

State News for NSPE Members

Continuing Education Requirement Waived for Upcoming Renewal Cycle

In recognition of the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 global pandemic, the District of Columbia Board of Professional Engineering is waiving continuing education requirements for licensed engineers for the renewal cycle ending on August 31, 2020.

Professional engineers are still required to renew their licenses at the renewal time and will be emailed instructions on how to proceed with the process.

NTSB Chairman to Keynote at Virtual PECon 2020.

Robert L. Sumwalt, III, the National Transportation Safety Board Chairman, will be the keynote speaker in the session titled [The Importance and Responsibilities of the Professional Engineering](#) on **Wednesday, August 5** during the 2020 Virtual Professional Engineers Conference.

Professional engineers play a vital role in ensuring safety of our nation's infrastructure—a role that must not be abdicated. In this session, Sumwalt will discuss the Florida International University pedestrian bridge collapse that claimed six lives in March 2018 and the NTSB's recommendations on eliminating the PE licensure exemption for public utility work which stemmed from the tragic pipeline explosions and fires in the Merrimack Valley of Massachusetts in September 2019.



Sumwalt was sworn in as the 14th chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board on August 10, 2017, and reappointed as chairman August 2019. Sumwalt began his tenure at the NTSB in August 2006 when appointed to the board and designated as vice chairman of the board. He is a fierce advocate for improving safety in all modes of transportation.

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.

Higher Education Roundup

Howard University Professor Conducts COVID-19 Wastewater Study

Jeseth Delgado Vela, a Howard University civil and environmental engineering assistant professor, is part of a research group focused on monitoring SARS-CoV-2 viral particles in wastewater. The research aims to track genetic material in the wastewater to understand trends of infections and potentially identify areas where more testing would be useful.

Genetic material from the virus, which is responsible for causing COVID-19, is transmitted to the wastewater from infected individuals. Several preliminary studies have shown that SARS-CoV-2 viral genetic material can be detected in wastewater. Some researchers have even shown that the genetic material can be measured in the wastewater before cases are reported.

Delgado Vela is currently collecting raw wastewater and primary solids (from the initial settling process) from wastewater treatment plants in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. Through their collaboration on the national scale, the team hopes to develop sensitive and standardized methods that will aid in the understanding of how the genetic material from the virus varies in communities with different sewage systems and different infection rates.

[Read more.](#)

GW University Researchers Seek a Green Solution for the Coal Industry

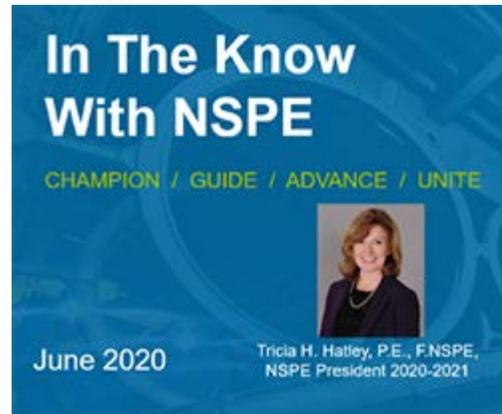
A research group at the George Washington University's Engineering Management and Systems Engineering department is developing a green technology for the US coal industry. Thomas Mazzuchi, Ph.D., and Richard Millar, Ph.D., aim to provide a route for low-cost and low-waste production of engineered coal, which can be used to rebuild lost and depleted topsoil in agriculture and urban settings and to treat municipal wastewater.

The GW Technology Commercialization Office is currently prosecuting a patent application covering this technology and is considering various commercialization paths. Engart, Inc, an international manufacturing firm, plans to open a new plant in West Virginia in 2020 to produce engineered coal using the new technology developed by Millar and Mazzuchi. The plant may create 700 new jobs or more.

[Read more.](#)

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.](#)

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

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.](#)

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.](#)

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 .

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

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