

State News for NSPE Members

NCEES Seeks Structural Engineering Expertise

NCEES is in the process of assembling panels of licensed structural engineers and licensed professional engineers to participate in a series of two-day meetings to determine the cut score, or establish the pass point, for the 2024 Principles and Practice of Structural Engineering exam. This process requires a cross-section of engineers from various employment positions and technical specialties. NCEES asks that you consider volunteering to assist with this important work. Access more information [here](#).

NASA PACE Spacecraft to Collect Florida Environmental Data

[Florida Today reports](#) that Florida's shallow-water coastlines may be environmentally analyzed in unprecedented detail via NASA's PACE spacecraft, which recently launched atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station.

Armed with a hyperspectral imaging radiometer and two polarimeters, PACE is NASA's most advanced ocean-color-detecting mission to date, said spokesperson Katherine Rohloff during a press conference.

Of note to Floridians: NASA touts PACE as "the first mission to provide measurements that enable prediction of the 'boom-bust' cycle of fisheries, the appearance of harmful algae, and other factors that affect commercial and recreational industries." Brian Barnes, a research associate in the Optical Oceanography Lab at the University of South Florida College of Marine Science, specializes in assessing and monitoring coastal systems using satellite-based sensors. He said PACE should help scientists track growth and decline of seagrass beds across the Sunshine State.

"It's very hard to go out in a boat and identify where exactly all of the seagrass is.

You can do it using high-resolution satellites, but that's a very laborious and time-consuming process. With PACE, it's going to be going over essentially every day, taking a look down," Barnes said. [Read more.](#)

University of Florida Receives \$1.5M Gift for Industrialized Construction Engineering

[The University of Florida reports](#) that, less than three weeks after President Ben Sasse announced \$2.5 million in strategic funding to advance the field of Industrialized Construction Engineering (ICE), Autodesk announced a \$1.5 million gift to the UF College of Design, Construction and Planning and UF Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering to establish the world's first-ever industrialized construction program.

On January 23, leaders from both colleges gasped just before lunchtime when Autodesk COO Steve Blum shocked the room with the surprise announcement. As an industry leader in changing how the world is designed and made, Autodesk pledged to provide all UF students and educators free access to their industry-leading software and technology. The goal is to strategically build a pipeline of skilled ICE laborers in the state of Florida.

Currently, Florida lacks the volume of skilled workers to implement industrialized construction. Thanks to Autodesk, students will have expert training and a deeper understanding of ICE. A game changer in tackling the housing crisis, both colleges will use this critical donation to learn how to reduce development costs by up to 50% while doubling the speed of traditional construction methods. [Read more.](#)

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

NCEES Seeks PE Expertise to Update Exams

NCEES is currently seeking licensed professional engineers to participate in a professional activities and knowledge study, or PAKS, to update specifications for the PE Architectural Engineering Exam and the PE Environmental Exam.

Architectural Engineering

NCEES requires a cross section of PEs practicing architectural engineering (including those working in industry, consulting, the public sector, and academia) to complete an online survey about the tasks and knowledge required of a licensed architectural engineer with four to six years of experience to practice in a manner that safeguards the public. Access the survey [here](#) and participate by April 24.

Environmental Engineering

NCEES requires a cross section of PEs practicing environmental engineering (including those working in industry, consulting, the public sector, and academia) to complete an online survey about the tasks and knowledge required of a licensed environmental engineer with four to six years of experience to practice in a manner that safeguards the public. Access the survey [here](#) and participate by May 5.

The 2024 Scholarship Season Opens

The NSPE Education Foundation is [now accepting applications](#) for the 2024 scholarship season through an online submission platform. The application deadline is April 1.

High School

The [Maureen L. and Howard N. Blitman, P.E., Scholarship to Promote Diversity in Engineering](#) is awarded annually to a high school senior from an ethnic minority who has been accepted into an ABET-accredited engineering program at a four-year college or university. The award is for \$5,000.

Undergraduate

The [Steinman Scholarship](#) is awarded annually to undergraduates entering or continuing their junior year in a four-year ABET-accredited engineering program. The award is for \$5,000.

The [William R. Kimel, P.E., Engineering Scholarship](#) is awarded to an undergraduate student who is a resident of either Kansas or Missouri, enrolled as a junior in an ABET-accredited engineering program in a college or university in either Kansas or Missouri. The award is for \$2,500.

Graduate

The [George B. Hightower, P.E. Fellowship](#) is awarded annually to a current engineering undergraduate or graduate student who is enrolled in, or graduated from, an ABET-accredited engineering program. The award is for \$3,000.

PE Institute – 15 Free Webinar Package

NSPE has moved 15 on-demand webinars out from behind the paywall for viewing by members from the comfort of home or the office. Members can [add the webinar package to their account now](#). Once added, the webinars can be viewed through January 15, 2025.

Since 2022, NSPE has offered all PE Institute webinars free of charge to members. Past webinars are also available for viewing in the [On-Demand Webinars](#) section of the PE Institute website.

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