

State News for NSPE Members

Pensacola PE Recognized as NSPE Emerging Leader

NSPE is pleased to announce that **Alex Steelman, P.E.**, of Pensacola, Florida, is a graduate of the Society's **2025 Emerging Leaders Program**. She is a part of a diverse group of 12 talented young professionals selected from around the country to take part in an intensive, unique enterprise designed to equip them as leaders in the engineering field.

Alex Steelman's introduction to engineering came early on, when she would routinely visit job sites with her mother, a structural engineer. That up close contact with the profession shaped her belief that the best engineers combine a dedication to public safety with technical acumen—and more than a few helpings of creativity.

Alex is a 2019 graduate of the University of Alabama (UA) with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and received a master's degree in civil engineering from UA in 2022. She became licensed in Florida in 2023 and holds additional licenses in Alabama and Tennessee. As a civil engineer at Pensacola, Florida-based Rebol-Battle & Associates, a firm that offers civil engineering and surveying services for both commercial and residential projects, Alex has applied her creativity to a variety of projects. She most enjoys working with churches and other entities that have tight budget constraints. [Read Alex Steelman's full profile.](#)

UWF Opens Revamped Engineering Building

The University of West Florida is launching a new civil engineering program after finishing major renovations at a building on campus.

UWF's Tyler Chase Norward Construction Management Program was already housed in what's known as "Building 80" before it underwent the makeover. After opening the revamped building this week, UWF will now offer the Hal Marcus College of Science and Engineering program, where students can earn a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering.

“The upgraded facility reflects the University’s commitment to academic innovation and preparing graduates to meet regional and national workforce needs in design, construction and sustainability,” said Mohamed Khabou, Dean of the Hal Marcus College of Science and Engineering and professor at the school based in Pensacola.

“Both the civil engineering and the construction management programs will produce highly-qualified graduates to fill high paying jobs in the local economy.”

The overhaul of the facility cost \$1.5 million and was paid for with contributions from major donors. The opening comes after the UWF Board of Trustees approved work to refurbish the building in March 2023. [Read more.](#)

Duke Energy Florida Completes Madison County Solar Site

Duke Energy Florida announced the completion of the Sundance Renewable Energy Center in Madison County. The solar site will generate 74.9 megawatts of clean energy that will be added to the electric grid, generating significant savings for the company’s 2 million customers over its service lifetime.

Our view: “Solar energy is an important component of Duke Energy Florida’s ‘all of the above’ generation strategy,” said Melissa Seixas, Duke Energy Florida state president. “With sites like the Sundance Renewable Energy Center, we are diversifying our fleet and ensuring we can continue providing reliable, affordable service for our customers for years to come.”

Background: Duke Energy Florida is establishing four new solar sites by the end of 2026. While the Madison County solar site is the first to be completed, the company has broken ground on sites in Sumter and Hernando counties and plans to begin construction on the fourth site in Jefferson County later this year. All together, these sites are expected to generate nearly 300 megawatts of clean energy, as well as approximately one billion dollars in fuel savings over their service lifetimes. [Read more.](#)

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

Texas PE Takes the Lead of NSPE



Julia M. Harrod, P.E., F.NSPE, was installed as NSPE's 2025-2026 president during a ceremony at NSPECon25 on August 7. With over two decades of leadership and engineering experience, she brings a unique interdisciplinary perspective to the role—combining backgrounds in architecture, civil engineering, and business strategy.

“It’s a tremendous honor to lead NSPE and help advance the mission of fostering licensed professional engineers in service to society,” Harrod said. “We have an opportunity to expand our reach in advancing ethical leadership, innovation, and inclusion in engineering – and that starts with engaging and supporting the next generation of PEs.”

Harrod leads MWM DesignGroup as its president and CEO. The Texas-based firm provides integrated services in architecture, landscape architecture, civil engineering, land surveying, and permitting. She holds a degree in architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a master’s degree in engineering from the University of Texas at Austin.

After earning her PE license in Texas, Harrod quickly emerged as a dedicated leader and passionate advocate for the profession. She began her service with NSPE and the Texas Society of Professional Engineers in 2001 as a volunteer with the Travis Chapter in Austin. Since then, she has held numerous leadership roles, championing ethical standards and professional excellence across the engineering community.

The 2025-2026 NSPE Board of Directors (BOD) were installed during NSPECon25. [Get acquainted with the members of the BOD](#) .

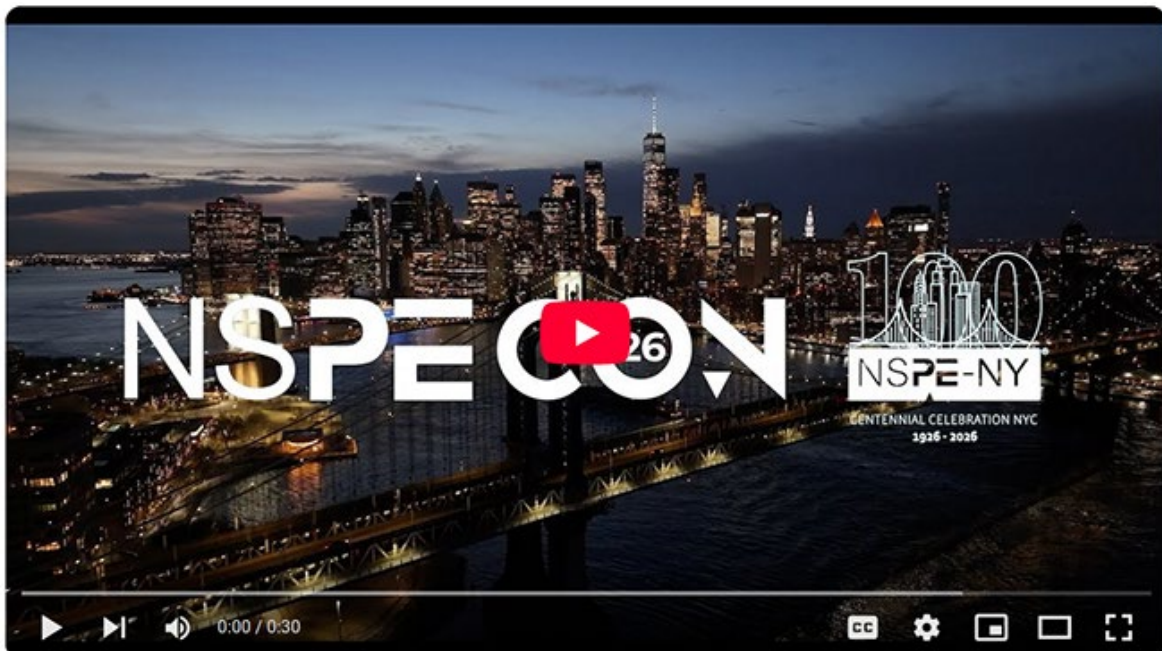


Save the Date: NSPECon26

We enjoyed seeing the NSPE community come together in Kansas City for NSPECon25 to celebrate PE Day, participate in sessions covering timely topics and engage in impactful conversations. Stay tuned for information on how to access photos from the event on the conference website.



Next year will be about bright lights and big opportunities, so add NSPECon26 to your calendar, because we're going to New York City, August 5-7. Help us celebrate NYSSPE's centennial anniversary in The Big Apple.



Thank You to Our NSPECon25 Sponsors

DIAMOND LEVEL SPONSOR



GOLD LEVEL SPONSOR



SILVER LEVEL SPONSORS



BRONZE LEVEL SPONSORS



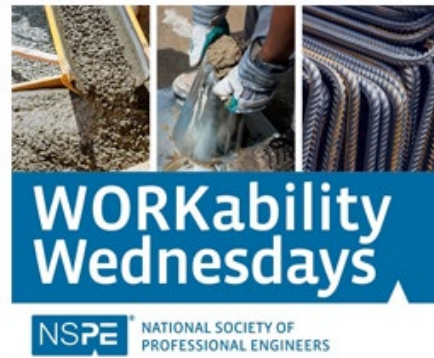
BRASS LEVEL SPONSORS



Registration Open: 2025 Fall WORKability Webinars

NSPE offers a live webinar series free to members —“WORKability Wednesdays”— to support members with their professional development goals through [NSPE's PE Institute](#) . The first webinar of the fall season will kick off on September 10 (2:00

p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET). Registration is open for the September webinars. Stay tuned for notifications to register for the additional webinars.



- September 10: [Decarbonizing Concrete: Overcoming Challenges, Unlocking Opportunities](#)
- September 24: [The Case for AI in Forensic Engineering: Enhancing Expert Testimony and Avoiding Obsolescence](#)
- October 8: **Marketing & Sales Best Practices for Engineering Firms**
- October 22: **Board of Ethical Review – Discussion of New Ethics Cases**
- November 5: **Winning More Business: Using Forensic Engineering Expertise as a Competitive Differentiator**
- November 12: **The Ethics of Sustainability in the Water, Food, and Energy Nexus**

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**