

State News for NSPE Members

Trailblazing Pilot Encourages Girls to Pursue STEM Careers

Guam-born Dr. Sian Proctor recently became the first Black woman to pilot a spacecraft and the fourth Black American woman to go to space via the SpaceX Inspiration4 mission, the first civilian-only space flight. Proctor encourages girls and young women interested in science, technology, engineering, arts and math to follow their career aspirations. She told [space.com](https://www.space.com) that her flight was a chance to "inspire the next generation of women of color and girls of color and really get them to think about reaching for the stars and what that means."

Proctor says she encourages girls considering STEAM careers to think about a particular problem they would like to solve or questions they want to answer, according to [Ms. Magazine](https://www.ms-magazine.com).

Proctor is a 51-year-old geoscientist, science professor, and artist. She obtained her pilot's license at age 36 and served as an analog astronaut for the first NASA-funded Hawai'i Space Exploration Analog and Simulation mission. Since 2016, has a major in the Civil Air Patrol, serving as an aerospace education officer.



[Wikipedia: CC BY-SA 2.0]

Guam Power Authority Receives Smart Energy Recognition

The Guam Power Authority has received a Smart Energy designation from the American Public Power Association for demonstrating commitment to and proficiency in energy efficiency, distributed generation, and environmental initiatives that support a goal of providing low-cost, quality, safe, and reliable electric service. The designation lasts for two years and recognizes public power utilities for demonstrating leading practices.

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

Share Your Story: #IAMNSPE



NSPE is its members. It's a society made up of dedicated individuals who each bring a unique story and perspective to the engineering profession. NSPE members are leaders. They are connected, inclusive, committed to ethical practice, and so much more. Members are [sharing their stories](#)....join them. #IAMNSPE

I Am the Future

Anali Martinez Gonzalez, E.I.T.
Civil Engineer
NSPE Emerging Leader Class of 2020

"I have taken advantage of opportunities to grow as a leader and seek to inspire the next generation of girls and women, especially Latinas, who want to be engineers one day."



PECon 2022: Now Accepting Presentation Proposals



NSPE is now accepting presentation submissions for consideration for the 2022 Professional Engineers Conference, August 1–3, in Philadelphia. The deadline for proposals is **November 30**.

The Professional Engineers Conference provides presenters an opportunity to share their expertise at a national conference. The 2022 conference will focus on the theme of harnessing the power of PEs to create a better world.

Conference Topics

- Amplify Your Leadership Power Skills—Beyond being technically qualified and committed to ethical practices, PEs are leaders. Presentations will be skills-focused for all career levels.

Stay Informed About Issues and Trends Impacting the Profession—The workplace environment is constantly changing and evolving. Presentations should address the latest issues and trends impacting PEs and the engineering industry.

- Invest in Your Career—Choosing a career as a professional engineer is an intentional act by engineers committed to the public health, safety, and welfare. Presentations should address career development topics that will help engineers at all career stages achieve their highest potential.

[Learn more and submit a proposal.](#)

Maryland Society Defends PE Requirement for Public Works Director

The Maryland Society of Professional Engineers is opposing efforts to end the requirement for a PE to serve as director of the Baltimore County Department of Public Works and Transportation. MDSPE believes a licensed professional engineer can provide the most effective administration to protect public health and safety.

In August, the Baltimore County Council revised the required qualifications for the director position, allowing an unlicensed individual to hold the position if they have at least 10 years of supervisory experience in infrastructure planning and construction, or transportation engineering and management. The existing county charter requires the director to hold a Maryland PE license and have at least 10 years of experience in responsible charge of engineering work. As this modification will require a change to the county charter, voters will have the final say in a ballot initiative on November 8, 2022.

In a letter to the county council chair, MDSPE emphasized that the county charter has historically required the department's director and deputy directors to be licensed professional engineers with extensive experience in their areas of practice because the department is responsible for significant engineering activities.

Without a license, the director would not be permitted to resolve differences in engineering decision-making between the PEs on staff, sign off on plans, or change plans without the approval of the PE. MDSPE believes that if an unlicensed director imposes undue influence on professional engineering decisions, it might create significant ethical and legal problems for the department and county.

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