

## State News for NSPE Members

### The House of Delegates Annual Meeting

The House of Delegates General Assembly will be held virtually on **August 1**, prior to the kickoff of [Virtual PECon 2020](#), August 3–7. Installation of national officers will occur following the meeting.

NSPE-PR members are encouraged to reach out to their House of Delegate Representative Gabriel Echandi-Guzman, P.E., to share concerns and perspectives on professional engineering issues prior to the meeting.

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### Bringing Resilient Power to Puerto Rico

The challenges of maintaining Puerto Rico's electrical system were underscored in 2017 when Hurricane Maria struck, knocking out power to the entire island—home to 3.2 million. Three years later, Puerto Rico is still recovering from the devastation of Maria and the aftermath of several earthquakes, all while facing the challenge of building a more resilient electrical grid that can operate cost-effectively.

An Idaho National Laboratory spotlights work by the Nuclear Alternative Project, a nonprofit organization created by a group of engineers in 2015, to explore the potential for meeting the island's power needs through the use of microreactors in conjunction with renewable energy sources.

[Read more.](#)

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### Will a Methane Gas Proposal Threaten PR's Energy Future?

On June 1, the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority withdrew a proposal to the Puerto Rico Energy Bureau that would have applied \$1.26 billion in federal funds to cover temporary emergency generation costs to expand methane gas

infrastructure. A North American Congress on Latin America report calls the temporary generation plan a ploy that could be revived to increase dependency on fossil fuels, threatening a clean energy future for Puerto Rico.

[Read more.](#)

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## **NCEES Opens Up Pencil-and-Paper Test Registration**

The National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying opened registration on June 1 for the October 2020 paper-and-pencil PE exam administration. The exam administration will take place over two days: Thursday, October 22 and Friday, October 23. Exam registration will close on August 20.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, cancellation of the April paper-and-pencil exams affected 16,000 examinees. All of the exams typically offered once a year in April will be offered in October.

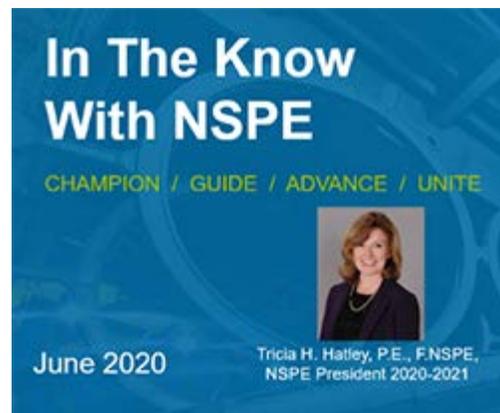
Registration for computer-based FE and PE exams is open year-round. Currently, testing capacity is limited but expanding, as PearsonVue reopens testing centers closed by the pandemic.

[Learn more on the NCEES website.](#)

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## **Are You “In the Know”?**

Members who want to get a quick overview of the Society’s news should check out the June [“In the Know with NSPE” video](#) on YouTube. The 15-minute presentation by President-Elect Tricia Hatley, P.E., F.NSPE, covers topics like the reopening of licensing and certification exams, *PE* magazine highlights, a breakdown of the Society’s [strategic plan](#) , [advocacy efforts](#) on behalf of PEs, the upcoming [Virtual Professional Engineers Conference](#) , the Society’s [statement](#) on social injustice, and the [Emerging Leaders Program](#) .



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## **Register for the *Virtual* PECon 2020**

Registration is now open for the 2020 Virtual Professional Engineers Conference

(PECon) on **August 3–7** with events centered around the annual celebration of [PE Day](#) on August 5.

Virtual PECon sessions can be experienced in a live virtual environment or by accessing recordings at a more convenient time. The virtual conference will also provide networking and social connection with colleagues by region and areas of practice in addition to professional development opportunities.



### PECon at a Glance

- Keynote sessions featuring IBM’s Global Chief Technology Officer and the Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board
- Session: [Ensuring Successful Stakeholder and Community Involvement](#)
- Session: [Stormwater Pollution Prevention Planning: Compliance Guidelines for Your Facility](#)
- Session: [Professional Engineer’s Role in Artificial Intelligence and Technology](#)
- Session: [Ethics of Sustainable Design](#)
- Session: [Shrinking the Distance for Virtual Teams to Succeed](#)

### There are three registration options:

1. **Single Session** provides individual one PDH sessions for \$39 (\$99 for nonmembers);
2. **Day Track** provides access to three PDH sessions, networking morning “coffee talk” roundtables, and evening post session discussions for \$99 (\$279 for nonmembers); and
3. **All-Access Pass** provides 15 PDH sessions with networking morning “coffee talk” roundtables each day and event post session discussions for \$249 (\$1,149 for nonmembers).

Nonmembers can join NSPE for \$299 and receive member pricing.

**Virtual PECon 2020 Free for Students**

NSPE is providing the opportunity for student members to participate in the upcoming **Virtual Professional Engineers Conference 2020** for free on August 3–7.

Student members who register for the conference can sign up for a track or an all-access pass and can also attend networking events, including morning coffee talks and evening round table discussions.

[Register now.](#)

[Register now to customize your attendance package for live events August 3–7.](#)

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## Call for 2020–21 Volunteers

NSPE needs your knowledge, expertise, and time to assist our organization carry out its [vision, mission, and meet the goals of the strategic plan](#). Volunteer positions begin in August and end at the annual conference in 2021.

These opportunities are organized into three types with various levels of engagement.

**Engagement Level 1:** Standing committees and select committees require the highest engagement level. They often involve attending at least one in-person meeting in conjunction with the annual meeting. Most meetings are held via conference call.

**Engagement Level 2:** These volunteer positions are responsible for organization activities and involve assignment to a committee, task force, or other group. Activities primarily include e-mail and conference calls.

**Engagement Level 3:** Ad hoc volunteers take part in activities on a project-by-project basis.

[Submit forms by July 15 to be considered for a 2020–21 term.](#)

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## Aiming for Leadership? This Program's for You

If you're starting your engineering career and looking toward a future of leadership, NSPE is excited to offer an opportunity to participate in the Emerging Leaders Program.

The NSPE Emerging Leaders Program is an intensive seven month, professionally facilitated, focused, practical, virtual program for emerging leaders. Between

August 5 (Professional Engineers Day) and February 27 (National Engineers Week) participants will receive specific, relevant training and application on how to be successful at higher levels of leadership responsibility.

The target audience for the Emerging Leaders Program is for promising early-career professionals with 5-8 years of experience who are just beginning to lead and think strategically in the profession and their careers. The reality-based curriculum focuses on the core skills necessary to think strategically, build effective teams, deliver great service for their most valued clients, and lead successfully.

[Learn more and apply by July 1, 2020.](#)

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## **Advocacy Opportunity: Speak Out for Future PEs**

You have an opportunity today to advocate for the future of the engineering profession!

H.R. 5339 ( [Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act](#) ) amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow students with 529 Education Accounts to use those funds for expenses related to obtaining a post-education credential—including the PE license. Funds could be used for expenses associated with both exam prep and the exam itself.

The bill needs additional cosponsors in order to move forward. As NSPE's Government Relations team continues talking with House offices, your support of H.R. 5339 is crucial. The more support we have from NSPE members, the stronger position we're in to ask House Representatives to sign on.

You have the opportunity to take multiple actions if you'd like, [starting with writing a letter](#) , then following up with either a Tweet or a phone call. Or all three, if you're feeling especially ambitious!

Feel free to contact Stephanie Hamilton if you have any questions, or if you'd just like to talk about advocacy! Hamilton can be reached at 703-684-2844 or [shamilton@nspe.org](mailto:shamilton@nspe.org) .

[Take action on H.R. 5339.](#)

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