

State News for NSPE Members

September Luncheon and Membership Meeting Recap

The Guam Society of Professional Engineers held a luncheon and membership meeting on Tuesday, September 19. The meeting featured a presentation by Ernesto J. Guades, Ph.D., an assistant professor in civil/structural engineering at the University of Guam on "**UOG School of Engineering, Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) Application and Research Based Initiatives Towards Sustainable Guam's Civil Infrastructures.**" Access the presentation [here](#).

Jim Galli, P.E., also discussed the activities held at the recent [NSPECon23](#) in Louisville, Kentucky, in August. Access photos from the conference [here](#).

NCEES Seeks PE Expertise for PAKS

NCEES is still seeking **naval architecture and marine engineers** to participate in a professional activities and knowledge study, or PAKS, for the PE Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering exam. The results of this online survey will be used to update the content of the PE exam, which is a process that occurs every six to eight years.

The survey, which will take 20–40 minutes to complete, will be open until **October 16** (an extension date). Click [here](#) for access to the online survey.

12th Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser

GSPE is hosting its **12th Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser** on **Saturday, October 21**, to support the MATHCOUNTS Guam chapter program.

The [MATHCOUNTS](#) program helps to promote middle school mathematics achievement. A significant portion of the funds raised will help to finance the Guam team's participation at the prestigious national level. Access the event flyer for

participation costs and additional details [here](#).

For more information and registration, please contact or send e-mail to any of our golf committee:

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Licensing Board Meeting

The [Guam Board of Registration for Professional Engineers, Architects and Land Surveyors](#) will hold its next board meeting on **Thursday, September 28**. Access the meeting information and agenda and the zoom link [here](#).

Naval Base Guam Completes \$130M Infrastructure Update

The US Environmental Protection Agency recently announced that the US Navy has successfully completed a 2011 Federal Facilities Compliance Agreement, or FFCA, at Naval Base Guam, the [Pacific Daily News reports](#).

For over 12 years and at a cost of \$130 million, the Navy carried out significant infrastructure upgrades to the Apra Harbor Wastewater Treatment Plant and sewer system, along with modifications to a water plant, EPA said. The Navy also improved pollution monitoring and completed technical studies.

"EPA appreciates the Navy's important accomplishment in fulfilling the compliance agreement and finishing a range of projects to protect Tipalao Bay and Apra Harbor," EPA Pacific Southwest Regional Administrator Martha Guzman said in a statement. Guzman said the completion of this work is critical to preserving public health, water quality, and coral reefs in Guam. [Read more](#).

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

Workability Webinars Series to Focus on Emerging Tech

NSPE offers a live webinar series free to members—"WORKability Wednesdays"—to support members with their professional

development goals. The first webinar of this season took place on September 13 - [How New PFAS Regulations Will Impact Water and Wastewater Utilities](#) . A webinar on [What Utilities Want Fleets to Know About Moving to Electric Vehicles](#) will take place on September 27.



NSPE members get free access to the webinars, but must register to attend. Visit the [PE Institute](#) to review the full series line-up and to mark your calendar for these live, online events.

Registration Open: 2023 NSPE Women's Leadership Virtual Fall Symposium

Join us for these live, one-time events to hear from experts in the field and join your colleagues in important discussions organized by NSPE's Women Leadership Program Task Force: [The Cost of Leadership](#); [Leading Yourself: Learning to Increase Your Emotional Intelligence](#); and [Networking Strategies: An Unconventional Approach to Connecting with Others](#) . The webinars will take place on October 12, October 19, and October 26 at 1:00 p.m. (ET). This exclusive package is free and includes all three live, one-time sessions. The sessions will not be recorded and PDH credits will not be issued for them.

[Register now.](#)

#NSPECon23 Revisited

NSPECon23 provided an opportunity to learn and build community in the heart of Louisville, Kentucky. Find photos from the All Things Louisville reception, the first-time attendee mixer, PE Day celebrations, recognition and installation ceremonies, and more on [NSPE's Flickr account](#) . Relive the fun and excitement with all your PE peers that gathered to celebrate the engineering profession.



Save the Date: NSPECon24—Raleigh, North Carolina—August 7–9



A False Solution for Our Workforce Challenges

The Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing (ARPL) recently posted an opinion column that highlights the risks of weakening professional licensing

requirements to address workforce challenges. NSPE is a member of ARPL.

Workforce shortages, talent pipelines at a trickle and expensive labor are all-too-familiar challenges facing businesses and the public sector. In an attempt to tackle these problems, there is a growing trend of exploring the weakening or elimination of certain key job requirements. These proposals include getting rid of college degree requirements without equivalency alternatives, doing away with requisite testing, and downgrading credentials and licensure for professionals.

To be sure, there are some elements of the occupational licensure process that require continuous improvement and elimination of impediments disparately impacting underrepresented groups. However, in the rush to address workforce challenges, legislators and other policymakers must be cautious not to create new problems that leave employers and the public at risk.

Weakening professional licensing requirements is a false solution to various workforce ills. Minimum qualifications ensured by licensing exist to protect employers and the public they serve. This is particularly important for technical professions with high public impact, such as architecture, certified public accountancy, engineering, landscape architecture and land surveying. Care must be taken to ensure that critical licensing systems for such professions, designed to ensure public and economic protection, are not compromised and swept up in broad-brush calls for occupational licensing reform. [Read more](#).

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