

State News for NSPE Members

Show Your PE Pride!

NSPE members recently celebrated the contributions of the profession during the sixth annual [PE Day](#). But don't wait until next year's national event to show off this commitment to the profession. NSPE President Rick Guerra, P.E., F.NSPE, believes that proud members of the NSPE community can do so in the following ways all year round:

- Introduce yourselves as Licensed Professional Engineers
- Get to know your fellow PEs
- Use [#ProudPE](#) in your communications and social media posts

Governor Guerrero Presses for More H-2B Approvals

The Department of Homeland Security is being asked to resolve a recent "uptick" in denials of foreign labor visa applications for Guam, according to a *The Guam Daily Post* article.

Governor Lou Leon Guerrero met with an acting under secretary at DHS on the matter in Washington, DC, as part of her first off-island trip since the beginning of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

A decrease in approved H-2B visas could have budgetary impacts for the government of Guam. Fees collected by the local Department of Labor from companies that bring in foreign workers fund operations and job training programs.

GovGuam oversees around 1,500 foreign workers in a normal year, according to Greg Massey, administrator of the department's Alien Labor Processing and Certification Division. Although more than 1,600 visas have been approved so far, the budgeted estimate of foreign workers for fiscal year 2021 is 2,300, Massey told *The Guam Daily Post*.

[Read more.](#)

Attorney General Sues Solar Plant Developers

The Office of the Attorney General [filed a complaint](#) on August 5 against the owner and construction company responsible for the environmental damage to Sasayan Valley.

In its complaint, the OAG has asked the court to award actual damages and punitive damages against Korea Electric Power Company and Samsung E&C America for damaging Guam's natural resources and creating a public nuisance. This is the first action of its kind taken in recent history by the OAG.

The complaint alleges the defendants knew the project site was located, and remains, within the groundwater recharge area of Guam's aquifer and watershed area that supplies 80% of the island's drinking water. Permits issued by the Department of Public Works and Guam Environmental Protection Agency required the defendants to submit an approved Erosion and Sediment Control Plan which contained erosion control measures, including the construction of five ponding basins and the implementation of other measures, before starting earthwork activities.

[Read more.](#)

NCEES October Exam Registration

Registration for the October 2021 pencil-paper exam administration will close on August 26 (3 p.m. EDT). Exams will be administered on **Thursday, October 21** and **Friday, October 22**. Registration for the computer-based FE and PE exams is open year-round.

Access the Guam licensing board [website](#) for more information.

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

Texas PE Takes Lead of the Society

Rick Guerra, P.E., F.NSPE, was recently installed as NSPE's 2021–22 president during the [2021 Installation Ceremony](#) at NSPE headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. In the latest issue of *PE* magazine, he [offers a perspective](#) on the engineering workforce

pipeline, climate change, and engineering licensure.



Guerra is the president and CEO of Jose I. Guerra, Inc. a full-service, facilities engineering firm with offices in Austin, San Antonio, and Corpus Christi, Texas. The firm provides a comprehensive range of civil, structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing and fire protection engineering services to clients throughout the state.

As an active member of NSPE since 1994, Guerra has served in numerous leadership roles at the chapter, state, and national levels, including as president of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers in 2016-17 and was named a NSPE Fellow in 2018. In 2007, he was appointed by Governor Rick Perry as the licensed professional engineer member of the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners, serving until 2019. He received his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in 1982 and a master's degree in engineering in 1988, both from the University of Texas at Austin.

Guerra continues to promote the engineering profession by serving as a guest lecturer at UT Austin, acting as a high school career day host and serving as an engineering mentor for local high school students. He is also an active volunteer for his church, the Boy Scouts of America, and various other community organizations.

Celebrating Excellence in the Profession

NSPE members were honored on August 4 for their outstanding contributions to the profession during the 2021 Virtual Professional Engineers Conference.

Young Engineer of the Year Award

Stephanie Blain, P.E. was named the 2021 Young Engineer of the Year for her outstanding contributions to the engineering profession and the community. She is employed with Palmer Engineering Company in Winchester, Kentucky.



Engineering Education Excellence Award

Scott R. Hamilton, Ph.D., P.E., received the Engineering Education Excellence Award, which recognizes licensed

engineering faculty who have demonstrated the ability to link engineering education with professional practice. He is chair of the Civil & Mechanical Engineering Department at York College in York, Pennsylvania.



The Milton F. Lunch Ethics Contest winner and the QBS Award winners were also recognized during the conference.

The [2021 Milton F. Lunch Ethics Contest](#) provides an opportunity for NSPE members to put their ethics knowledge to the test on topics that present ethical challenges such as artificial intelligence, climate change, and the industrial exemption. **Michael Rademacher, P.E.**, of St. Louis, Missouri (Burns & McDonnell), is this year's winner. He will receive \$2,000, a certificate, and recognition in *PE* magazine.



The [QBS Awards](#) are cosponsored by NSPE and ACEC to recognize public and private entities that make exemplary use of the qualifications-based selection process at the federal, state and local levels. The **City of San Diego** was honored in the state/city government category and the **Idaho QBS Facilitators Council** received a special recognition award.

The award winners serve as examples of how well the QBS process works, and they help promote the practice in jurisdictions that do not use, or underuse, QBS to procure engineering services.

Introducing the 2021 Class of Society Fellows

By demonstrating exemplary and devoted service to their profession, the Society, and their community, 12 professional engineers have been honored as the 2021 Class of Fellow members.

- **Susan Best, P.E.** (PA)
- **Lee Czor, P.E.** (KY)
- **Beth Fifield Hodgson, P.E.** (WA)
- **Erin Gates, P.E.** (WY)
- **Angela Hanz, P.E.** (WI)



- **Kiel Johnson, P.E. (KS)**
- **Sharon Kimbrough, P.E. (AL)**
- **Matt Kruse, P.E. (NE)**
- **Andy Rogers, P.E. (SC)**
- **Breck Washam, P.E. (MO)**
- **Hardy Willis, P.E. (NC)**
- **Brian Malm, P.E. (MN)**

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