

State News for NSPE Members

Licensing Board Meeting

The [District of Columbia Board of Professional Engineers](#) will hold its next public meeting (virtual) on Thursday, November 17, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Access the meeting agenda and join online [here](#).

The District Leads the Nation for Women in Construction

The District of Columbia has a higher share of women working in construction than any state, [The Washington Post reports](#). In DC, women comprise 17.6% of those employed in the industry. The percentage of women in construction nationwide has steadily increased since 2016.

Hispanic women make up the majority of the workers, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The *Post* cites an aging construction workforce leaving job vacancies as one reason for the increased number of women in the field, which includes management and office jobs. Also, labor groups have worked in recent years to increase the number of skilled tradeswomen and to improve support for women on jobsites. [Read more](#).

First Mass Timber Building Opens Near Navy Yard

The first mass timber commercial office building in the District of Columbia has opened at 80 M Street SE. Three new floors were added to the top of the original structure using 1,300 tons of mass timber – a renewable, load bearing, fire-resistant material.

The building was retrofitted by engineering firm Arup with aid from developer Columbia Property Trust and architect Hickok Cole. As a renewable material, timber carries a significantly lower carbon footprint than conventional building materials like concrete and steel. In addition, mass timber's lighter weight minimized structural strengthening interventions in the existing building below,

which saved capital and enabled the building to remain fully operational during construction, [Arup reports](#).

Mass timber is a renewable material created from wood panels glued together in layers. Another sustainable aspect of the structure is the photovoltaic array on the building's roof. [Read more](#).

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

NSPE Stays Focused on Sustainability and Resilience

The United Nations Climate Change Conference ([COP27](#)) kicked off in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt last week. As the conference takes place, NSPE will [provide conference highlights](#) of interest to professional engineers.



NSPE believes licensed PEs should be good stewards of the environment to preserve and protect our world for future generations. The Society recognizes that attention to sustainable and resilient design practices is critical to the health of the planet and is an integral part of the practice of engineering. PEs are uniquely positioned to be a positive and driving influence in creating, maintaining, and renewing sustainable communities.

In early 2022, the NSPE Board of Directors endorsed “The Role of the Engineering Community in Addressing Climate Change.” The statement was prepared with input from a working group of 16 organizations, including NSPE, and facilitated by ECL-USA. It is intended to unite, energize, and motivate people within and across organizations, and to fulfill their desires for meaning and purpose in their professional lives.

The Role of the Engineering Community in Addressing Climate Change:

Climate change is real – the impacts are serious, and they are accelerating. There is an urgent imperative for the Engineering Community to take informed and intentional actions now to both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of a changing climate. It is our duty and purpose to contribute our skills and knowledge of human-centered technologies and of the natural world to lead humanity out of the climate crisis with a focus on sustainable, resilient, equitable, and innovative approaches. [Learn more](#).

Honor Awards Open for Nominations

The [NSPE Honor Awards](#) promote the professional engineer’s contributions to

society and recognize the achievements of the profession's very best. The deadline for award submissions is **January 31, 2023**.

NSPE Award

The NSPE Award is the highest award given to an individual by the Society. It is presented to an engineer who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession, the public welfare, and humankind. **Howard (Skip) Harclerode II, P.E., F.NSPE, F.AIChE**, received the award in 2022. He is the founder and president of KBD Engineering Company Inc., based in Phoenix, Maryland, and has been a tireless advocate for the engineering profession.



New Professional of the Year Award

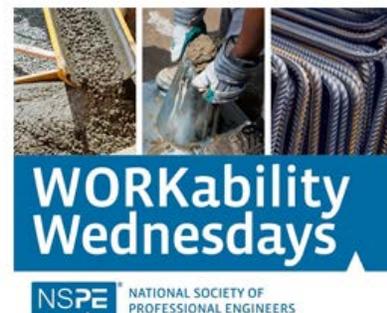
This award recognizes a young NSPE member who has made outstanding contributions to the Engineering Profession and the community during the early years of one's career. **Holly Ahumada, P.E., CFM**, and **Dylan Ward, P.E., MPA**, received the award in 2022. Holly Ahumada specializes in stormwater and floodplain management at Freese and Nichols in Fort Worth, Texas. Dylan Ward is a project manager for the City of Henderson in Kentucky.



Upcoming Webinar: Election Recap

Join your colleagues for the next Workability Wednesdays webinar: [Election Recap: How Can PEs Prepare for the 2023 Legislative Session](#) (November 30).

Register now for these FREE webinars for NSPE members and earn PDHs before the end of the year. If you missed any recent webinars? No problem.... [check out the recordings](#) .



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