

State News for NSPE Members

From the NSPE-DE President

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



November has become one of the busier months of the year. It started off with Election Day. Then we celebrated Veterans Day on November 11. To all veterans of all branches: Thank you for your sacrifice, your bravery, and the example you set for us all. We appreciate the sacrifice you have made to protect our country. And we know that we're all trying to get as much work done before the new year comes in a little over a month.

In addition, those other items, November is also considered to be a month of giving thanks. In the US we celebrate thanksgiving, where typically many get together with their family for a day of food, family, and football. The day usually ends with shopping and that carries into Black Friday as the hustle and bustle of the holiday season starts. This year might look a lot different, but we still have plenty of things to be thankful for.

Take a moment and think about all the things you have to be thankful for this year. Although we're still battling the COVID pandemic, I'm thankful for so much this year. I'm thankful for the advances in technology which has helped all those working from home. I'm thankful that I've been able to be home to watch my son grow up. At the beginning of COVID and starting to work from home, he was just 2 months old. Now 10 months, I've been able to watch him grow these last 8 months

more than I would have normally. I'm thankful to be a Professional Engineer. I'm thankful for a State who values engineers. And I'm thankful for NSPE who has helped me grow my leadership skills over this past year through the annual [PE Conference](#), as well as the [Emerging Leaders Program](#).

As we get closer to the end of the year, don't let 2020 get you down. And don't skip over the next month to try and predict what 2021 is going to hold. Be thankful in this moment.

Scholarships for High School Seniors

The 2020–2021 [scholarship program](#) for Delaware high school seniors who plan to enroll in a college engineering program next fall is now [accepting applications](#). The scholarships are offered in conjunction with two other organizations: The Society of Women Engineers-DelMar Section, and the University of Delaware.

The scholarships and requirements are listed in the application. If additional scholarships become available, you will be considered based on your application, SAT scores, transcript, and essay. The application must be completed and returned to the DES Scholarship Committee by December 31, 2020. Separate applications are not required for each of the above awards. However, your application must include the names of awards for which you are applying. NSPE-DE/DES cannot be responsible if sponsor(s) terminate funding of the scholarship at any time.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact [Brett Marshall](#) at 302-351-5246.

Engineer of the Year/Young Engineer of the Year Awards

The Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the Year are the most prestigious awards presented by the Delaware Engineering Society/NSPE-DE. Presentation of these awards take place at the Delaware Engineer's Week Celebration held in February. These awards recognize those who provide sustained and unusual welfare, the advancement of the engineering profession, and/or service to humankind. If you know or work with someone who you think is deserving of either the Engineer of the Year or Young Engineer of the Year, be sure to nominate them. Nomination Forms can be downloaded from the [NSPE-DE website](#) and are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, December 18, 2020. Completed forms or any questions related to the application process can be submitted to president@nspe-de.org.

Transportation Improvement Plan for Southern Delaware Approved

The recently approved [Henlopen Transportation Improvement District](#) for Sussex County will address traffic congestion in the quickly growing area of southern Delaware. It will be the first TID in the county and the fourth in the state.

DelDOT defines a TID as a geographic area where land use and transportation needs are planned in detail in advance to better serve people while fostering economic vitality. Planners consider how traffic will impact the area surrounding a project in the future, rather than only focusing on infrastructure needs.

“Many states are eyeing or have adopted alternative funding mechanisms, including TIDs, to supplement traditional transportation revenue streams,” [according to the University of Delaware](#). “As a transportation-based impact fee, TIDs provide a way to equitably distribute the cost of development-related growth and infrastructure improvements to the private sector that benefits from the facilities, rather than costs being absorbed by the general public.”

Large Solar Power Arrays Coming to Dover

The city of Dover has signed two agreements with Freepoint Solar to bring locally generated solar power to the area for 25 years through the construction of a pair of jumbo arrays. The two projects include a 114-megawatt Cedar Creek Solar Project in Townsend and the 50-megawatt Raceway Solar Project in Harrington. Currently, Delaware’s largest array is the 12-megawatt Milford Solar Farm. Delaware is under a mandate that requires 25% of its electricity to come from renewable sources by 2025, according to [Delaware Business Now](#). Even with the completion of the \$160 million venture, however, only a small portion of the state’s energy will come from solar power. According to the Solar Energy Industries Association, [3.6% of the state’s electricity](#) currently comes from solar.

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

PEs, Technicians, and Teamwork

Construction projects come with numerous roles and responsibilities that must be carried out with skill and efficiency to achieve success. For professional engineers, perhaps the most critical relationship is with the project’s engineering technicians.

In a recent [NSPE webinar](#) on PEs, technicians, and the engineering team, Shannon Looney, P.E., F.NSPE, called the contributions of skilled technicians

“invaluable.” As the senior project manager for the Glenn E. Mitchell and Company Inc. in Knoxville, Tennessee, Looney specializes in concrete construction. He relies heavily on the data collected by technicians—“the technicians with their hands on the ground that work directly with the labor force and is able to tell us the data we need...to make real-time decisions on important aspects of production.”

The webinar covers many aspects of the PE-technician dynamic and the factors that make a strong team. In addition to Looney, the webinar panel included Kent Dvorak, P.E., of Terracon’s Salt Lake City office; John Quidley, SET, president and senior quality consultant with Caliber Consulting Services LLC; and Kenny Johnson Jr., P.G., with expertise in the geotechnical and materials testing industry.

The webinar, “Put Me in, Coach! The Engineering Team from Concept to Completion,” can be [accessed online for free](#).

Georgia Adopts Structural PE Requirement

Beginning January 1, a professional engineer who designs, signs, and seals plans for “designated structures” in Georgia must be licensed as a structural engineer. Legislation signed into law in August, creates a professional structural engineer licensing process, which includes a requirement that a licensure applicant take the 16-hour PE Structural exam.

The process [establishes several paths](#) for current licensees to be grandfathered into obtaining an SE license, which is supplemental to the PE license. An individual licensed in Georgia will have to submit an affidavit form and pay fees to the [State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors](#) from November 1 to December 31, 2020 to participate in this grandfather process.

In June, NSPE and the Georgia Society of Professional Engineers expressed concerns that a SE license requirement would create an additional layer of bureaucracy, requiring an engineer who is qualified to practice in more than one area to obtain multiple licenses.

NSPE believes that fragmenting the professional engineering license into discipline-specific title or practice acts weakens rather than strengthens the integrity of the license. The Society advocates for an alternative structural engineering certification that could be obtained after earning a PE license to offer more flexibility and without drawing a hard line between structural and other engineering disciplines.

Officer Nominations Open

Nominations are now open for the positions of NSPE 2021–22 vice president and 2021–23 treasurer. The individual nominated for vice president will advance to president-elect in 2022–23 and president in 2023–24. The deadline for submitting nomination packages for either position is **January 11, 2021**.

Please share this information with those you believe should be considered for the next leaders in our Society. Additional details can be found in the [Leadership Toolbox](#). If you have any questions, email the NSPE Executive Office at executive@nspe.org.

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