PE MATTERS STATE NEWS

NSPE-PR PUERTO RICO SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

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State News for NSPE Members

One Billion Dollars in Infrastructure Grants Awarded to 354 Airports in 44 States

U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao today announced that the Department will award $986 million in airport infrastructure grants to 354 airports in 44 states and Puerto Rico and Micronesia. This is the fifth allotment of the total $3.18 billion in Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding for airports across the United States.

“Infrastructure projects funded by these grants will advance safety, improve travel, generate jobs and provide other economic benefits for local communities,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao.

Selected projects include runway reconstruction and rehabilitation, construction of firefighting facilities, noise mitigation, emissions reduction, and the maintenance of taxiways, aprons, and terminals. The construction and equipment supported by this funding increase the airports’ safety, emergency response capabilities, and capacity, and could support further economic growth and development within each airport’s region.

Read the full story.

NSPE Builds Defense Network Against Licensure

NSPE has long played a critical role in responding to threats to professional engineering licensure. Now the Society has bolstered its efforts to protect professional licensing with the creation of the Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing (ARPL), a new coalition of advanced professions dedicated to informing lawmakers and the public of the importance of rigorous professional licensing standards amid growing debate around licensing laws.

In its leadership position with ARPL, NSPE will educate policymakers on the importance of maintaining standards for complex technical professions like engineering that have a clear impact on public health, safety, and welfare. The Society and ARPL partners will also highlight how professional licensing protects the public by ensuring a baseline of proven qualification and expertise that protects consumers from unqualified practitioners. This public awareness campaign aims to counter the anti-licensing interests that jeopardize public safety.

Read more.

Congratulations to the 2019 QBS Award Winners

The winners of this year's QBS Awards, given by NSPE and the American Council of Engineering Companies, have been announced. Top honors go to the Portland International Jetport (state/local sector) and the Federal Highway Administration Western Federal Lands Highway Division (federal government sector) for their exemplary use of the qualifications-based selection process. Merit awards were also granted to the City of Austin and the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

Each year, NSPE and the American Council of Engineering Companies present the

QBS Awards to entities that procure engineering services through a process that emphasizes design firms' technical competence rather than simply the lowest bid. Nominations must originate from an NSPE state society, an ACEC member organization, a public or private entity, or an individual in the public or private sector.

Award winners will receive a trophy and recognition during the ACEC Fall Conference in Chicago October 15.

Review NSPE's Position Statement 08-131 on Procurement of Engineering Services (QBS).

Don't Miss...

- Hear from the NSPE president. Read the installation speech from David Martini, P.E., F.NSPE, the 2019–20 NSPE president, about his vision for the profession and the society.
- Celebrating STEM teachers. For 13 years, the New Hampshire Society of Professional Engineers has honored educators who inspire students in engineering and other STEM topics.
- Gas Pipeline Projects Lack PE Oversight. A recent article showcases how few states require licensed engineers to review natural gas pipeline projects due to licensure exemptions, and quotes NSPE's manager of government relations and advocacy Stephanie Hamilton. Also see: Hamilton's column on how NSPE members can advocate for federal pipeline safety legislation.

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