

State News for NSPE Members

'Young Engineer' Who Saw Washington Bridge Dangers Remains a Mystery

According to the *Providence Journal*, the "young engineer" who spotted critical issues with the Washington Bridge stands to become a local hero – except that we still don't know who he is. Thanks to newly released records, however, we know that it was Andrew Prezioso, a structural engineer working for bridge-design contractor VHB, who presented the alarming findings to the Rhode Island Department of Transportation.

"Washington Bridge 700 Inspection – Critical Finding," read the subject line on an email that Prezioso sent at 1:40 p.m. on December 8. "Please see the link below to photos, inspection notes and a video of what was observed at Washington Bridge today," Prezioso wrote to RIDOT Project Manager Anthony Pompei, other RIDOT employees and a half-dozen other engineers. Anchor rods holding down parts of the bridge had "failed" in two exposed locations, Prezioso explained, and video showed the cantilever span "bouncing at the bearing."

"We don't yet know if Prezioso was the original engineer who saw it – his title is structures team leader – but we do know he's the one who put his name on the line to deliver the bad news," state Sen. Samuel Bell said. "It's never easy to do. We know he deserves praise for taking that difficult step." [Read more.](#)

\$12 Million Goes to Municipal Resilience Projects Across Rhode Island

Governor Dan McKee and the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank recently announced \$12 million in action grants for participants of the Municipal Resilience Program (MRP). Communities prioritized local actions through the program and will use grant funds to implement projects that will increase their climate resilience. Funding for these action grants comes from the 2022 voter-approved Green Bond, which provided for \$16 million for municipal resilience projects and was part of Governor McKee's FY2023 budget.

"Investing in Rhode Island's communities isn't just a prudent decision but a crucial step in securing a resilient future," said Governor Dan McKee. "The impacts of flooding and storms have been wide-ranging throughout our state, but with this funding from the voter-approved Green Bond, we can mitigate those risks, improve our response, and adapt to meet the climate change challenge."

The Green Bond directs \$16 million to the MRP to help communities restore and improve vulnerable coastal habitats, river and stream floodplains, and infrastructure. It also includes \$5 million for a small business energy loan program to provide zero-interest and below-market loans for clean energy projects. [Read more](#).

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

NCEES Seeks PE Expertise to Update Exams

NCEES is currently seeking licensed professional engineers to participate in a professional activities and knowledge study, or PAKS, to update specifications for the PE Architectural Engineering Exam and the PE Environmental Exam.

Architectural Engineering

NCEES requires a cross section of PEs practicing architectural engineering (including those working in industry, consulting, the public sector, and academia) to complete an online survey about the tasks and knowledge required of a licensed architectural engineer with four to six years of experience to practice in a manner that safeguards the public. Access the survey [here](#) and participate by April 24.

Environmental Engineering

NCEES requires a cross section of PEs practicing environmental engineering (including those working in industry, consulting, the public sector, and academia) to complete an online survey about the tasks and knowledge required of a licensed environmental engineer with four to six years of experience to practice in a manner that safeguards the public. Access the survey [here](#) and participate by May 5.

The 2024 Scholarship Season Opens

The NSPE Education Foundation is [now accepting applications](#) for the 2024 scholarship season through an online submission platform. The application deadline is April 1.

High School

The [Maureen L. and Howard N. Blitman, P.E., Scholarship to Promote Diversity in](#)

[Engineering](#) is awarded annually to a high school senior from an ethnic minority who has been accepted into an ABET-accredited engineering program at a four-year college or university. The award is for \$5,000.

Undergraduate

The [Steinman Scholarship](#) is awarded annually to undergraduates entering or continuing their junior year in a four-year ABET-accredited engineering program. The award is for \$5,000.

The [William R. Kimel, P.E., Engineering Scholarship](#) is awarded to an undergraduate student who is a resident of either Kansas or Missouri, enrolled as a junior in an ABET-accredited engineering program in a college or university in either Kansas or Missouri. The award is for \$2,500.

Graduate

The [George B. Hightower, P.E. Fellowship](#) is awarded annually to a current engineering undergraduate or graduate student who is enrolled in, or graduated from, an ABET-accredited engineering program. The award is for \$3,000.

PE Institute – 15 Free Webinar Package

NSPE has moved 15 on-demand webinars out from behind the paywall for viewing by members from the comfort of home or the office. Members can [add the webinar package to their account now](#). Once added, the webinars can be viewed through January 15, 2025.

Since 2022, NSPE has offered all PE Institute webinars free of charge to members. Past webinars are also available for viewing in the [On-Demand Webinars](#) section of the PE Institute website.

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