

State News for NSPE Members

NSPE Member Gets Historic Appointment to Licensing Board



Carol A. Stevens, P.E., F.ASCE, SECB, was recently appointed to the [West Virginia State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers](#). She is the first woman appointed to the licensing board and will serve until June 2026.

Stevens is president of CAS Structural Engineering Inc., an award-winning firm, located in the Charleston area, that provides structural engineering design and/or analysis on a variety of projects throughout the state. She is licensed in six states.

Stevens earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from West Virginia University (Morgantown) in 1984 and a master of engineering in engineering science from The Pennsylvania State University (Harrisburg) in 1989. She has been a member of NSPE since 1989.

Stevens resides in Alum Creek in Lincoln County. She is married and has three adult step-children.

West Virginia Officials React to Appalachian Hydrogen Hub Announcement

Nearly two years after first forming a working group to convince federal energy officials to locate a regional hydrogen hub in West Virginia, those same state and congressional officials were pleased to see their work pay off. However, some remain skeptical about the potential for hydrogen, [The Parkersburg News and Sentinel reports](#).

President Joe Biden and officials with the Department of Energy recently announced that parts of West Virginia, Southeast Ohio and western Pennsylvania will play host to the Appalachian Hydrogen Hub, one of seven regional hydrogen hubs to be constructed nationwide.

According to Biden administration officials, the Appalachian Hydrogen Hub could create as many as 18,000 construction jobs between all three states and as many as 3,000 permanent jobs once completed.

The project is also a public/private partnership with the Appalachian Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub (ARCH2), which includes more than 40 partnering companies in the natural gas, energy and manufacturing sectors, West Virginia University and Marshall University, local transit authorities and the federal National Energy Technology Laboratory.

The \$925 million investment in the Appalachian Regional Hub by the Department of Energy represents a portion of the more than \$9.5 billion set aside for hydrogen research in the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also called the bipartisan infrastructure law.

The bipartisan infrastructure law was passed at the end of 2021 after months of negotiations that first began between President Joe Biden and Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), in the spring of 2021. The law included language requiring a regional hydrogen hub be placed in the Appalachian region. [Read more](#).

WVU Engineer's Laser System Aims to Prevent Space Junk Collisions

A West Virginia University researcher is developing a method to prevent orbiting space junk from colliding with spacecraft or satellites by nudging it off potential collision courses using a coordinated network of space lasers, [the Charleston Gazette-Mail reports](#).

Hang Woon Lee, director of the Space Systems Operations Research Laboratory at WVU, is a 2023 recipient of NASA's Early Career Faculty Award for potential breakthrough research. The award provides Lee, an assistant professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering, and his team with \$200,000 per year for up to three years to support his rapid-response debris removal study.

Lee's research team is verifying whether the algorithms they propose using to operate the laser system would provide a valid, cost-effective solution. But the long-term goal is developing a system of "multiple space-based lasers actively performing orbital maneuvers and collaboratively addressing orbital debris," Lee said.

The suite of algorithms Lee's team would develop could work on lasers mounted to large satellites or on lasers mounted to their own dedicated platforms. Either way, the technology would be able to make many decisions on its own, independently performing maneuvers and setting priorities on what combination of lasers should be targeted at what pieces of debris. [Read more.](#)

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

Looking Toward a Promising Future

By Bill Atkinson, P.E., F.NSPE, President 2023–24



As I continue on my professional journey as the NSPE president, I often reflect on what our organization has done since its founding in 1934 and what NSPE needs to do going forward. The next stage of NSPE's future begins with our vision to ensure that the public lives in a world where engineering decisions are made by qualified and ethically accountable professionals. This will require that a unified engineering community step up to protect licensure laws across the nation and maintain high standards for professional practice. It will require that we embrace innovation and emerging technologies. This future will be bolstered by a new generation of engineers that we must encourage to understand that they can truly make a difference in the world. I look forward to playing my part and supporting others in these efforts.

Licensure and Emerging Technologies

Protection of the public health, safety, and welfare is at our core as professional engineers. Licensure is key to ensuring consistent standards of practice and professional competencies. We must make sure that these standards and

competencies remain relevant to how we do things today, while looking toward the future.

We must continually question ourselves and the regulations that are in place. Are state licensing laws adequately regulating the profession of engineering without precluding otherwise qualified individuals from practicing? Is our current licensure model adequately serving its purpose? Are engineering licensure exemptions creating gaps where the public could be harmed? The answers to these questions can help drive us to better ways of safeguarding the public.

I believe that most individuals that become engineers do so because they are good at making things better. They are not tied to the world they are in today and are always pursuing excellence and improvement. I believe that by pooling our experiences as engineers, we can bring the best and brightest together to tackle any challenge that we may face as we seek to evolve. This evolution will involve the development and use of emerging technologies to spur innovative solutions. NSPE is supporting members by providing professional development that showcases the use of these technologies in a manner that is ethical and will benefit the public. [Read more.](#)

NSPECon24 – Call for Presentation Proposals

Prepare to share your expertise during NSPECon24 in Raleigh, North Carolina, August 7-9, 2024. [Review the topics](#) NSPE seeks in the areas of career development, leadership, and issues and trends, and think about how you can contribute. The submission site will open on November 1 and the proposal deadline is **January 10, 2024**.

The [NSPECon23 program](#) is still available online and may give potential presenters some ideas about the caliber of sessions needed for next year.

Volunteers are the Heart of NSPE: Get Involved and Share Your Voice



Volunteers are essential to advancing NSPE's vision to ensure a world where the public can be confident that engineering decisions affecting their lives are made by qualified and ethically accountable professionals. Volunteering is also a great opportunity for members to grow their professional network and connect with other leaders in the field.

There are [several ways to get involved](#)...here a few opportunities to consider

Serve as a mentor for an engineering student. If interested, send an email to education@nspe.org.

NSPE online community champion. Virtual opportunity to promote community and sharing of ideas through NSPE's online channels. If interested, send an email to membership@nspe.org.

Write an article for *PE* magazine. Share your expertise and insights on professional practice, education, ethics, leadership, licensure, public policy, DEI, emerging technologies, and sustainability and resilience by serving as a guest writer for *PE* magazine. If interested, email pemagazine@nspe.org for submission guidelines.

Collaborate with staff to draft/supply input on federal legislation, regulations or public comments to federal Congressional staff and committees (Identify your area(s) of vocational expertise.) If interested, send an email to governmentrelations@nspe.org.

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