

State News for NSPE Members

GSPE Outreach in Action: STARBASE Guam STEM Day

The Guam Society of Professional Engineers recently participated in the **STARBASE Guam 2nd Annual STEM Day** on Saturday, October 14, at the Agana Shopping Center. GSPE was one of 14 organizations at the event that drew hundreds of middle school students. Organizations provided activities to demonstrate critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaborative skills as students explored STEM careers and industries on the island.



GSPE officers Trinity Batton, AJ Layson (both pictured), and Andy Smith conducted hands-on engineering demonstrations.



Guam Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio served as the event's master of ceremonies.

October Luncheon and Membership Meeting Recap

The Guam Society of Professional Engineers held a luncheon and membership meeting on Tuesday, October 17. The meeting featured a presentation on the latest **Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee (EJCDC) Design/Build contract documents** by GSPE officer William Beery. Access the PowerPoint presentation [here](#) and an accompanying document [here](#).

The EJCDC develops and updates fair and objective standard documents that represent the latest and best thinking in contractual relations between all parties involved in engineering design and construction projects. The committee is made up of NSPE, ACEC, and ASCE and involves the participation of more than 15 other professional engineering design, construction, owner, legal, and risk management organizations. [EJCDC documents are available to NSPE members at a 50% discount.](#)

UOG Engineering Seeks ABET Accreditation

The University of Guam School of Engineering (SENG) is going through the ABET accreditation process for its BSCE program. Professor [Ernesto J. Guades](#) will serve as the lead in this accreditation process. Guades served as the featured luncheon and membership meeting presenter for GSPE in September.

Three ABET program evaluators will visit the university to interview stakeholders such as students, graduates, faculty, the Engineering Advisory Board members, and engineering professional groups. Access a presentation on the accreditation application process [here](#).

US Agrees to Pay \$48.9M to Guam for Ordot Dump Cleanup

Judge Jia M. Cobb, District Judge for the US District Court for the District of Columbia recently approved a partial consent decree between the Government of Guam and the US, partially resolving a dispute pending since 2017 over the past costs incurred by Guam for cleanup, corrective action, and closure of the Ordot Dump. Under the consent decree, the US has agreed to pay \$48,900,000 to resolve Guam's claims for these past costs, according to a news release.

"This consent decree brings closure to an issue that has plagued our island for decades. While serious concerns remain regarding liability for future costs associated with the Ordot Dump, this settlement represents a significant victory for our island and will enable us to move forward," said Governor Lou Leon Guerrero. [Read more.](#)

Judge Sets Two-Month Deadline for Ordot Report

US District Court Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood set a two-month deadline for the Guam EPA to consolidate available information, including the amount of money spent, required for a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) completion report. The USEPA Region 9 officials will conduct a site visit/inspection to Ordot in early November (4 to 9) 2023. [Read more in the Guam Daily Post.](#)

UOG Builds Ties with NAVFAC for Future Jobs, Internships

The University of Guam is building stronger ties with the Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Marianas with the aim to provide a pathway for UOG students to get internships and possibly employment with NAVFAC.

NAVFAC representatives Eugene T. Mesa, chief engineer; Maria Garcia, construction director; Jaylyn Valdez, human resources specialist; and Kendra O. Finklea, NAVFAC human resources director, recently met with UOG leadership on campus. NAVFAC Marianas supports Naval Base Guam, Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz, and other Department of Defense activities in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. It provides more than 400 jobs to civilians and military in Guam and the CNMI.

"[NAVFAC] expressed their desire to hire UOG graduates. The UOG graduates that they have on payroll and current students in their internship programs have proven to be well-educated, excellent contributors to their organization, and wonderful representatives of our institution," Sharleen Santos-Bamba, Ph.D., the interim senior vice president and provost, stated in a news release.

NAVFAC also supports UOG and the School of Engineering's efforts to secure ABET accreditation. "UOG and NAVFAC have agreed to continue conversations and share information about the types of careers that NAVFAC has to offer, the positions that they will be announcing, and input on how to prepare our students for a variety of professions," Santos-Bamba said.

The NAVFAC representatives indicated that they seek to hire engineers, administrators, supervisors in various departments, archaeologists, communication specialists, construction managers, project managers, and IT professionals. [Read more.](#)

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

Looking Toward a Promising Future

By Bill Atkinson, P.E., F.NSPE, President 2023–24



As I continue on my professional journey as the NSPE president, I often reflect on what our organization has done since its founding in 1934 and what NSPE needs to do going forward. The next stage of NSPE's future begins with our vision to

ensure that the public lives in a world where engineering decisions are made by qualified and ethically accountable professionals. This will require that a unified engineering community step up to protect licensure laws across the nation and maintain high standards for professional practice. It will require that we embrace innovation and emerging technologies. This future will be bolstered by a new generation of engineers that we must encourage to understand that they can truly make a difference in the world. I look forward to playing my part and supporting others in these efforts.

Licensure and Emerging Technologies

Protection of the public health, safety, and welfare is at our core as professional engineers. Licensure is key to ensuring consistent standards of practice and professional competencies. We must make sure that these standards and competencies remain relevant to how we do things today, while looking toward the future.

We must continually question ourselves and the regulations that are in place. Are state licensing laws adequately regulating the profession of engineering without precluding otherwise qualified individuals from practicing? Is our current licensure model adequately serving its purpose? Are engineering licensure exemptions creating gaps where the public could be harmed? The answers to these questions can help drive us to better ways of safeguarding the public.

I believe that most individuals that become engineers do so because they are good at making things better. They are not tied to the world they are in today and are always pursuing excellence and improvement. I believe that by pooling our experiences as engineers, we can bring the best and brightest together to tackle any challenge that we may face as we seek to evolve. This evolution will involve the development and use of emerging technologies to spur innovative solutions. NSPE is supporting members by providing professional development that showcases the use of these technologies in a manner that is ethical and will benefit the public. [Read more.](#)

NSPECon24 – Call for Presentation Proposals

Prepare to share your expertise during NSPECon24 in Raleigh, North Carolina, August 7-9, 2024. [Review the topics](#) NSPE seeks in the areas of career development, leadership, and issues and trends, and think about how you can contribute. The submission site will open on November 1 and the proposal deadline is **January 10, 2024**.

The [NSPECon23 program](#) is still available online and may give potential presenters some ideas about the caliber of sessions needed for next year.

Volunteers are the Heart of NSPE: Get Involved and Share Your Voice



Volunteers are essential to advancing NSPE's vision to ensure a world where the public can be confident that engineering decisions affecting their lives are made by qualified and ethically accountable professionals. Volunteering is also a great opportunity for members to grow their professional network and connect with other leaders in the field.

There are [several ways to get involved](#)...here a few opportunities to consider

Serve as a mentor for an engineering student. If interested, send an email to education@nspe.org.

NSPE online community champion. Virtual opportunity to promote community and sharing of ideas through NSPE's online channels. If interested, send an email to membership@nspe.org.

Write an article for *PE* magazine. Share your expertise and insights on professional practice, education, ethics, leadership, licensure, public policy, DEI, emerging technologies, and sustainability and resilience by serving as a guest writer for *PE* magazine. If interested, email pemagazine@nspe.org for submission guidelines.

Collaborate with staff to draft/supply input on federal legislation, regulations or public comments to federal Congressional staff and committees (Identify your area(s) of vocational expertise.) If interested, send an email to governmentrelations@nspe.org.

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