Good Samaritan Bill Reaches Governor’s Desk

Florida PEs and other design professionals who voluntarily provide services during a declared emergency are close to gaining professional liability protection. A bill (S.B. 1060) that has passed the Senate and the House and awaits Governor DeSantis’s signature specifies that an engineer, architect, or structures specialist is not liable for personal injury, wrongful death, property damages, or economic loss resulting from acts or omissions related to certain engineering or architectural services rendered on a volunteer basis during a state of emergency. The limitation of liability, however, does not apply to an act or omission constituting gross negligence or willful misconduct.

Members Andrew Schrader, P.E., and Jonathan Milton, P.E., were quoted about their roles in urban search and rescue in an article in the Capitolist.

Fast-Tracked Highway Upgrades Program Cut

A bill that is expected to be signed by Governor DeSantis cancels the 2019 Multi-Use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance program in the face of stark economic conditions caused by the pandemic. The $20 billion endeavor would have involved making upgrades to existing roads and constructing toll roads, comprising 300 miles of roadway. Construction bonds would have financed the projects and been paid off by tolls collected.

Lawmakers say Florida traffic volume has fallen by 9% in the past year and that paying for the total project costs with tolls was not realistic, reports ENR. Instead, the new legislation will finance some of the planned upgrades and the expansion of Florida’s Turnpike westward. A feasibility study on the remaining work will be done in 2022.

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the NSPE Advocacy Center.
New Jersey Student Wins MATHCOUNTS Title

Marvin Mao, an eighth-grade student from Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, was named the 2021 Raytheon MATHCOUNTS National Competition champion during the virtual event held May 8-10. Mao will receive a $10,000 scholarship.

This year’s national competition engaged 224 students representing 56 US states and territories in four rounds: Sprint, Target, Team, and Countdown.

The runner-up for the individual competition was Bohan Yao, an eighth-grader from Redmond, Washington, who will receive a $5,000 scholarship. Ten finalists will receive $3,000 scholarships.

Mao is also a member of the first-place New Jersey team consisting of fellow eighth-grade students Evan Fan, Ying Lu, and Alexander Wang. The team will receive a trip to the US Space Camp. The California team finished in second place and the New York team placed third.

California Team Captures Math Video Award

A video combining algebraic equations with an exciting heist won the 2021 Math Video Challenge for a team representing the Elite Academic Academy in southern California.

Team members Bradley Carpiuc (eighth grade), Madelynn Carpiuc (sixth grade), Zoe Kim (eighth grade) and Cole Seelman (sixth grade) each won a $1,000 college scholarship for their "The Sanitizer Stealers" video during the challenge finals on May 9. The video is about a group of thieves who steal overpriced hand sanitizer from a store. The crime is caught on camera, and the owner uses math to piece together just how much the thieves got away with.

The Math Video Challenge is a national program sponsored by MATHCOUNTS and the Department of Defense (DoDSTEM). More than 200 students who advanced to the national level of the MATHCOUNTS competition voted to determine the winning video.
Access the 2021 finalist videos.

## Nominations Open for the QBS Awards

Every year, ACEC and NSPE partner to administer the QBS Awards, recognizing public and private entities that make exemplary use of the qualifications-based selection process at the federal, state, and local levels. Award winners serve as examples of how well the QBS process works, and they help promote the practice in jurisdictions that do not use or underuse QBS to procure engineering services.

ACEC and NSPE are now seeking nominations for the 2021 QBS Awards by the deadline **Monday, June 7**. The awards are administered in three categories: federal government sector; state government sector; and nongovernment sector.

Nominations may originate from an ACEC member organization, an NSPE state society, a public or private entity, or an individual in the public or private sector. Self-nomination is not permitted.

Learn more and download a nomination form.

## Boost Your Career with NSPE’s Spring Webinars

This season’s NSPE webinars will take place on Wednesdays starting at 2 p.m. EST. The webinars are available to members for $99 ($129 for nonmembers) and will include an online discussion and a 10-question quiz for the sessions to qualify for continuing education credit.

**May 26:** Catapult Your Win Rate by 50%

**June 2:** Engineering Challenges of the 21st Century: A Discussion with Leaders of Engineering Change Lab – USA

**June 9:** Tools to Ensure Effective Litigation Preparation and Testimony as an Engineering Professional
You received this e-mail because you are subscribed to *PE Matters* e-newsletter.

To update your e-mail address, visit www.nspe.org and login to manage your account.

If you do not wish to receive any more issues of *PE Matters*, click here to unsubscribe.

**Share with your network**

[ ] [ ] [ ]

National Society of Professional Engineers | 1420 King Street | Alexandria, VA 22314