 1997 as a project engineer.

Ford has also served as the superintendent of the Streets & Sanitation Division, facility manager, and deputy director of the operations and maintenance department, prior to serving as city engineer. He a 23-year veteran of the US Air Force & US Air Force Reserves.



Special Thanks!

NSPE-NV would like to give recognition to ASCE for serving as a cohost and to the

sponsor of this month's virtual meeting, [Carollo Engineers](#)—a national environmental engineering firm specializing in the planning, design, and construction of water and wastewater facilities with offices in Las Vegas and Reno.



Volunteer Opportunity at the Mobile Food Market

NSPE-NV is calling on members to volunteer for the next **Mobile Food Market** distribution project on **Saturday, July 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 call 702-336-9896. If you can't make it to this location, you can still [register online](#) for a different location.

Should Las Vegas Owners Be Worried About Building Safety?

Farro Tofighi, P.E., a structural engineer who has worked on some of the most well-known high-rises on the Las Vegas Strip, has a message for anyone here who worries about building safety in the wake of the condo tragedy that happened in Florida last month, according to a *Las Vegas Sun* article.

"Something like that rarely happens," said Tofighi, the managing principal at DeSimone Consulting Engineers, a global firm with offices in Las Vegas, New York City, and Miami among other cities. "I don't believe people here have any reason to worry."

Nearly 100 have been found dead in the rubble of a Surfside, Florida, condominium building that collapsed last month. Others are still missing and presumed dead. Hours after the tragedy, Tofighi started receiving phone calls from concerned friends and colleagues around the nation wondering if their building could also be at risk.

"It boggles my mind that it happened," said Tofighi, who moved to Las Vegas in the early 1990s to work on the construction of MGM Grand. "If you're a condo owner or a building owner in Las Vegas, I wouldn't worry about your building coming down. We design buildings well."

[Read more.](#)

New State Engineer Appointment

Adam Sullivan, P.E., has been appointed to serve as Nevada's 24th state engineer and administrator of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Division of Water Resources (NDWR).

Sullivan was named acting state engineer in November 2020, when the previous state engineer, Tim Wilson, P.E., retired after 25 years of service. As state engineer, he will lead NDWR in its mission to conserve, protect, and manage Nevada's limited water resources for the benefit of current and future generations of Nevadans.



Sullivan has worked on all aspects of water resources throughout the state for more than 20 years and has been with NDWR since 2009. Over the years, he has been at the forefront of tackling many of Nevada's most complex water issues, with a focus on leveraging the best available science to guide responsible water management decisions and actively collaborating with the broad range of stakeholders and communities across the state.

Under Sullivan's leadership, the division will continue to proactively address water issues that affect all Nevadans—including increasing demand for limited water resources, floods and prolonged drought, dam safety, and sustainment of our wetlands and freshwater ecosystems—all within the over-arching context of Nevada's rapidly growing population and the accelerating impacts of climate change occurring in all corners of the state.

[Read more.](#)

Licensing Board Meeting

The Nevada Board of Professional Engineers & Land Surveyors will hold a virtual meeting on **Thursday, August 12** at 9:15 a.m.

Individuals that would like to attend the meeting can log on to this Zoom meeting [website](#) or dial into the meeting (1-669-900-6833, Meeting ID: 8286438008). The meeting agenda can be accessed on the licensing board [website](#).

Share the Value of Society Membership

Professional engineers have unique skills and knowledge and carry an obligation to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. [NSPE](#) and the [Nevada Society of Professional Engineers](#) are dedicated to supporting these professionals throughout their careers.

NSPE and NSPE-NV helps PEs to stay current on the latest in engineering through leadership training, networking, and ethical guidance, all to safeguard the wellbeing of the public and navigate the new challenges that engineers confront daily. NSPE-NV members are encouraged to share the value of membership at the national, state, and local levels when engaging with their peers.

[Learn more about membership benefits.](#)

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

Have You Registered for Virtual PECon 2021?

With sessions on leadership, innovation, diversity, ethics, time management, and more, there is a session for everyone at the [2021 Virtual Professional Engineers Conference](#) (Aug 3-5).

You won't want to miss out on the keynote speakers, networking with your friends and peers in Coffee Chats, solving everyday problems in MasterMind sessions, and [PE Day](#) (August 4). Here's a peek....



- [Managing Up, Out and Within](#) (Stephanie Buckingham and Paula E. Miles, P.E.)
- [Cyber-attacks and Resilience](#) (James Livermore and Dave Ubert)
- [NSPE Engineering Excellence Awards](#)
- [Mars Is a Harsh Mistress \(So is the Moon\)](#) (George Hamilton, P.E., F.NSPE)

- [Delegation: How to Manage the Monkeys on Your Back](#) (Shelley Rowe, P.E.)
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Iowa Approves PE Exam Before Experience

PE license candidates in Iowa will have the opportunity to take the PE exam prior to meeting the four years of experience requirement.

Legislation (H.F. 284) signed by Governor Kim Reynolds in April eliminates the requirement that applicants for a professional engineer license must show necessary practical experience in engineering work prior to taking the PE exam. The bill does not alter other experience requirements for applicants.

Individuals applying for licensure in Iowa should access the Iowa Engineering and Land Surveying Examining Board [website](#) for updates on implementation of the rule change.

In states that have “decoupled” the experience and examination requirements, applicants are still required to complete all education, examination, and experience requirements before being granted a PE license.

NSPE believes that licensing boards should provide the option of taking the PE exam as soon as applicants for licensure believe they are prepared to take the exam and have passed the FE exam. Applicants, upon passing the exam, should not be eligible for licensure before meeting all other jurisdictional requirements.

Can the Engineering Profession Achieve Racial Equity?

Engineering occupations are some of the highest-paying and most prestigious in the US labor market, but they are also some of the least diverse. A [new report](#) from the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce finds that between 1990 and 2019, the total number of Black/African American and Latinx students who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in engineering increased nearly fourfold, but there is still far from equitable representation.



Over the same time period, the Latinx share of bachelor’s degrees in engineering increased from 3% to 13%, while the Black/African American share held steady at 4%. At this pace, achieving racial equity in engineering on par with population share would take 76 years for Latinx and Black/African American workers as a

group and up to 256 years for Black/African American workers alone.

“Having a career in engineering means you’ve made it,” said Anthony Carnevale, CEW director and report lead author in a statement. “While it’s a marker of climbing the wage and status occupational pyramid, it’s also a social indicator of progress on racial and gender justice.”

The report addresses how Black and Latinx are underpaid in a profession that pays very well. A person with an engineering bachelor’s degree (and no graduate degree) earns 25% more on average than the typical bachelor’s degree holder in the first job after graduation.

However, as with almost all fields, Black/African American and Latinx workers earn less than the average. While White and Asian workers with a bachelor’s degree in engineering earn 61% and 71% more, respectively, than the average for all bachelor’s degree holders, Black/African American and Latinx engineering majors earn just 15% and 18% more, respectively. To attain earnings comparable to those of White engineering majors, Black/African American or Latinx engineers must earn an additional degree beyond the bachelor’s degree.

The report authors emphasize that it shouldn’t take decades or centuries to ensure diversity in the engineering workforce mirrors diversity in society. It will take a comprehensive, committed, and innovative approach from employers and universities to close the gap.

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