

State News for NSPE Members

From the NSPE-DE President

By K. James Taylor, Jr., P.E.



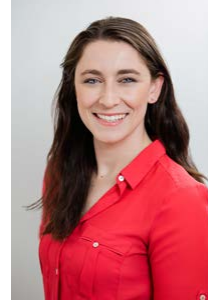
2020 has come and gone and here we sit in 2021. We hope that everyone had a great end to 2020 and is looking forward to a great new year. This month we are excited to announce the 2021 Delaware Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the Year. The awards are nominated by those in the engineering industry in the State of Delaware and are selected by the past presidents of the Delaware Engineering Society (now NSPE-DE). This year's award winners are Scott Rahfon, P.E. (Engineer of the Year) and Jennalee Fede, P.E. (Young Engineer of the Year).

Scott Rathfon, P.E. is a Professional Engineer licensed in multiple states throughout the mid-Atlantic region. He has over 40 years of comprehensive engineering experience in various areas of the civil engineering field as well as project and program management. Scott has been employed by Century Engineering in the Delaware office for over 33 years and has been involved in numerous projects throughout the State. Scott has guided the Delaware operations for over 20 years and has been involved with various design and construction projects throughout the State of Delaware, as well as surrounding states. He has been involved in some of the largest infrastructure projects in the State including the SR1, US 13 Relief Route project and the recently completed US 301 project. One of the highlights of his engineering career was having the



opportunity to work on the management team for the design and construction of the cable-stayed bridge over the C&D Canal. Many of the projects he has been involved with over the years have been recognized in the state for their excellence by his peers.

Jennalee Fede, P.E. has over nine years of experience assisting clients with a variety of environmental projects. Her experience with projects and knowledge of environmental regulations in Delaware, along with her passion for contributing to the health and environment of her own community, drive her to implement practical, economical, and ethical solutions on every project. She has performed Phase 1 and 2 Environmental Site Assessments, remedial (Brownfield) investigations, soil disposal characterization, and clean fill testing. She has navigated clients through regulatory compliance and permitting processes relating to NPDES, aboveground and underground storage tanks, and air emissions. She has performed human health and ecological risk assessments, statistical comparisons, stormwater infiltration tests, groundwater level readings, hydrologic slug testing, air emissions calculations, and sampling of various media. She has plenty of experience communicating with local, DNREC, and federal agencies, and developed conceptual site models and work plans, including, but not limited to contaminated materials management plans, health and safety plans, long-term stewardship plans, and remedial investigation work plans.



For more information on both the award winners, please visit our website: www.nspe-de.org. Normally, these award winners are recognized at the yearly Engineer's Week banquet held at the end of February. With the current COVID restrictions in place, we will be switch to a digital format to recognize these individuals (as well as scholarship winners, newly licensed Professional Engineers and the ACEC Engineering Excellence Awards) at a virtual event during Engineer's Week. We will look to schedule an in person event later in 2021. Stand tuned for more information on that event.

Sincerely,
K. James Taylor, Jr., P.E.
NSPE-DE President

DNEC Seeking Water Quality Improvement Grant Proposals

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control [is accepting grant proposals](#) for projects that will improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay by reducing nutrient and sediment loads. For fiscal year 2021, \$350,000 is available. The DNREC's Division of Watershed Stewardship will consider applications of up to \$200k. It is seeking project proposals from state

agencies, county and municipal governments, conservation districts, and other organizations. The Implementation Funding Grant is an annually determined set-aside within the EPA's Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant.

Dismissed: Lawsuit Alleging DuPont Downplayed Environmental Liability Costs

Delaware's Supreme Court recently upheld a judge's dismissal of a lawsuit alleging that the DuPont Co. largely downplayed the cost of environmental liabilities that would be faced by Chemours, a spinoff company. Chemours sued DuPont last year, saying that the company was dishonest about the cost of environmental liabilities Chemours would have to contend with when reimbursing DuPont for pollution related to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS. The so-called "forever chemicals" are found in materials like Teflon. Chemours, DuPont, and other chemical companies have been the subject of new lawsuits over water contamination related to PFAS chemicals, [Manufacturing.net](#) reports.

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

Society Announces New Executive

NSPE has announced Monika Schulz as the Society's new executive director and CEO, beginning February 15.

"As we embark on the new year, we are starting a new chapter in NSPE's history," says NSPE President Tricia Hatley, P.E., F.NSPE. "It is thrilling to be in this place where NSPE's volunteer leadership recognized the value that Monika's expertise and authentic leadership style will bring to our organization. Her collaborative, yet-data-driven, approach to management will facilitate the successful execution of our strategic plan, and she's demonstrated her ability to collaborate with state and local chapters to increase impact at her prior organizations."



Schulz has a long history in associations and a passion for the contributions they make to society. Before joining NSPE, she served for over five years as the CEO of the American String Teachers Association in Fairfax, Virginia. In this role, she collaborated with the organization's board on strategic planning, implementing data-driven decision making, and carrying out a rebranding initiative. She also built stronger ties among the organization's 50 state and local chapters, bolstered member engagement, and expanded a national conference and tradeshow as well

as a national orchestra festival.

“I’m very excited to be joining the NSPE team,” says Schulz, “and I look forward to collaborating with leadership, state societies, and the NSPE management team to further NSPE’s vision, mission, and initiatives. Engineers make the world a better place in which to live, and I feel incredibly fortunate and proud to champion the important work of professional engineers.”

Prior to serving as ASTA’s CEO, Schulz spent 18 years at the Association for Healthcare Philanthropy, in multiple leadership roles, including six years as chief operating officer.

The Virginia Tech graduate is active in the American Society of Association Executives and holds the CAE designation as a certified association executive.

EWeek 2021 Focuses on the Future

Engineers Week, with the theme “**Imagining Tomorrow**,” will take place **February 21–27**, and this year’s focus will be on virtual role models, distance learning, and diversity and belonging.

[Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day](#), or “Girl Day,” will also carry this theme forward and will be held on February 25. The focus will also be on virtual role models and diversity and belonging, but it will also feature special editions of DiscoverE’s “[Chats With Change Makers](#)” series in which a high school student interviews engineers and technicians who are working hard to make the world a better place.



This year’s [Future City Competition](#) theme is “Living on the Moon.” To adapt to the pandemic, teams will be allowed to work remotely and competitions will be virtual. Teams will make a video presentation of their cities, and their models will be presented in a slideshow format. There will be a live Q&A for the teams to answer questions about their models and presentations.

EWeek Event Dates

- Chats with Change Makers: new “season” began on September 25 and continues monthly.
- Future City Competition: September through April
- The Persist Series (formerly Global Marathon): begins January and continues monthly.

- Engineers Week: February 21–27, 2021
- Girl Day: February 25, 2021
- World Engineering Day: March 4, 2021

Access Your Member Benefit: 15 Free Webinars for 2021

To help members meet their continuing education requirements, NSPE has released a new slate of **15 free webinars** that will be available throughout 2021.

15 FREE

Members may earn credits by viewing the webinars from the comfort of their home or office and will receive an attendance certificate after passing a quiz with a score of 70% or higher. PDHs from these courses are recognized by most US states, including Florida.

Here's a sample of available webinar topics:

1. [Ethics Forum: Conflicts of Interest - Serving the Public](#) *
2. [How to Lead Without Authority](#)
3. [Leading Project Teams: Emerging Technologies and Smart Design](#) *
4. [Licensing for Profitability, Agility and Growth for Small and Mid-Sized Engineering Firms](#)
5. [Passing Down Institutional Knowledge Through Coaching, Mentoring and Storytelling](#)
6. [The Saint Joseph Water Crisis: Lessons Learned in the Age of Deteriorating Water Infrastructure](#) (New York approval pending)

*Webinar has been approved for continuing education credit in New York

[Check out the complete lineup of 2021 courses.](#)

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