

RISPE CHAT: Engineer of the Year

Dear Rhode Island Engineers,

Starting in 1958, the Rhode Island Society of Professional Engineers (RISPE) has annually recognized a local engineer that has made outstanding contributions to both the engineering profession and their community by honoring them as the RISPE Engineer of the Year. The award is given to a Professional Engineer who best exemplifies the highest ethical standards of their profession, demonstrates technical excellence in their work, has a deep concern for the public welfare, and is an enthusiastic leader.

Last month, RISPE had the honor of presenting this year's 2018 Engineer of the Year Award to a very deserving candidate, Mr. Kevin M. Aguiar, PE. The presentation took place at the Providence Engineering Society's Annual Awards Banquet at the Biltmore Hotel in Providence and included over 140 attendees. [A brief bio of Kevin is attached.](#)



After reading the applications and resumes of the Engineer of the Year nominations over the past several years, I am always humbled by the exceptional engineering talent that exists throughout our State. The RISPE Engineer of the Year Award is a great program that recognizes and honors such talent and encourages others to strive for similar greatness, making our State better as a whole. The Engineer of the Year Program, as well as all of the other noble causes that RISPE is able to promote, would not be possible without the help we receive from our members and supporters. Thank you all for your continued support!

Sincerely,
David Arpin, P.E.
RISPE President

Upcoming RISPE Event:

RISPE is currently seeking volunteers to donate their time and cooking talents at the upcoming Ronald McDonald House Meal Preparation Event. The event will be held on Thursday, April 5, 2018 beginning at 3 PM at the Ronald McDonald House in Providence.

The Ronald McDonald House is a home-away-from-home for families of children who are being treated at area hospitals. The House is neither a healthcare nor childcare facility, but rather serves as a temporary residence for as many as 28 families at one time.

The House's financial support comes from the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Eastern New England as well as individual donations, corporate support, and grants. However, the "Heart of the House" is its volunteer program. Volunteers serve in many capacities, helping to make the House a comfortable and supportive place for our families.

As Meal Preparers, the RISPE Volunteers will be responsible for providing the evening meal on the evening of April 5th. The meal will be prepared at the House and will serve between 30-32 people.

If you are interested in volunteering, please email me at darpin@rtg-eng.com.

RISPE Seeking Board Members for the upcoming 2018-2019 Fiscal Year

Are you a Rhode Island Professional Engineer or Engineer in Training interested in serving the local engineering community? RISPE is currently looking for volunteers to serve on the Executive Board. Being a board member offers great networking opportunities and a chance to get involved with other local engineers from multiple disciplines throughout the area.

If you are interested in learning more, please feel free to email me at darpin@rtg-eng.com or consider joining us at one of our upcoming monthly board meetings.

15 Free New Courses:

As an NSPE/RISPE member, you are entitled each year to 15 free on-demand courses that enable you to earn PDHs from the comfort of your home or office.

The 2018 courses are now available online.

They include options such as:

- Ethics and Engineering;
- How to Develop the Engineering Leader Inside You;
- Self-Driving Cars: An Examination of Ethical Issues at the Micro and Macro Scale;
- Threats to Licensure;
- and more.

[Access the full list of courses here.](#)

The Society has also put together a [video tutorial](#) for members who may need more assistance.

PEs Speak Their Minds on the Profession

Should more states eliminate their industry exemptions? Are there ways to improve licensure mobility and stop the erosion of the PE license? These are just a few of the issues facing the professional engineering community. Through the 2018 *Engineering Outlook* survey, PEs across the nation spoke out on these topics and more.

Participants revealed that the job market for engineers remains sound. More than 51% agree that the current job market is good for engineers, while 31% strongly agree. In the 2015 *Engineering Outlook* survey, 54% of participants agreed that the job market was good, while 23% strongly agreed. The majority of 2018 survey participants (52% agree and 21% strongly agree) are also satisfied with opportunities for professional advancement in the engineering field.

The *Engineering Outlook* survey also addresses the public's perception of the engineering profession. The vast majority of survey participants believe that the public perceives the engineering profession to be ethical, with 58% agreeing and 26% strongly agreeing that this is the case. Yet, when asked about the public's knowledge about the profession, the views shift. Nearly 54% agree and 28% strongly agree that despite increased attention given to STEM education in government policy, media, and outreach efforts, the public still doesn't know enough about the engineering profession compared to other learned professions (medicine, law, architecture, accounting). Many PEs find this to be an obstacle that needs to be overcome.

[Read more about the survey in the March/April PE magazine.](#)

2018 Professional Engineers Conference: Registration Opens!

NSPE's [Professional Engineers Conference](#) is an opportunity for PEs and those on the path to licensure to connect with like-minded professionals, earn continuing education credits, and learn about the profession's top issues. The 2018 conference will be July 18–22 at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

Online registration is now open! Register early and save. Early bird pricing ends on April 30.

Don't Miss...

- [Test Your Ethics Knowledge](#). NSPE members are invited to test their knowledge of engineering ethics in the Milton F. Lunch Ethics Contest. The deadline for submissions is April 27.
- [Need Guidance on Engineering Ethics?](#) NSPE provides ethics resources that can help you deal with difficult issues through Board of Ethical Review cases, a licensure and ethics hotline, and more.
- [Advocate for the Profession](#). Access advocacy and outreach tools for promoting professional engineers and the issues of importance to PEs and the engineering profession.

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