

State News for NSPE Members

Delaware Engineering Society Announces the 2020 Engineer and Young Engineer of the Year Awards Winners

2020 Engineer of the Year

Ted C. Williams, PE, FACEC has been selected as the 2020 Engineer of the Year. Mr. Williams serves as the President of Landmark Engineering, Inc. Ted is heavily involved in many technical and professional organizations, representing the Delaware engineering community well. Some of the organizations where Mr. Williams currently is involved include ACEC Delaware where he serves as the New Castle County Committee Chairman and the Committee of 100 where he serves as the Transportation Committee Chairman and the 2nd Vice President of the Executive Committee. Mr. Williams has been a tireless advocate for engineering and business within the State of Delaware, and nationally through these organizations. He is well known throughout Delaware's State and Local Legislatures, Councils, and multiple departments and agencies for his support of improving Delaware's Infrastructure. He is also involved in the broader community of Delaware through other activities such as coaching and helping to create Delaware's STEM Academy.

2020 Young Engineer of the Year

Christopher R. Brendza, PE has been selected as the 2020 Young Engineer of the Year. Mr. Brendza serves as a Senior Associate at JMT, Inc. Mr. Brendza has 11 years of experience in a variety of water and wastewater services including planning, design, construction management, and construction inspection. His project experience includes wastewater treatment plant and pump station design and retrofits; gravity sewer systems; horizontal directional drilling oversight and field inspection; water storage tank inspection and design; water treatment plant and pump station design and retrofits; development of bid documents for water and wastewater projects; and the performance of plan reviews for municipal clients in the Mid-Atlantic Region. Mr. Brendza has also served as Lead Construction

Inspector on multiple wastewater projects and has experience with NPDES and WQM permitting.

Both the Engineer of the Year and the Young Engineer of the Year will be honored at the 2020 Engineer's Week Banquet to be held on Thursday, February 20, 2020 at the Executive Banquet and Conference Center located at 205 Executive Drive, Newark, Delaware. [Tickets and sponsorship opportunities](#) are available. Additional details about the Engineer's Week Banquet can be found on our [website](#).

Congratulations to our 2020 Engineer and Young Engineers of the Year!

2020 DES Engineers Week Banquet: Sponsored by Delaware Engineering Society

National Engineers Week will be celebrated from February 16th through February 22nd. The Delaware Engineering Society (DES) is sponsoring the Engineers' Week Celebration on Thursday, February 20, 2020 at the Executive Banquet and Conference Center. The 2020 Engineer of the Year, Young Engineer of the Year, scholarship recipients, and award-winning engineering design projects will be recognized at the annual event. Additionally, the newly inducted Delaware PEs will be honored.

Additional details about the Engineer's Week Banquet can be found on our [website](#).

New 15 Free Courses Now Available

Included with your NSPE membership are 15 FREE on-demand webinars that you can access from the comfort of your home or office. Take advantage of these courses (a \$2,235 value) to further your professional development and meet your continuing education requirements.



The new 2020 courses are now online, and include

- The engineering ethics series;
- Drones: The Sky's the Limit;
- How Engineers Create Added Value;
- How Not to Fail as a Leader;
- Managing Risk Through Arbitration and Dispute Resolution;
- And more!

[Access the full list of free courses.](#)

Rising to Advocacy Challenges in 2020

The past year was a busy one for advocacy at both the state and federal levels. NSPE members didn't disappoint in 2019 when the Society's Government Relations team reached out for support on a variety of issues—licensing exemptions, licensing access, computer tracking software, and even changes to the IRS tax code. Because of this activity, NSPE's profile, issues, and positions were elevated and taken seriously by elected officials. This puts the Society in a much stronger position for 2020.

NSPE launched 14 advocacy campaigns in 2019, and 698 members responded—logging a total of 1,529 actions and contacting 317 state and federal lawmakers. That's an increase of more than 500% over 2018 activity! In addition, NSPE kicked off the first-ever PE Day Lobby campaign to encourage members to meet with congressional staffers in district offices during the August recess. Seventy-one members participated in that effort, meeting with staffers from 78 offices in 28 states.

What issues are at the top of the 2020 legislative agenda?

Licensing exemptions remain a priority at both the federal and state levels. Access to professional licensing continues to get a lot of attention from lawmakers and special interest groups.

Resilience is another focus area. As sea levels rise, storms become stronger, and wildfires become more prevalent, PEs have opportunities and responsibilities to design and build systems and environments that can better withstand those forces.

As technology continues to advance and evolve, NSPE will engage in this issue as state and federal lawmakers work to determine the best policies for supporting emerging technologies while also protecting the public.

[Read the Policy Perspectives article on NSPE's 2020 advocacy agenda.](#)

NICET to Revise Underground Utilities Certification Program

The National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies, a division of NSPE, is revising its underground utilities construction certification program for engineering technicians. [A survey](#) conducted in partnership with the American Water Works Association shows a strong interest among engineers,

manufacturers, and contractors working in water, wastewater, and stormwater for the program, as there is an expected shortage of qualified technicians as well as issues of quality work and experience among contractors. Ninety percent of respondents felt that their organizations would benefit from use of certified technicians.

These technicians can help satisfy utilities working to address aging water infrastructure that work will be done in a quality, lasting manner, explains Jim Wathen, P.E., F.NSPE, NICET's director of business development and former design-construction department manager at the Louisville Metropolitan Sewer District. In addition, he says, certified technician inspection can help reduce maintenance costs when projects are done right the first time.

The certification program will be relaunched as a computer-based test, with three levels of certification initially available focused on inspection of water, stormwater, and sanitary systems. New tests are scheduled to be available starting in the third quarter of 2020.

NICET is soliciting subject-matter experts from the underground utilities industry to write and review test questions for certification exams. NICET also needs additional individuals with various backgrounds and experience levels to provide ratings for each of the test questions. PE help is requested, and work can be done remotely. Interested? Email tech@nicet.org.

Don't Miss These Upcoming Webinars



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

Register now for these upcoming webinars:

- [Licensing for Profitability, Agility and Growth for Small and Mid-Sized Engineering Firms](#). **February 5** at 2 pm Eastern.
- [Emotional Intelligence at Work](#). **March 25** at 2 pm Eastern.

- Spring Ethics Series:
 - [Engineering Ethics – Disclosure, Payment, Expert Testimony and Conflicts of Interest](#). **March 18** at 2 pm Eastern.
 - [Engineering Ethics – Conflicts of Interest, Licensure, Confidentiality and Public Criticism](#). **April 15** at 2 pm Eastern.
 - [Engineering Ethics – Objectivity and Truthfulness, Public Health and Safety, Signing and Sealing of Engineering Drawings and Misrepresentation](#). **May 13** at 2 pm Eastern.
 - [Bundle \(Parts 1, 2, & 3\)](#). Discounted price expires **March 17**.
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Don't Miss...

- [Submit for NSPE's Honor Awards](#). The deadline to submit nominations for the NSPE Award, the Distinguished Service Award, and the Young Engineer of the Year Award is **January 31**.
 - [Catch up on Communities](#). Liability insurance, examples of protecting the public, continuing education, and other topics of interest to PEs can be found on NSPE's online forum.
 - [Rigorous Professional Licensing Protects](#). NSPE President David Martini, P.E., F.NSPE, speaks up for public safety in a debate over licensure reform in Iowa.
 - [Despite the Odds](#). Flipping the usual perspective, a new report from DiscoverE looks at the factors that lead women to choose and persist in engineering.
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