

State News for NSPE Members

Popular and Ironhack Partner to Launch Accelerator Program

Popular Inc. and Ironhack have announced a joint effort to create an innovative program that will equip emerging talent with the skills and knowledge necessary for a successful career in software engineering across Puerto Rico and Miami, as reported on the [News Is My Business](#) website.

The Accelerator Program will offer customized business training and coaching through Ironhack, providing the latest digital technology skills. This collaboration combines Popular's financial solutions with Ironhack's technology training. New employees joining the bank under the program in South Florida and Puerto Rico will benefit from a combined global experience that will prepare them for a successful career in software engineering.

"At Popular, we strive to bring the best talent and invest in offering development opportunities to our employees so we can deliver the best banking solutions for our clients," said Camille Burckhart, chief information and digital strategy officer at Popular. The selected candidates will be hired as associate software engineers and will be part of a world-class technical program through Ironhack. The program includes a full year of continuous, specialized refresher boot camps in cybersecurity, DevOps, mobile development, databases, and Cloud, to equip them with the latest skills and knowledge. [Read more.](#)

Owner of Puerto Rico Superfund Site Agrees to Contamination Clean Up

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reached an agreement with the Guanica-Caribe Land Development Corporation to remove contaminated soil from the Ochoa Fertilizer Company "Superfund" site in Guánica, Puerto Rico, the [NCCOS reports](#). Environmental contamination originally [reported](#) by NCCOS scientists ultimately led EPA to add the site to its National Priority List for

contamination clean up — commonly known as the Superfund program.

NCCOS identified high sediment concentrations of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), chlordane, nickel, and chromium while characterizing the coral reef ecosystem in Guánica Bay. After the contaminants were identified, NCCOS, with support from NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program, determined their extent and magnitude, conducted preliminary source tracking, and then recruited academic partners to investigate the potential human health impacts. Studies from the University of Miami show elevated levels of PCBs in bay sediment, fish samples, and blood samples from Guánica residents. [Read more.](#)

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

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](#) .

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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