Governor Names Tennessee Nuclear Energy Advisory Council Appointees

Governor Bill Lee announced appointments to the Tennessee Nuclear Energy Advisory Council, recently created by Executive Order 101 to position Tennessee as a national leader for nuclear energy innovation and advancement.

The appointees bring a broad range of industry experience that will build upon the state’s legacy in nuclear innovation and drive continued investment to create a nuclear energy ecosystem for the future of Tennessee, including business development, government relations and stewardship of natural resources. Access the full list of appointees here.

“Tennessee can lead America’s energy independence and deliver continued economic growth with safe, reliable and clean nuclear energy for the future,” said Governor Lee. “I am confident that these appointees will use their unique industry expertise to ensure that Tennessee is the top state for nuclear energy companies to invest and succeed, creating quality jobs and greater opportunity for Tennesseans.”

In addition to signing Executive Order 101 this year, Lee also partnered with the Tennessee General Assembly to create a $50 million Nuclear Fund in the state’s Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget. The fund, proposed by the governor at his 2023 State of the State address in February, will establish a nuclear development and manufacturing ecosystem built for the future of Tennessee by providing grants and assistance to support nuclear power-related businesses that choose to relocate or grow in the state. Read more.

TN Commission Looks to Passenger Train Infrastructure to Improve State's Economy

A Tennessee commission tasked with studying and recommending changes to
improve the state's transportation infrastructure suggested building more rail lines in specific areas of the state, wbir.com reports.

The Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations investigated the potential for passenger rail service and other alternatives for linking the state's major cities. In the report, they identified five potential routes that should be investigated further. They also sorted those routes into three ties, based on their importance.

The routes are the following:

- Tier 1 (one route)—Nashville to Chattanooga to Atlanta, Georgia
- Tier 2 (two routes)—Memphis to Nashville; and Chattanooga to Knoxville to Bristol
- Tier 3 (two routes)—Memphis to Carbondale, Illinois, to Chicago; and Nashville to Louisville, Kentucky

According to the report, the Tennessee Department of Transportation estimated travel times between major Tennessee cities will increase by up to one hour without improvements to the state's infrastructure, as the state grows. They said as a result, driving from Nashville to Knoxville would turn into a four-hour trip. Read more.

MTS University Celebrates Construction of New Engineering Building

Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, recently celebrated the start of construction on a 90,000-square-foot, three-story Applied Engineering Building, REJournals reports.

The new building will serve as a home for the Engineering Technology and Mechatronics Engineering programs as well as provide space for future engineering programs to meet the growing demand for graduates in this expanding industry.

The AEB will be centered around collaborative, hands-on learning and will include flexible learning and laboratory spaces, spacious gathering areas, lobby areas to feature technology displays and student projects and lecture space to host faculty instruction, guest speakers, special events, and student-led organizations.

In addition, the new building will provide research laboratory spaces and technologies to both faculty and students. These new spaces will create research collaborations that support the exploration of emerging technologies, experiential and integrative learning applied to real-world problems and applied engineering solutions while fostering opportunities for research partnerships with businesses,
industry organizations, government agencies and other educational institutions.

With design led by Wold Architects and Engineers, a local architectural and engineering firm with extensive education design expertise, alongside Cooper Carry, this new hands-on learning environment will prepare students for a broad range of professional careers in engineering and technology disciplines. Read more.

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the NSPE Advocacy Center.

Meet the 2023 NSPE Emerging Leaders

NSPE is pleased to recognize 15 talented professionals who recently completed the Society’s Emerging Leaders Program. This diverse group of young professionals was selected from around the country to take part in an intensive, unique enterprise designed to equip them as leaders in the engineering field.

- Nicholas J. Bailey, P.E. (Cincinnati, Ohio)
- Frank Block III, Ph.D., P.E. (Silver Spring, Maryland)
- Timothy Choma, P.E. (Iselin, New Jersey)
- Courtney Cunningham, P.E. (Houston, Texas)
- Steven T. Fox, P.E. (Nashville, Tennessee)
- Blane Gee, P.E. (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma)
- Holly Hartley Guillaume, P.E. (Katy, Texas)
- Lingbee Chyna Lim, P.E. (Charleston, South Carolina)
- Brianne R. Jole, P.E. (Lubbock, Texas)
- Corey Kingsland, P.E. (Kansas City, Missouri)
- Carter Lytal, P.E. (Lubbock, Texas)
Rebecca Martinez, P.E. (Cherry Hill, New Jersey)

- Alissa Neuhausen, P.E. (Rockville, Maryland)
- Victor Odili, P.E. (Conroe, Texas)
- Skylar Wierzbicki, P.E. (Grapevine, Texas)

The program is accepting applications for the next class of rising leaders until August 31.

The upcoming Professional Engineers Day (Wednesday, August 2) is an incredible opportunity to showcase the value of NSPE and your PE license. We encourage you to post on your social media accounts a highlight from your community, your work, your impact, your story and include the #IAMNSPE, #WeareNSPE, #ProudPE.

NSPE’s apparel shop features the PE Day logo on a variety of items including many styles of t-shirts and other apparel for men, women, and kids, as well as accessories like mugs, notebooks, tote bags, wall prints, and even phone cases. Shop now.

Check Out the Latest Issue of PE

The Chatter About AI
OpenAI’s ChatGPT came on the scene in November 2022. This type of generative AI has made a noticeable impact in a brief period of time and other versions of chatbots have been released. This emerging technology is sparking discussions about what impact AI could have on the engineering workforce and in engineering practice.

Reaching Tomorrow’s Innovators
DiscoverE has released its latest research on the views
of high school students and parents on engineering and engineering careers. The Messages Matter results were encouraging as they reveal that targeted messages and profiles of engineers can spur interest in engineering among the very groups that will ensure a more diverse future for the field.

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