

State News for NSPE Members

Tennessee Offers Tax Relief for Communities Impacted by Hurricane Helene

Governor Bill Lee and the Tennessee Department of Revenue announced four tax relief measures for Tennessee businesses and individuals affected by Hurricane Helene.

Consistent with the IRS's decision to extend federal due dates for those businesses located in a designated disaster area resulting from Hurricane Helene, the Department of Revenue has extended the franchise and excise tax filing and payment due dates to May 1, 2025, for all taxpayers located in Carter, Cocke, Greene, Hamblen, Hawkins, Johnson, Unicoi, and Washington counties. Additionally, the department will extend the franchise tax Schedule G refund filing deadline for businesses located in these counties to May 1. These extensions will be applied automatically.

Tennessee residents whose primary residence was damaged or destroyed due to Helene can also apply for a sales tax refund of up to \$2,500 on major appliances, residential furniture, or residential building supplies. A person can file only one claim per residence. Read more information on the [Department of Revenue's website](#).

The department will also approve, on a case-by-case basis, tax extension requests from affected taxpayers for other taxes. Affected businesses should email requests to Revenue.DisasterExtension@tn.gov and include the business name, entity ID or Tennessee account number, business location, and a brief description of the impact.

MTSU Awarded \$1.2M for Research on Improving STEM Teaching

A trio of Middle Tennessee State University professors has been awarded a \$1.2

million grant from the National Science Foundation to advance research in improving the teaching of the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering, and math, [according to Rutherford Source](#). Principal investigators Sarah Bleiler-Baxter, mathematical sciences professor, Gregory Rushton, Tennessee STEM Education Center director and chemistry professor, and Grant Gardner, biology professor, are heading a research project titled “Advancing the Culture of Teaching in STEM through Diffusion of Strength-Based Reflexivity.”

“This was a 10-year initiative of practicing, piloting, making modifications ... and finally got to the point where it’s a big project at the federal level,” Bleiler-Baxter said. “Sometimes as academics we become impatient, or we think that our work is not good enough because it’s not immediately being funded, or it’s not immediately being recognized. “But this goes to show that you can start really small — from a single department or a single committee — and then build all the way up to one of these big projects.”

Bleiler-Baxter and her colleagues aim to develop a program for peer evaluation that will lead to growth in the teaching culture of STEM departments within the College of Basic and Applied Sciences. [Read more](#).

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

Call for Nominations: NSPE Vice President and Treasurer

NSPE is seeking nominees for two key positions on the Board of Directors - Vice President and Treasurer. The Vice President serves four consecutive years as 2025-26 Vice President, 2026-27 President-Elect, 2027-28 President, and 2028-29 Immediate Past President. The Treasurer serves a two-year term, 2025-2027, with eligibility to run for a consecutive two-year term.

To learn more about qualifications, time and financial commitments, and the nominations process, [view the call for nominations packet in the leadership toolbox](#) . Nominations are due to the NSPE Secretary at executive@nspe.org by January 6, 2025.

Level Up on WORKability Wednesdays

NSPE offers a live webinar series free to members—“WORKability Wednesdays”— to support their professional development goals. Register now at [NSPE’s PE Institute](#) for these upcoming webinars:



October 23— [Understanding Disadvantaged Business Enterprise \(DBE\) Certification - And Why Your Company May Now Be Eligible](#) featuring Danielle Dietrich, Esq.

November 6— [Domestic & Global Construction Market Opportunities and Strategies To 2032](#) featuring Dr. Brandon L. Toliver, P.E.

**Members are advised to consult their state licensing board to determine requirements for PDH or CPD credits.*

Did you miss any recent webinars of the fall season? [Access the recordings](#) .

Engineers Week 2025 Kickoff Webinar

It's time to start planning Engineers Week and Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day! On October 23 (12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. ET), we'll share this year's theme, brand new resources, and outreach grants. Attend this free and informative webinar and get ideas you can start using right away. [RSVP today!](#)

DiscoverE Outreach Grants Available

DiscoverE's Outreach Grants are a great opportunity for volunteers and educators to fund their activities and events for Engineers Week and Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day. There are \$250-\$1,000 grants available for programs centered around girls and students of marginalized gender and for underserved students. The deadline to apply for the grants is **November 4**. [Access more information](#) .

You received this e-mail because you are subscribed to *PE Matters* e-newsletter.

To update your e-mail address, visit www.nspe.org and login to manage your account.

If you do not wish to receive any more issues of *PE Matters*, click here to unsubscribe .

Share with your network



**National Society of Professional Engineers | 1420 King Street | Alexandria, VA
22314**