

## *State News for NSPE Members*

### **After Five Years, Florida Ready to Replace Collapsed Bridge**

Five years after the catastrophic of a pedestrian bridge with a novel design meant to punctuate Florida International University's ascendancy as a public institution, state engineers are finally ready to give it another go, [governing.com reports](#).

This time, though, cutting-edge is out. So is FIU, which conceived of the ambitious bridge project a decade ago and oversaw design and construction of the failed structure.

The Florida Department of Transportation, which took direct control of the project from FIU after the collapse, has now unveiled plans for a \$20 million, 290-foot-long footbridge over eight lanes of heavy traffic on Southwest Eighth Street. Like the previous version, the new bridge will link FIU's main campus to the small, working-class city of Sweetwater and its flourishing University City, a dense cluster of apartment towers with cafes and shops for students, faculty and school staff.

Despite some superficial resemblance to the old bridge, the nearly finished design plans for the new version take a decidedly conservative approach to engineering and construction — an effort clearly intended to reduce to a minimum the risk of a repeat of the shocking calamity that occurred on March 15, 2018. [Read more.](#)

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### **FSU Announces Investments in Quantum Science and Engineering**

Florida State University [recently announced](#) that it will dedicate more than \$20 million to quantum science and engineering over the next three years. The funding will support hiring at least eight new faculty members, equipment and dedicated space in the university's Interdisciplinary Research and Commercialization Building, and seed money for a new program focused on this emerging field.

FSU President Richard McCullough announced the investments at the first day of the university's Quantum Science and Engineering Symposium. "It's clear from the research being presented here that FSU is uniquely positioned to be a leader in what is now being heralded as the second quantum revolution," McCullough said. "We have the drive and the desire to expand our existing efforts so that we can be on the forefront of research in this area of critical national and global importance."

The investments are part of the university's efforts to support the development of applications that exploit quantum mechanics to make engineering breakthroughs. The federal government has made expanding knowledge of quantum information science and developing new technologies a strategic priority. Agencies such as the National Science Foundation, Department of Defense, Department of Commerce, Department of Energy, and others are part of the \$2.6 billion National Quantum Initiative. [Read more.](#)

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

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## Don't Hesitate to Share Your PE Story

*By Britt Smith, P.E., F.NSPE, President 2022–2023*



Have you ever thought about how many people will ever need to hire an engineer? Probably not very many. But as engineers, we have a huge impact on their lives and in countless ways. For example, we all expect clean water to come out of the faucet, the lights to come on when we want, the bridge we cross on the way to work to be safe, the air we breathe to be clean, and the products we buy for our kids to be safe. When engineers do their best work, most people don't even notice. Yet, as a profession we strive to make everyone's life better.

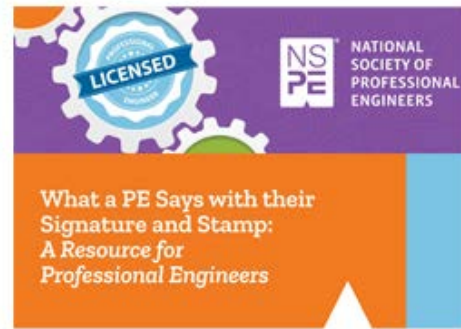
The work of our profession by design affects the lives of many people—likely tens of thousands on a daily basis. In my case, I work in the public works department in the community that I reside and that means the decisions I make don't just affect nameless strangers. The people in this community are my neighbors, my friends, and my family. [Read more.](#)

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## New Policy Documents: The Signature and Stamp, Key Issues for the PE

The Committee on Policy and Advocacy has

released the “[What a PE Says with their Signature and Stamp](#)” document. The document provides a general awareness of the PE signature and stamp process and includes best practices and lessons learned for those considering developing or improving their own process. The committee recently updated and released the documents, “[What is a PE?](#)” and “[Key Issues for the Professional Engineer.](#)” Updated position statements can be accessed [here](#).



## QBS Awards Program Accepting Nominations

NSPE is seeking nominations for the 2023 QBS Awards. The [QBS Awards program](#) promotes and recognizes the exemplary use of the qualifications-based selection process.

Award winners [serve as examples of how well the QBS process works](#), and they help NSPE promote the practice of QBS in jurisdictions that do not use, or underuse, QBS to procure engineering services. A maximum of one QBS Award may be presented to the federal government sector, the state government sector (includes all governmental units under the state level), and nongovernment sector.

The deadline for nominations is **Monday, May 1** (close of business). Access the awards information and nomination form [here](#).

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