

State News for NSPE Members

2024 Delaware Engineers Week Celebration

NSPE-DE will hold the **Delaware Engineers Week Celebration** on **Thursday, February 22** (5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.) at the **Riverfront Events** (760 South Justison Street, Wilmington, DE, 19801). Event tickets and advertisement purchases can be made at nspede.eventbrite.com.

Event Schedule

Social Hour – 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Dinner – 6:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.

Award Ceremony – 7:15 p.m.

If you have questions about the event, tickets or sponsorship opportunities, please contact NSPE-DE President K. James Taylor, Jr., P.E., at president@nspe-de.org or 302-489-2261.

Last Call for Nominations - NSPE-DE Excellence Awards

The **Engineer of the Year** and **Young Engineer of the Year** are the most prestigious awards presented by NSPE-DE. These honors recognize individuals who provide sustained and unusual welfare, the advancement of the engineering profession, and/or service to humankind. New this year, we will be introducing a **Government Engineer of the Year** award. Individuals that are eligible for nomination must be currently engaged in the practice of engineering as an employee of the state, local or quasi-government agency in either a managerial or technical position.

If you know or work with someone who you think is deserving of either the Engineer of the Year, Government Engineer of the Year, or Young Engineer of the Year awards, don't hesitate to nominate them. **The nomination deadline has been extended to January 26.** Access nomination information [here](#).

Delaware to Solicit Water Quality Improvement Projects

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), in conjunction with the Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH), recently began soliciting for new water quality improvement projects. The projects must be listed on the 2024 Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) project priority lists to be considered for funding, according to a [news release](#).

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), passed by Congress and signed by President Biden in 2022, boosted funding for clean water and drinking water projects across the country, with those funds provided through the existing State Revolving Fund (SRF) process.

DNREC held a State Revolving Loan Fund virtual community workshop on January 17 to offer a detailed overview of the CWSRF and DWSRF programs. Notices of Intent for SRF wastewater, drinking water, stormwater, and related infrastructure projects must be received by DNREC Environmental Finance by close of business at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, February 16. [Read more](#).

Judge Limits Delaware's Climate Change Lawsuit

A judge has rejected several claims lodged by Delaware's attorney general in a lawsuit alleging that the fossil fuel industry has downplayed the risks of climate change, the [Insurance Journal reports](#). The ruling significantly narrows the scope of the suit seeking to hold the industry liable for the effects of air pollution in the state.

Democratic Attorney General Kathleen Jennings filed the lawsuit in 2020, joining forces with a California law firm that has sued the oil industry on behalf of other state and local governments.

While refusing to dismiss some claims, Superior Court Judge Mary Johnston ruled, for example, that the federal Clean Air Act preempts the state's claims seeking damages for injuries resulting from out-of-state or global greenhouse emissions and interstate pollution.

However, Johnston noted that the Clean Air Act doesn't preempt alleged claims and damages resulting from air pollution originating from sources within Delaware. "Air pollution prevention and control at the source is the primary responsibility of state and local governments," she wrote. [Read more](#).

UD Engineers Develop Nanomaterial-Based Sensors for Human Health Applications

From keeping us warm and dry during a downpour to showcasing our Blue Hen spirit at Homecoming, clothing is essential for our comfort, protection, and self-expression. But what if our clothing could do even more — what if, for example, our clothes could collect real-time data and provide feedback that could aid our recovery after an accident or surgery, or monitor our form or body posture during exercise and sports to prevent injury?

At the University of Delaware, a team of researchers from the College of Engineering has developed nanomaterial sensors that can measure precise changes in human movement while being both comfortable and cost effective. Now, thanks to funding from the National Science Foundation's Partnerships for Innovation program, the team will continue studying these innovative materials while collaborating with industry partners to explore new commercial opportunities in health-related applications.

This project is led by Erik Thostenson, professor of mechanical engineering, in collaboration with co-investigators Sagar Doshi, associate scientist in UD's Center for Composite Materials, and Jill Higginson, professor of mechanical engineering and biomedical engineering, the College of Engineering associate dean for Graduate and Post Graduate Education, and director of UD's Institute for Engineering Driven Health. [Read more.](#)

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

Help Guide the Future of NICET's SSI Program

The National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET), a division of the NSPE, is developing a certification program for the Systems Software Integrator (SSI) certification program. NICET invites you to [participate in the SSI Job Task Analysis survey](#) to provide vital feedback needed to develop the program.

The SSI certification program seeks to reduce risk, improve quality, and ensure public safety from new emerging technologies as software and information technology increasingly converges with the operation of physical processes and machinery affecting our lives.

We highly value the insight you can provide and would greatly appreciate you taking the time to complete the survey by February 5. After completing the survey, participants can enter into a drawing for a \$100 Amazon gift card.

[Take the Survey](#)

Nominations Open: 2024 Excellence Awards

Please consider nominating a colleague for an NSPE Excellence Award.

NSPE Award : The NSPE Award is the highest award given to an individual by the Society. It is presented to an engineer who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession, the public welfare, and humankind. The nomination deadline is March 1.

New Professional Award : This award recognizes a young NSPE member who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession and the community during the early years of one's career. The nomination deadline is March 1.

Engineering Education Excellence Award : This award recognizes engineering faculty who have demonstrated the ability to link engineering education with professional practice. The recipients must be licensed and have a faculty appointment in an ABET-accredited engineering program. The nomination deadline is March 31.

Call for NSPE Fellow Membership Nominees

Nominations for the **NSPE Fellow Membership Grade** are **due by March 1**. This prestigious national program aims to recognize dedicated professional engineers who have demonstrated outstanding and sustained service at the chapter, state, and national levels of NSPE. [Access more information about the nomination process](#) .

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