

## State News for NSPE Members

### Rhode Island Launches State-Specific Energy Savings Calculator

Rhode Island leaders came together to launch the first state-specific energy calculator made by Rewiring America, [WJAR reports](#).

US Senator Jack Reed, Governor Dan McKee, Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources and Rewiring America officials discussed the new calculator on December 11 at the United Way of Rhode Island's Valley Street location. State leaders said the new tool helps homeowners and renters find out how much money they can save by taking advantage of new incentives.

State officials said that Rewiring America, an electrification nonprofit, created the calculator to help residents quickly estimate how much they can save on energy by leveraging multiple incentives on state and local level. [Read more](#).

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### Rhode Island College is Poised to Become Leader in Cybersecurity

[Rhode Island College reports](#) that a group of dignitaries recently converged on Sapinsley Hall in support of the launch of the Institute for Cybersecurity and Emerging Technologies at the college.

Led by former US Representative and RIC alumnus Jim Langevin and housed in RIC's School of Business, the institute is slated to become a national center of excellence in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, machine learning and other emerging technologies.

The mission of the Institute for Cybersecurity and Emerging Technologies, Langevin says, is to "nurture, educate and train the next generation of leaders and innovators in cybersecurity," to "become a hub for research, education and workforce development." "This is not an endeavor that Rhode Island College will do on its own," he says. "It will be a collaborative effort, pulling together the strength of

public and private sectors and also college and universities and K-12 schools in the region.”

Beyond cybersecurity, the institute will be at the forefront of research, education and training in emerging technologies, such as biotechnology and quantum computing. The institute will also explore the limitless potential of AI. [Read more.](#)

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## **URI Professor, PBS Kids Teaming to Break Down STEM Barriers**

[The Westerly Sun reports](#) that Sara Sweetman, associate professor of education at the University of Rhode Island, and the creators of the Emmy-nominated PBS Kids show “Elinor Wonders Why” are enlisting Elinor, a curious little bunny, and her friends Ari and Olive to help break down barriers that girls face in the STEM fields.

Thanks to a \$3.4 million grant from the National Science Foundation, Sweetman will work with creators Jorge Cham and Daniel Whiteson to develop eight new 11-minute episodes of the popular animated show with the goal of improving boys’ and girls’ perceptions of female scientists and increasing their understanding of mixed-gender collaborations in STEM.

“I really want to shift the thinking about the gender equity role in terms of what we can do to build better collaboration between boys and girls starting at a young age,” said Sweetman, the principal investigator on the grant. “In the past, efforts have focused on getting women excited about STEM and providing opportunities for them to excel. I think doing those is great. But if we really want to have a gender diverse field in sciences, we need to work with both men and women.” [Read more.](#)

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## **Share Your Expertise: NSPECon24 Presentations**



NSPE seeks speakers willing to elevate the profession by providing interesting, relevant, and timely education to colleagues attending the [2024 Professional Engineers Conference \(NSPECon24\)](#) August 7-9 in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Proposals may address a number of topics in three key conference tracks that include leadership, issues and trends, and career assistance. Please consider sharing your expertise and insights by **submitting a presentation proposal by midnight, January 10.**

To learn more about potential topic areas, how to prepare a submission, and the benefits of being selected to present, click on the button below.

[Submit Your Presentation](#)

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## NSPE Member Benefit: On-Demand Webinars

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The WORKability Wednesdays fall series wrapped up in November. Recordings of the presentations are available in the [PE Institute](#). Past webinars are also available for viewing in the [On-Demand Webinars](#) section of the website.

NSPE is always seeking great content and speakers. Those interested in presenting can submit ideas using the online [Call for Webinars form](#).

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Is your organization looking to bring together a team of engineers, each committed to professional growth and staying up to date with the ever-evolving field of engineering? [Consider launching your NSPE Enterprise Membership!](#)

In today's rapidly changing engineering landscape, having a group of experts with diverse skills is essential. To rise to the challenges of this environment, engineers must commit to continuous upskilling and lifelong learning. The skills demanded by the profession in 2024 include critical thinking, problem-solving, active learning, resilience, stress tolerance, and flexibility.

*"NSPE Enterprise Membership has proven to be a valuable program for our engineering team at Huitt-Zollars. It streamlines our membership process; the ability to make a single payment for multiple employees simplifies our administrative tasks and reduces time. Our engineers appreciate the continuous learning/professional development and networking opportunities provided by NSPE throughout the year."* — John Ho, P.E., F.NSPE, Vice President, Huitt-Zollars

### **Key Advantages of NSPE Enterprise Membership**

- **Unite Your Engineering Team:** NSPE Enterprise Membership brings together five or more individuals from your organization into one cohesive group.
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