

## State News for NSPE Members

# DELAWARE MATHCOUNTS®

Each March, 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, and the top scoring students earn the prestigious honor of representing Delaware at the national level.

I am writing to ask for you and your company's support of this incredible group of students by donating to the Delaware MATHCOUNTS Competition. This year's state competition will take place on **Thursday, March 30**. This is the first in-person competition to be held since 2019. We are seeking partners who share and understand our commitment to the community. Your donation will allow us to expand the opportunities we are able to offer to students, both during the event itself and throughout the program year.

Students from 12 middle schools throughout Delaware will be participating this year. These children are our future engineers, scientists, doctors, and teachers—MATHCOUNTS helps them reach their full potential. I cannot emphasize enough how much your support matters!

### So...how can you help? There are two (2) ways:

1. **Volunteer your time.** This competition takes a number of volunteers to help make this event successful. To date, we had some volunteers who have signed up to make a difference, but we can always use more. There is a place for everyone to be a part. Roles include registration check-in, moderator, scorers, etc.
2. **Make a donation to NSPE-DE to support the event.** We offer a wide variety of unique sponsorship opportunities that allow your organization to be seen in a tangible way and give back to the community (Award Sponsor, School Sponsor, Volunteer Breakfast Sponsor are just a few!). All donations

will be used for this year's or future MATHCOUNTS competitions. All sponsorships include recognition on the NSPE-DE website (logo and link), a thank you ad and recognition in NSPE-DE e-newsletter, and logo on event signage.

I would be thrilled to discuss recognition and other opportunities to get involved with our event on March 30. Please contact me (K. James Taylor, P.E.) directly at [jtaylor@verdantas.com](mailto:jtaylor@verdantas.com) or at 302-489-2261.

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## Save the Date: DAPE Ethics Training

The [Delaware Association of Professional Engineers](#) will host an in-person ethics seminar on **Tuesday, April 18**, in Newark. For the latest DAPE licensure news, access the agency newsletter [here](#).

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## Army Corps Receives \$51.6 Million for Water Infrastructure Projects

US Senators Tom Carper and Chris Coons, and Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester (all D-Delaware) recently announced \$51,681,000 for critical water infrastructure projects in Delaware as a part of the US Army Corps of Engineers' work plan for Fiscal Year 2023. Authorization for this funding came from several different Water Resources Development Acts, according to a [news release](#).

The funding will benefit the following projects:

- \$1,100,000 for dredging activities in Cedar Creek, Delaware.
- \$281,000 for common operations and maintenance work in the Indian River Inlet, including a major maintenance report to assist with the more than \$43 million previously secured from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding.
- \$71,000 to assist the Army Corps of Engineers in the inspection of locally-owned levees.
- \$31,117,000 million for operations and maintenance work on the Intracoastal Waterway from the Delaware River to the Chesapeake Bay, including rehabilitation work on the Summit Bridge.
- \$7,500,000 to continue needed dredging and common operations and maintenance work in the Intracoastal Waterway from Rehoboth Bay to Delaware Bay. This is in addition to the more than \$4 million secured in Fiscal Year 22 appropriations and from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
- \$225,000 for Delaware Navigation Channels to perform surveys to determine project needs and when shoaling may impact safe navigation.
- \$10,537,000 for annual dredging and operations and maintenance work in the Wilmington Harbor.

- \$850,000 for operations, maintenance, and rehabilitation of the Indian River Sand Bypass Plant.
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## Delaware Joins Equity in Infrastructure Project

Secretary of Transportation Nicole Majeski joined Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy Carlos Monje to sign the Equity in Infrastructure Project (EIP) pledge on March 3.

The [Equity in Infrastructure Project](#) was created to improve public contracting practices by creating more opportunities for historically underutilized businesses (HUBs) to build generational wealth and reduce the racial wealth gap by creating more prime, joint venture and equity contracting opportunities for these firms, according to a [news release](#).

Pledge signers will work to increase the number, size, and percentage of HUBs growing to prime contractors, participating in joint ventures or as equity participants by December 2025. A total of 13 states have now signed the EIP pledge. HUBs includes firms designated as disadvantaged business enterprises (DBE), minority and women-owned business enterprises, and small business enterprises.

"I am proud Delaware is one of 13 states to have signed this pledge. This furthers DelDOT's commitment to equity in transportation by expanding opportunities for HUBs across our state," said Secretary of Transportation Nicole Majeski. "Over the course of this year we are implementing new training opportunities, streamlining our process, and creating specific contracts tailored towards advancing HUBs."

More information about Delaware's DBE program can be found [here](#).

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## University of Delaware Study Seeks to Dispel 'Range Anxiety' About EVs

One nagging concern US consumers have about electric vehicles (EVs) is the ability of these battery-operated cars and trucks to get you where you want to go without running out of power. Nobody wants to be stuck at a charging station for long in the middle of a trip, or worse, be stranded without a charging station nearby.

An extensive study led by University of Delaware researchers with collaborators at Dalhousie University and Georgia Tech may help dispel some of this "range anxiety" associated with EVs, [UDaily reports](#). The [research](#), published in the February 21 issue of the peer-reviewed journal *Energies*, analyzes data recorded from 333 gasoline-fueled cars over a one-to-three-year period and then models the ability of EVs with differing battery sizes, recharging power and charging locations

to handle those same driving trips.

"What we did was figure out how much people drive a year, distinguishing every single trip and stop, and then overlaid that with all the possible EVs you could buy," said the article's lead author, Willett Kempton, professor of marine science and policy and of electrical and computer engineering at UD. "If you know how far you need to drive, our data on range and charging speed will tell you what EVs will work for you." [Read more.](#)

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NSPE's **Job Board** is your one-stop resource for professional engineering employment. Whether you are on the hunt for your next career move or looking for today's top engineering leaders and talent, you will find it here.

NSPE provides the tools PEs need to keep current in the profession and advance their careers.

### **Featured Job**

[State of Delaware Department of Transportation](#)

Dover, DE

[Find more job openings or reach the right employees on the NSPE Job Board.](#)

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

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## **TVA Engineer Named 2023 FEYA Winner**

**Stephen Craven, Ph.D., P.E.**, was named [NSPE's 2023 Federal Engineer of the Year](#) for his innovative work securing Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) substations and developing improved communication architecture. Now in its 44th year, the Federal Engineer of the Year Award is the only one of its kind to solely recognize outstanding engineers employed in the federal government. Federal agency winners were



honored during a ceremony held at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, on February 24.

Stephen Craven is a third-generation TVA engineer, serving at the agency's Power Service Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Among his accomplishments, Craven has helped secure substations against cyber-attacks, designing ways to keep critical equipment disconnected from external attackers and yet still be remotely monitored for anomalies. He was also instrumental in the development of a new communication architecture that is faster, more reliable, and less expensive than previous schemes. [Read more](#) .

FEYA ceremony photos can be accessed on the NSPE [Flickr album](#) .

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## **WORKability Wednesdays Are Back!**

NSPE offers a live webinar series free to members—"WORKability Wednesdays"—to support members with their professional development goals. The series covers topics impacting the industry and helps to enhance your competencies in the profession. The spring season sessions kicked off on March 8 with [Understanding the New Requirements for Cybersecurity Insurance](#) . Register now at [NSPE's PE Institute](#) and invite a colleague to attend.

### **Upcoming webinars**

- **March 22**—[Using Construction Manager at Risk Project Delivery to Manage the Current Challenges in Constructing Projects](#)
- **April 12**—[Doing Bad Things for Good Reasons: An Examination of Unethical Pro-Organizational Behavior Among Professional Workers](#)
- **Save the date for webinars on April 26, May 17, and May 31**

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## **Take the Milton F. Lunch Ethics Challenge!**

Match your wits and knowledge of engineering ethics with experienced professional engineers and engineering students throughout the country! All current NSPE individual members and NSPE chapters (including student members) are invited to participate in the [2023 NSPE Milton F. Lunch Ethics Contest](#) . Contest submissions are due by **May 12**. [View past contest winner entries](#) .

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