

State News for NSPE Members

From the NSPE-DE President

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



It's incredible to think that we're nearing the end of 2020. It has been a very interesting and strange year as all of us dealt with COVID-19. At this time every year we start planning the upcoming Engineer's Week Banquet which takes place in February. Although the details are still in the works, we're excited to announce the opening of the application period for the annual scholarships as well as for the Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the Year Awards.

2020-2021 Scholarship Program

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 or bmarshall@pennoni.com.

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.

State Climate Action Plan Nears End of Public Input Stage

Delaware is one step closer to finishing a plan to guide the low-lying state through the impacts of climate change. Officials are almost finished gathering public input.

The state Climate Action Plan will provide a roadmap to meet the challenges of climate change, says Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control Sec. Shawn Garvin in a *Delaware Public Media* report. "This plan is to really look at the various facets of climate change—the mitigation side, which is how do you reduce the greenhouse gases that are contributing to the situation we're in? And how do we address adaptation, resiliency, recognizing we have these low-lying towns, and we have coastal areas, and we have impacts on agriculture?"

Delaware is already experiencing the effects of climate change, including higher temperatures and more than a foot of sea level rise since 1900. According to DNREC, sea level rise threatens \$1.5 billion in tax-assessed property value statewide.

[Read more.](#)

Oil Spill Cleanup of Delaware Coastline Intensifies

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and US Coast Guard spearheaded a cleanup operation for the oil spill that has deposited blobs of oil called tar balls and oiled debris over a stretch of Delaware coastline extending from the upper Delaware Bay to the tip of the Atlantic Ocean. The cleanup operation intensified last week with additional resources deployed by state and federal agencies and non-profit

organizations, according to Delaware.gov news release.

More than 125 environmental professionals from DNREC, the Delaware Department of Transportation, the Coast Guard and its environmental contractor, and the Delaware Bay and River Cooperative removed oil found littering beaches and rafting around debris offshore. The Delaware Bay and River Cooperative, a non-profit funded by industry in the event of an oil spill, dispatched an oil skimming vessel to remove oily debris seen afloat in the Bay. Tri-State Bird Rescue of Newark continued to play a key role in the cleanup coalition, investigating reports of wildlife impacted by oil and treating captured sea gulls and other wildlife that has been oiled in the water.

[Read more.](#)

DeIDOT Seeks Transportation Infrastructure Investment Fund Grant Applicants

The Delaware Department of Transportation is reminding interested businesses that [applications](#) for the next round of Transportation Infrastructure Investment Fund (TIIF) grants will be accepted until Monday, November 16, 2020. A total of \$12,501,000 is available for the second round of TIIF applications.

TIIF was [established in 2019](#) to provide economic assistance for renovation, construction, or any other type of improvements to roads and related transportation infrastructure in order to attract new businesses to this state, or expand existing businesses in the state, when such an economic development opportunity would create a significant number of direct, permanent, quality full-time jobs.

The council's first recommendations were made in June 2020, and seven projects totaling more than \$7 million in grants were approved by Secretary Jennifer Cohan and Secretary of State Jeff Bullock.

More information on TIIF can be found at <https://de.gov/TIIF>.



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

[Water Resources Engineer](#)

Wilmington, 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](#).

NSPE President Warns Against Broad-Brush Licensing Reform



NSPE President Tricia Hatley, P.E., F.NSPE, recently challenged an opinion piece that advocates making temporary licensing deregulation permanent, measures that were enacted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a letter to the editor of the *Oklahoman*, Hatley warns that efforts to weaken licensing, however well-intentioned, make no distinction for highly complex, technical professions. This is a critical distinction that broad-brush proposals like those referenced in the article fail to make—and puts thousands of lives at risk in Oklahoma and elsewhere.

She also states that professions like engineering, architecture, accounting, landscape architecture and surveying are responsible for the safety of our physical spaces and the integrity of our financial systems. Because of this, they are required to meet rigorous standards based on education, experience, and examination to demonstrate a minimum qualification level.

[Read more.](#)

An Adventure to the Moon with Future City

Future City is a project-based learning program where middle school students imagine, research, design, and build cities of the future. This year's Future City theme is "Living on the Moon." Teams will be challenged to design a lunar city and provide examples of how their city uses two moon resources to keep



citizens safe and healthy.

Due to COVID-19, Future City [transitioned this year's program into a virtual format](#) to offer impactful volunteer opportunities you can do from the comfort of your home or office.

Inspiring the Next Generation

Kay Bailey is a senior research and development engineer currently working on an innovative mechanical device that relieves back pain and pressure. She knows firsthand the added challenges in academia—and professional settings—when few people look like you. “When I was a middle school student, I didn’t see many examples of African Americans doing engineering,” she says.



This inspired Kay Bailey to volunteer as a Future City mentor in a predominantly African American school in Milwaukee. “I wanted to do whatever I could to show these students that it’s okay to be interested in engineering. Right away I could tell Future City would be a great way to get involved.”

Over the last two years, Bailey has loved working with these young scholars. Sometimes she helps them shape their creative ideas or explains STEM concepts, and other times they simply want to hear about what she is working on at her job. “I want these young people to be encouraged to pursue whatever they want.”

If, like Kay Bailey, you’re interested in inspiring the next generation, you can sign up to be a mentor by [clicking here](#) or email Info@FutureCity.org with any questions. This year, the program (including mentoring) will be virtual.

Upcoming Webinars: Roundabout Design Safety, the Engineering Team



NSPE’s [PE Institute](#) helps members stay current in the profession, earn PDHs, and advance in their careers through webinars on important topics. The webinars are held at 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST at a member price of \$99 (\$129 for nonmembers).

October 28

[Put Me in Coach! The Engineering Team from Concept to Completion](#)

Within the construction industry, engineering-based decisions are made by professional engineers closely engaged with technicians. Working as an efficient team, a project moves smoothly and is successfully completed. A panel of PEs and technicians will share engineering best practices and approaches to overcoming technical challenges.

This webinar is **FREE** for members and non-members.

Presenters: Kent D. Dvorak, P.E., Chip Hollis (moderator), William Kenneth Johnson, Jr., P.G., Shannon Looney P.E., and John W. Quidley S.E.T.

November 2

[Canon 1, NSPE Code of Ethics for Engineers: “Hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public”](#)

This webinar will introduce you to four of the current members of the [NSPE Board of Ethical Review](#) (BER). Discussion will focus on four ethics cases that illuminate multiple aspects of Canon 1, to “hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public.” These cases are personal favorites selected by each BER member from the more than [600 opinions](#) the BER has published since the late 1950s.

Presenters: Mark Dubbin, PE, FPE, Jeffrey H. Greenfield, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, F. NSPE, David Kish, Ph.D., P.E., William D. Lawson, P.E., Ph.D., F. NSPE

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