

## State News for NSPE Members

### Department of Public Works Seeks More Building Inspectors

The Department of Public Works is looking to hire seven more building inspectors to augment its current crew of three, according to *The Guam Daily Post*.

Randy Romero, the building inspection and permits administrator at DPW, said he would like to dedicate two individuals to perform continuous inspections of all high-rise buildings, and to break down the team by discipline. "One to concentrate on plumbing issues, infrastructure issues, electrical and so on," Romero said.

A condominium building in Surfside, Florida, collapsed in June, which resulted in the deaths of nearly 100 people, according to national media reports. Romero said he was aware of the tragic incident.

DPW does perform random inspections, and while the department would like to perform more inspections of high-rises, it is limited by the number of inspectors, Romero said.

[Read more.](#)

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### Guam Awarded \$3.3 Million in Technical Assistance Grants

Guam has been awarded over \$3.3 million in federal funding by the US Department of the Interior (DOI) to [fund projects](#) for government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions. These funds were awarded by DOI under the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) Technical Assistance Program (TAP).

Governor Lou Leon Guerrero expressed appreciation for having a strong working relationship with Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, who she says continues to be a strong advocate for Guam. "This funding provided by her department will go a long way in supporting critical initiatives in Guam, including improving government

services and assisting nonprofit organizations and educational institutions. This funding will help meet a variety of goals such as strengthening our power system's cybersecurity posture, providing software upgrades, and offering training opportunities for government efficiency and workforce development."

The TAP funding to Guam will benefit 17 projects including the following:

- \$159,200 to the Guam Power Authority for the Comprehensive Security Plan for Guam's Critical Energy Infrastructure. The development of the plan will help strengthen GPA's physical and cybersecurity posture to meet and exceed industry standards.
- \$100,000 to the A.B. Won Pat International Airport Authority for the Financial Management System Assessment and \$100,000 for the Infrastructure, Systems, and Equipment Integration Assessment.
- \$49,550 to the Guam Power Authority for the Energy Engineering Training & Certification Program.
- \$556,000 to the Guam Department of Public Works for the Highway Infrastructure Maintenance Program.
- \$140,287 to the Guam Community College for the Increasing Facilities Maintenance Capabilities project.

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## **Public Auditor Targets Defense Contractor Taxes**

Public Auditor Benjamin Cruz is recommending that the Guam Legislature pass a resolution requesting the federal government to shave off and then remit to the government of Guam taxes collected from military project contractors in the same way payments are made to Guam under Section 30 of the Organic Act. Section 30 funding is derived from taxes paid largely by military service members stationed in Guam and which the federal government remits directly to the local treasury every year.

The Office of Public Accountability is currently conducting an audit of military projects, as requested by Vice Speaker Tina Muña Barnes, to investigate whether Guam taxes are being paid by companies contracted to do the work.

The audit is still in the early stages, but Cruz raised concerns over the complexities involved. He said his team is learning that companies that come to Guam for military projects only need to obtain a certificate of authority from the Department of Revenue and Taxation if they work exclusively within military bases, instead of needing a contractor's license.

[Read more in \*The Daily Guam Post\*.](#)

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## Licensing Board Meeting

The Guam Board of Registration for Professional Engineers, Architects and Land Surveyors will hold its next meeting on **Thursday, July 29** at 3 p.m.

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

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

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## 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.

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## 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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