

## State News for NSPE Members

### WVU Student Engineers Partner With Costa Rican Community

West Virginia University engineering students will partner with the ecotourism destination of Monteverde, Costa Rica, to address its stressed sewage problem, which includes undersized and aging septic tanks and untreated water from sinks and washing machines, the [university announced](#).

During the summers of 2024-2026, WVU graduate students from the Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources will work on multi-university teams of civil and environmental engineers and social scientists, partnering with local water authorities, to conduct hands-on research and investigate different wastewater treatment technologies in the Monteverde region.

Kevin Orner, assistant professor in the Wadsworth Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, is leading the project with support from the National Science Foundation. Orner said the research aims to help students develop global and interdisciplinary skills while teams quantify social, economic and environmental impacts of wastewater treatment and integrated resource recovery in Monteverde.

Researchers will be tasked with ensuring Costa Rican decision makers can knowledgeably consider an array of options. Those range from decentralized solutions that extract nutrients from wastewater at the level of the individual toilet, to more expensive centralized sewer networks that transport wastewater to large treatment plants. [Read more](#).

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### Cleaner Power In Line To Join West Virginia's Grid On The Scale Of Coal

[West Virginia Public Broadcasting](#) reports that members of the state legislature's Joint Standing Committee on Energy and Manufacturing have been told that more than 12,000 megawatts of power will be added to the grid in the next several years, including about 10,000 megawatts of renewables and 2,000 megawatts of natural

gas. Combined, that's nearly as much as the entire footprint of coal in West Virginia of 12,500 megawatts.

Asim Haque, vice president of state policy and member services for PJM (the grid that includes West Virginia and 12 other states) explained that it's not a 1-for-1 replacement.

Some coal and natural gas will still be needed on account of the intermittent nature of wind and solar. "And so we're trying to balance both the infusion of these intermittent resources and also maintain system reliability," Haque said. [Read more.](#)

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

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## Network and Learn at NSPECon23 (August 2-4)



[NSPECon23](#) registration is now open! NSPE members, PEs, EITs, engineering students, and anyone interested in the issues facing the industry today are invited to attend NSPECon 2023 in Louisville, August 2-4. [Early-bird registration rates](#) are available until June 29. [Preview the preliminary program of sessions](#) designed to foster leadership skills, address industry trends, and to boost your career.

[Register Now!](#)

### Keynote Speakers



**Bill Samuels, Jr., Chairman Emeritus of Maker's Mark Distillery**, will open the NSPECon 23 meeting. Samuels, who helped design both the Gemini and Polaris missiles and became friends with the founding administrator of NASA, will talk about the, "Trials and Tribulations of a Failed Aerospace Engineer."



**Megan Bendtzen, CEO and Founder of TheDoctorofFun.com**, will completely shift your perspective, debunking the myths and mysteries of work-life balance and the pursuit of happiness during the keynote speech "P.L.A.Y. to Win: It Actually is All Fun and Games...The Secret to Increasing Profits, Positivity and Productivity."

### Sponsor and Exhibit Opportunities

NSPECon23 offers sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities to put your company or organization in front of senior executives and other decision-makers from across the industry. Access the [Sponsor and Exhibitor Prospectus](#) for more information.



## NSPE Welcomes New VP for Membership, State Engagement

NSPE recently welcomed **Rodneikka Scott, MSc, CAE**, as its new Vice President of Member and State Engagement. In this role, Scott will be responsible for executing NSPE's strategic vision and the association's approach to membership, professional practice, and learning. She will also oversee NSPE's current state engagement efforts, the customer service center, and the ethics team.

Prior to joining NSPE, Scott spent four years as the Chief Membership and Diversity Programs Officer of the Endocrine Society. She played a crucial role in managing the organization's membership



approach, engaging with internal and external stakeholders, and revamping the member value proposition to include a suite of new member benefits. Scott draws on more than 17 years of diverse experience in the membership, marketing, communications, volunteer relations, and education sectors to support member services and diversity programs. [Read more](#) .

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## Get Involved – Volunteer for an NSPE Committee

Volunteers are the [heart of NSPE](#) . NSPE is committed to building valuable experiences for all our members by offering a variety of long term and short-term opportunities to get engaged. Visit the [Get Involved Page](#) to learn more about available opportunities. [Submit an application](#) for a 2023-24 committee by **June 2**.

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