

State News for NSPE Members

Governor Declares October as Cybersecurity Awareness Month

In response to the ever-evolving cyber landscape, Governor John Carney and Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-Long are proclaiming October as Delaware's Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

A declaration of this month allows resources to be made available to [provide free events](#) including informational tables, presentations, workshops, and other activities throughout the state to help Delawareans of all ages to learn how to improve their security posture. These programs cover topics on Protection (social media security and privacy information), Device Security (hands-on instruction on setting up device security on Android and Apple devices), and Detection (identifying, reporting, and learning about current scams).

Cybersecurity Awareness Month will culminate with the 14th Annual Secure Delaware Workshop on Tuesday, October 24, at the University of Delaware's Clayton Hall (registration is closed).

"We must learn to protect ourselves in the digital age and it takes all of us to help keep our data secure. I encourage everyone to take advantage of the free activities and resources made available during Cybersecurity Awareness Month," said Governor John Carney. "I want to thank the Delaware Department of Technology and Information for their efforts in educating the public of the risks and keeping Delaware safe from cyberattacks." [Read more.](#)

Delaware Hydrogen Hub Wins \$750M Fed Grant

A coalition of states including Delaware has won \$750 million in the federal H2Hubs grant program to support research, production and distribution of clean hydrogen gas, potentially supporting tens of thousands of jobs, [Delaware Business Times reports.](#)

The selection marks a significant boost to the mid-Atlantic region's work on clean hydrogen, including a number of Delaware companies and sites.

Researchers have increasingly come to believe that hydrogen, the most abundant element in the universe, could be a carbon-free fuel source of the future, powering commercial vehicles, ships and planes without harming the environment. For that to happen, however, the production of hydrogen through the splitting of water molecules in a process known as electrolysis would need to become more efficient, and a nationwide distribution network would need to be established.

The US Department of Energy has set a "hydrogen shot" goal of lowering clean hydrogen cost by 80% to \$1 per 1 kilogram in one decade. To advance toward that goal, the Biden administration dedicated up to \$7 billion toward the H2Hubs program for the development of regional clean hydrogen hubs, where industry and research universities would expand work on clean hydrogen fuel. [Read more.](#)

Offshore Wind's Place in Delaware's Net-Zero Emissions Solution

The cost of offshore wind power on the US Atlantic coast is rising sharply now because of inflation and supply-chain bottlenecks but that's likely to be temporary and so is not expected to play a big role in Delaware's current deliberations over whether to buy electricity from future offshore wind farms, the [Delaware Public Media reports](#).

As Delaware officials consider how or whether the state should procure offshore wind power, and lawmakers begin to focus on whether to require a state commitment, discussions are dominated by requests by developers in other states for a renegotiation of their contracts. They argue that they won't be able to make money by delivering power at the agreed price because their costs for inputs such as steel and wages have risen steeply over the past year.

Several developers in New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New Jersey are seeking price increases of 26-48% from their existing contracts, [according to a presentation to the Governor's Energy Advisory Council](#) by Willett Kempton, an offshore wind expert at the University of Delaware, and Kris Ohleth, director of UD's Special Initiative on Offshore Wind.

Most states haven't decided whether to agree to such big increases but even if they do, the effect on ratepayers' bills would be only a fraction of those numbers, reflecting the proportion of a state's overall power production is contributed by offshore wind, said Kempton, a longtime advocate for the industry. [Read more.](#)

NSPE-DE Accepting Nominations for Excellence Awards

The **Engineer of the Year** and **Young Engineer of the Year** are the most prestigious awards presented by NSPE-DE. These honors recognize individuals who provide sustained and unusual welfare, the advancement of the engineering profession, and/or service to humankind. New this year, we will be introducing a **Government Engineer of the Year** award. Individuals that are eligible for nomination must be currently engaged in the practice of engineering as an employee of the state, local or quasi-government agency in either a managerial or technical position.

If you know or work with someone who you think is deserving of either the Engineer of the Year, Government Engineer of the Year, or Young Engineer of the Year awards, don't hesitate to nominate them. The nomination deadline is **December 1, 2023**. Access nomination information [here](#).

NSPE-DE Supports the Future of Engineering

NSPE-DE has opened the 2023–2024 scholarship program for Delaware high school seniors who plan to enroll in a college engineering program next fall. The **Delaware Engineering Society - Joe J. Welker Memorial Scholarship** provides \$1,500-\$4,000 for the freshman year.

Access scholarship criteria and applications forms [here](#). Applications are due on **December 31, 2023**.

WANTED: Volunteers for the Delaware MATHCOUNTS Program

Middle school students from across our state come together for the Delaware MATHCOUNTS Competition, the only in-person math competition of its kind. These students are some of the most capable and hardworking young mathematicians in our state. This program doesn't work without the engagement of professional engineers who can mentor and inspire them. NSPE-DE is seeking volunteers for the 2023-2024 MATHCOUNTS season. There are various opportunities to get involved and make a difference. For more information, contact James Taylor (president@nspe-de.org).

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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