

State News for NSPE Members

Get Ready for Engineers Week!



Engineers Week is [a time to celebrate](#) the important work of engineers and engage the next generation of innovators. Even with social distancing, you can make a difference. Here are a few activities that will be of interest to NSPE-GU members.

Future of Engineering

Join NSPE leaders Tricia Hatley, P.E., F.NSPE and Rick Guerra, P.E., F.NSPE, as they discuss the future of engineering and how our changing world will impact the profession during a free webinar on **Monday, February 22** (1 p.m.-2p.m. ET). Webinar participants can earn one professional development hour. The webinar will be recorded for later viewing.

2021 NSPE Federal Engineer of the Year Award Webcast

NSPE celebrates the 2021 federal agency winners, the Top 10 Finalists, and announces the 2021 NSPE Federal Engineer of the Year via pre-recorded webcast on **Wednesday, February 24 at 12 p.m. ET** on the NSPE [website](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

Power Authority Manager Addresses Energy Security Concerns

In a recent letter to the editor, Guam Power Authority General Manager John M. Benavente, P.E., responded to concerns about Guam's energy security and the agency's clean energy practices.

Benavente wrote the following in *The Guam Daily Post*:

We support the efforts of the Legislature to set green energy policies, however mandating the formula to achieve these goals must be left to the experts in the utility, Consolidated Commission on Utilities and the Public Utilities Commission. GPA will never support legislation that unjustly raises prices for ratepayers. For instance, if passed, Bill 219-35 would have cost ratepayers \$10 million-plus in an annual subsidy and increased energy prices for nonsolar ratepayers. Nonsolar ratepayers are currently subsidizing the rooftop Net Metering Program by \$3.5 million annually; Bill 219-35 would have increased that subsidy threefold.

Clean, green energy must be intelligently planned and implemented in a responsible, affordable manner. Renewable energy alone is not the panacea to the island's environmental and economic concerns. Reckless mandates to implement costly renewable projects strip away energy security for the most vulnerable of our island's population.

[Read more.](#)

Driverless Vehicle Tests Come to the Island

A driverless vehicle concept was recently tested in Guam using remote technology 1,500 miles away in Japan. The demonstration of the new “SC-1” driverless concept cart (manufactured by the Sony Corporation) was conducted using DOCOMO Pacific’s 5G network and is part of the company’s 5G Open Lab Guam project.

According to [a press release](#), the SC-1 incorporates AI and robotics technologies and results of the trial will be used to verify data transmission and operational performance required to remotely control the cart from a long distance via the extra-high speed, large capacity, low latency, and massive-device connectivity of the 5G network.



[Watch a demonstration.](#)

NCEES April 2021 Test Registration

The National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying is accepting registrations for the pencil-and-paper April 2021 PE exams until March 4 (3 p.m. ET).

The exam administration will take place over two days—**Thursday, April 22 and Friday, April 23**. Registration for the computer-based FE and PE exams will remain open year-round.

According to NCEES, every effort will be made to accommodate all registered examinees in a manner that protects the health and safety of everyone involved. All sites for the April 2021 exam administration must operate in compliance with capacity and social distancing requirements. In most cases, this will reduce the number of examinees that can be accommodated at an exam site.

[Access information for registering.](#)

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

New Report: Valuing Professional Licensing

For years, professional associations and regulatory boards lacked hard data that demonstrated the value of licensing. In 2020, the Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing (ARPL) sought to fill that information gap by commissioning Oxford Economics to help better understand the nuanced impacts of licensing on professions and trade and vocational occupations. NSPE is a founding member of ARPL.

The report [Valuing Professional Licensing in the United States](#), includes several key findings:

- Across all professions and occupations, **licensing is associated with a 6.5% average increase in hourly earnings**, even after accounting for the job holder's educational attainment, gender, and racial demographics.
- Among professionals in technical fields requiring significant education and training, **a license narrows the gender-driven wage gap by about one third and the race-driven wage gap by about half**.
- Those in trade and vocational occupations can expect a **7.1% hourly wage increase** after becoming licensed, while those in a profession requiring

advanced education and training can expect a **3.6% wage increase** after becoming licensed.

ARPL will host a **live webinar on February 24, 2021 (3:00 p.m. eastern standard time)** to review findings and conclusions of the report and share new strategies for lawmaker outreach. [Register now](#).

Licensing Reform Must Prioritize Public Safety, Says NSPE President

NSPE President Tricia Hatley has once again made the case for keeping public health, welfare, and safety at the forefront of efforts to reform occupational licensure and increase mobility.

In a recent column directed to state and local government leaders, Hatley warns of the risks of implementing one-size-fits-all universal licensure proposals that do not maintain necessary education and experience standards.

Most people agree professionals should be allowed to move across state lines and earn a living with the least cost and hassle possible. Likewise, most people want to protect the public's health, safety and welfare by ensuring they are being served by qualified professionals who have the knowledge, skills and experience for the job. This is especially true in highly technical, high-impact professions that the Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing represents like certified public accountants, architects, engineers, surveyors and landscape architects.

Here comes the rub: many of the universal licensing proposals being pitched to state lawmakers, including those put forth by the American Legislative Exchange Council and in Arizona, tend to focus exclusively on the first point—improving mobility—while disregarding the second—ensuring standards necessary to protect the public.

In other words, universal licensing mandates don't consider the critical importance of substantially equivalent requirements between states. Instead, they dictate that states must accept a license issued by any state without regard for, understanding of, or any input in, the underlying minimum competency requirements behind the license.

[Read the full op-ed column.](#)

PEs Can Strengthen Autonomous Vehicle Safety

NSPE is calling on the National Highway Traffic

Safety Administration to rely on the expertise of professional engineers and follow recommendations in the Society's [Autonomous Vehicle Policy Guide](#) as part of the federal safety frame work for automated driving systems.



In [recent public comments](#) , NSPE President Tricia Hatley informed the agency that NSPE is committed to creating a world where the public can be confident that engineering decisions affecting their lives are made by qualified and ethically accountable professionals. NSPE [Position Statement No. 03-1772](#) states that the testing and deployment of AVs must include a professional engineer. The rationale for the position is rooted in a professional engineer's ethical obligation to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

The Society also recommends that the NHTSA implement a third-party verification process. A third-party verification process should establish that the ADS technology under review meets a minimal level of safety, as determined by an assessment of risk. This can be done through the submittal of risk assessments audited by a professional engineer who is in responsible charge of the third-party verification process.

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