

State News for NSPE Members

Florida a Growing Hub for Precision Robotics

Surgical robotics is becoming a big deal in South Florida, according to the [South Florida Business Journal](#). Mechanical and electrical engineers work to create precision robots at companies like Neosis, which specializes in dental robotics. The machines can perfectly mimic movements of the human arm and hand and complete small, repetitive tasks accurately.

The surgical robotics industry is in its infancy, but is poised to explode thanks to the evolution of artificial intelligence and other technologies. Firms and investors in Florida are recognizing its potential. The Mako Education Center, opened in 2018, is a 40,000-square-foot facility in Fort Lauderdale created to train doctors in robotic-assisted joint replacements. The Center has helped to draw other robotics companies to the area by validating South Florida's position as a hub for the industry. [Read more.](#)

Lawsuit Says Lack of Water Quality Enforcement is Killing Manatees

Three environmental groups have filed a federal lawsuit alleging that water quality standards set in 2009 aren't being enforced or followed in Florida, the [Tampa Bay Times](#) reports. The groups want to force the Environmental Protection Agency to work with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service to address poor water quality in the Indian River Lagoon, where more than 1,500 manatee deaths have occurred since 2021.

The lawsuit contends sea turtles are also being harmed by water pollution from wastewater-treatment discharges, leaking septic systems, fertilizer runoff, and other sources that have killed thousands of acres of seagrass, which are a major food source for manatees.

Under the Clean Water Act, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in

2009 set total maximum daily loads for nitrogen and phosphorus. Those levels were deemed safe for wildlife in the lagoon, the *Times* reports. The EPA approved these state levels in 2013.

“New information demonstrates that the (total maximum daily loads) fail to account for contributions from historic pollution sources, underestimate contributions from septic systems, and do not account for the impacts of climate change,” said the lawsuit, filed by attorneys from the Earthjustice environmental law organization.

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

Register Now for NSPECon 2022 Reimagined



Engineers from all disciplines are invited to register for the [2022 NSPE Professional Engineers Conference](#) (NSPECon 2022) in Philadelphia, August 1-3. Invited speakers will address sustainability, emerging technology, the post-covid workplace and even, construction on the moon. Whether you are a licensed professional engineer, aspire to be one or, would like to learn more about a career as a qualified and ethically accountable professional, you are invited to join this multi-discipline community to engage with colleagues and hear more about relevant engineering topics.

Prospective conference sponsors and exhibitors will see [newly created opportunities](#) to highlight their companies and organizations throughout the conference. Sponsors can welcome attendees to the “Feel the Philly Love” opening reception, support a conference education track featuring seven unique sessions, or demonstrate how their solutions help clients overcome specific challenges by exhibiting.

On the final day of the conference, attendees can celebrate [PE Day](#) in person and raise awareness about the importance of PEs as qualified and ethical professionals. Before you go, make certain you are geared up with [PE Day logo](#)

[wear](#) to show your pride on-site.

2022 QBS Award Nominations Open

ACEC and NSPE are seeking nominations for the [QBS Awards program](#) , which recognizes 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 ACEC and 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.

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.

Nominations and supporting materials are due by **Friday, June 17** (COB). [Access the nomination form and instructions](#) .

Scholarships Open for Applications

The Swadesh and Om P. Popli, P.E., P.L.S. Scholarship and the William R. Kimel, P.E., Engineering Scholarship are accepting applications from students pursuing engineering degrees in the fall. The application deadline is **June 15**.

The [Swadesh and Om P. Popli, P.E., P.L.S. Scholarship](#) is a multi-year scholarship that will provide \$5,000 each year of the recipient's four-year education. Applicants must be a female high school senior from an underrepresented ethnic minority (African American, Hispanic, Native American, or Pacific Islander) pursuing a degree in civil, electrical, or mechanical engineering at an ABET-accredited program.

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

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