

## State News for NSPE Members

### How to Ensure Successful Stakeholder and Community Involvement

NSPE-FL member Nicholas Albergo, P.E., will be presenting the webinar “Ensuring Successful Stakeholder and Community Involvement” at NSPE’s 2020 [Virtual Professional Engineers Conference](#).



Nick is the founder of HSA Engineers & Scientists. At its peak, HSA had grown to more than 350 professionals. HSA has been the recipient of numerous awards, including appearing multiple times on *Inc.* magazines’ Fastest Growing Private Companies. He has since retired but remains available to serve as an expert in litigation cases as well as a technical consultant to industry and other consulting firms.

Nick has spent decades working with industry stakeholders and governmental officials on hundreds of contamination assessment and remediation projects. He is often called upon as an expert witness in litigation matters involving contaminant impact and cleanup.

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**FIU Prof to Study Effect of COVID-19 on Equity in STEM**

Trina Fletcher, an assistant professor in FIU's College of Engineering & Computing was recently awarded two National Science Foundation RAPID awards to study the impact of COVID-19 on broadening participation in engineering. One award focusing specifically on HBCUs and another, in partnership with the University of Georgia, to understand the impact of abrupt changes to instructional methods on minority students nationwide.

“Because of the significant role HBCUs play in broadening participation for blacks in STEM, it’s imperative that we understand how COVID-19 is impacting them,” said Fletcher. “Even before the pandemic, HBCUs faced unique challenges, most of them a direct result of extensive and varying levels of inequity compared to predominately white institutions.” [Read more.](#)

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## Florida “Free Speech” Case

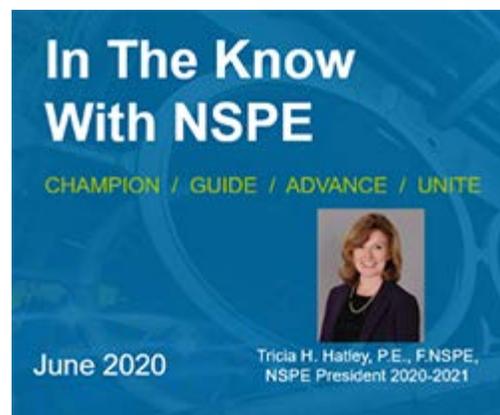
In a case now on appeal before the 11th Circuit, a nutrition counselor is arguing that state board action prohibiting her unlicensed practice constitutes a violation of her First Amendment right to give advice. In arguments heard on [June 11](#), the Florida Department of Health argued that the statute regulates professional conduct, and any implications on speech rights is merely incidental. They are strongly backed up by a 2018 U.S. Supreme Court decision (National Institute of Family and Health Advocates v. Becerra) in which the majority held that “states may regulate professional conduct even though that conduct incidentally involves speech.”

Although this case does not involve engineering, it is a line of attack by antilicensure groups that NSPE and its state societies can expect to face.

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## Are You “In the Know”?

Members who want to get a quick overview of the Society’s news should check out the June [“In the Know with NSPE” video](#) on YouTube. The 15-minute presentation by President-Elect Tricia Hatley, P.E., F.NSPE, covers topics like the reopening of licensing and certification exams, [PE magazine highlights](#), a breakdown of the Society’s [strategic plan](#), [advocacy efforts](#) on behalf of PEs, the upcoming [Virtual Professional Engineers Conference](#), the Society’s [statement](#) on social injustice, and the [Emerging Leaders Program](#).



## Register for the *Virtual* PECon 2020

Registration is now open for the 2020 Virtual Professional Engineers Conference (PECon) on **August 3–7** with events centered around the annual celebration of [PE Day](#) on August 5.

Virtual PECon sessions can be experienced in a live virtual environment or by accessing recordings at a more convenient time. The virtual conference will also provide networking and social connection with colleagues by region and areas of practice in addition to professional development opportunities.



### PECon at a Glance

- Keynote sessions featuring IBM’s Global Chief Technology Officer and the Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board
- Session: [Ensuring Successful Stakeholder and Community Involvement](#)
- Session: [Stormwater Pollution Prevention Planning: Compliance Guidelines for Your Facility](#)
- Session: [Professional Engineer’s Role in Artificial Intelligence and Technology](#)
- Session: [Ethics of Sustainable Design](#)
- Session: [Shrinking the Distance for Virtual Teams to Succeed](#)

### There are three registration options:

1. **Single Session** provides individual one PDH sessions for \$39 (\$99 for nonmembers);
2. **Day Track** provides access to three PDH sessions, networking morning “coffee talk” roundtables, and evening post session discussions for \$99 (\$279 for nonmembers); and
3. **All-Access Pass** provides 15 PDH sessions with networking morning “coffee talk” roundtables each day and event post session discussions for \$249 (\$1,149 for nonmembers).

Nonmembers can join NSPE for \$299 and receive member pricing.

### **Virtual PECon 2020 Free for Students**

NSPE is providing the opportunity for student members to participate in the upcoming **Virtual Professional Engineers Conference 2020** for free on August 3–7.

Student members who register for the conference can sign up for a track or an all-access pass and can also attend networking events, including morning coffee talks and evening round table discussions.

[Register now.](#)

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[Register now to customize your attendance package for live events August 3–7.](#)

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### **Call for 2020–21 Volunteers**

NSPE needs your knowledge, expertise, and time to assist our organization carry out its [vision, mission, and meet the goals of the strategic plan](#). Volunteer positions begin in August and end at the annual conference in 2021.

These opportunities are organized into three types with various levels of engagement.

**Engagement Level 1:** Standing committees and select committees require the highest engagement level. They often involve attending at least one in-person meeting in conjunction with the annual meeting. Most meetings are held via conference call.

**Engagement Level 2:** These volunteer positions are responsible for organization activities and involve assignment to a committee, task force, or other group. Activities primarily include e-mail and conference calls.

**Engagement Level 3:** Ad hoc volunteers take part in activities on a project-by-project basis.

[Submit forms by July 15 to be considered for a 2020–21 term.](#)

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### **Aiming for Leadership? This Program's for You**

If you're starting your engineering career and looking toward a future of leadership, NSPE is excited to offer an opportunity to participate in the Emerging Leaders Program.

The NSPE Emerging Leaders Program is an intensive seven month, professionally facilitated, focused, practical, virtual program for emerging leaders. Between August 5 (Professional Engineers Day) and February 27 (National Engineers Week) participants will receive specific, relevant training and application on how to be successful at higher levels of leadership responsibility.

The target audience for the Emerging Leaders Program is for promising early-career professionals with 5-8 years of experience who are just beginning to lead and think strategically in the profession and their careers. The reality-based curriculum focuses on the core skills necessary to think strategically, build effective teams, deliver great service for their most valued clients, and lead successfully.

[Learn more and apply by July 1, 2020.](#)

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## **Advocacy Opportunity: Speak Out for Future PEs**

You have an opportunity today to advocate for the future of the engineering profession!

H.R. 5339 ( [Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act](#) ) amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow students with 529 Education Accounts to use those funds for expenses related to obtaining a post-education credential—including the PE license. Funds could be used for expenses associated with both exam prep and the exam itself.

The bill needs additional cosponsors in order to move forward. As NSPE's Government Relations team continues talking with House offices, your support of H.R. 5339 is crucial. The more support we have from NSPE members, the stronger position we're in to ask House Representatives to sign on.

You have the opportunity to take multiple actions if you'd like, [starting with writing a letter](#) , then following up with either a Tweet or a phone call. Or all three, if you're feeling especially ambitious!

Feel free to contact Stephanie Hamilton if you have any questions, or if you'd just like to talk about advocacy! Hamilton can be reached at 703-684-2844 or [shamilton@nspe.org](mailto:shamilton@nspe.org) .

[Take action on H.R. 5339.](#)

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