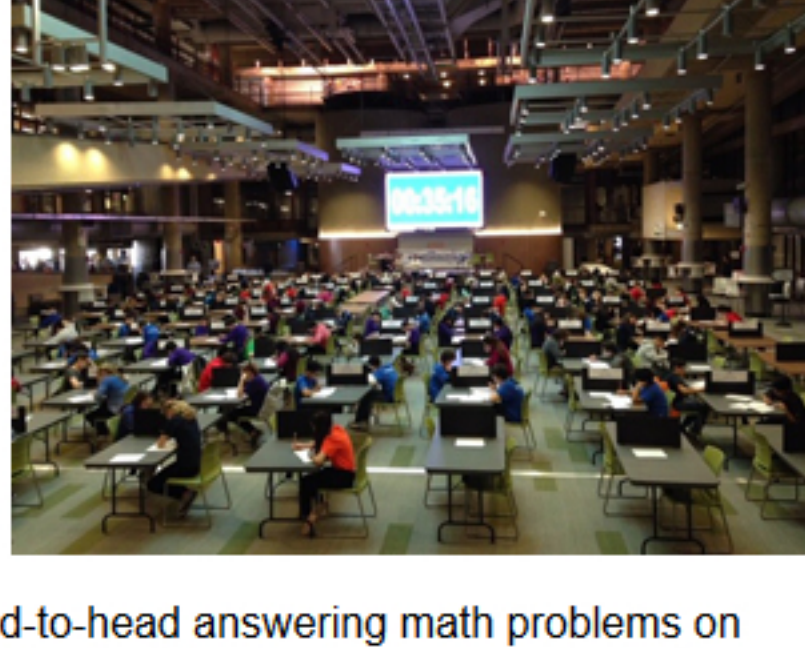


RISPE CHAT: MATHCOUNTS

Dear Rhode Island Engineers,

This past month, RISPE hosted the annual Rhode Island MATHCOUNTS Competition at CCRI in Warwick. Approximately 200 middle school students from across the State, who spent the last few months training and preparing for the event, came together to compete. The event included the completion of individual and team-based examination rounds, with the top eight students advancing to the famed lightening round where students go head-to-head answering math problems on stage in front of their friends and family. The top four students were selected to go on to represent our State at the National Competition in May to be held in Washington D.C.



For the past 35 years, MATHCOUNTS has been promoting the development of mathematics skills in middle school children nation-wide by grassroots involvement in every U.S. State and Territory. Its educational program, implemented through after-school club activities, is introduced to them at a critical junction in their lives, where their love for mathematics must be nurtured or their fear overcome. MATHCOUNTS provides students with the kind of experience that fosters growth and transcends fear to lay a foundation for future success.

MATHCOUNTS prides itself on helping America and the American workforce retain their competitive edge on the world stage. It does this by engaging the critical-thinking and problem-solving skills which instill both confidence and curiosity, while building a fundamental base in mathematics. Compiled data of the over 6 million students who have participated in MATHCOUNTS since its inception indicates that there is a strong correlation between participation and higher SAT scores, the selection of STEM majors in college, and the selection of STEM careers after college. It is for these reasons that RISPE is proud to support and promote such an admirable program and, by association, help the next generation of engineers find their calling.

This year's event would not have been possible without the support of our dedicated sponsors and RISPE membership, as well as our RISPE volunteers led by MATHCOUNTS Coordinator, Paul Bannon, P.E./BETA Group. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to next year's competition!

Sincerely,
David Arpin, P.E.
RISPE President

Upcoming RISPE Event: Annual Banquet

RISPE is pleased to announce that it will be hosting this year's Annual Banquet on Thursday, May 24th. The highlight of the event will include a presentation by Mr. Ted Spinard, P.E./ Development Services Director for the Quonset Development Corporation and fellow RISPE Member. Ted will be discussing the ongoing \$90 Million Pier 2 Infrastructure Improvements Project taking place at the Port of Davisville located in the Quonset Business Park. The project received a portion of its funding from the Rhode Island Port Infrastructure Bonds, Question 5 that was passed by RI voters in November 2016 with over 63% approval.

The event will also include an update from ACEC-RI Executive Director Marcel Valois on their recent State legislative efforts to help protect the PE Licensure, the presentation of the 2018 RISPE Young Engineer of the Year Award, the presentation of the 2018 RISPE Scholarship, and recognition of the over 25 Newly Registered RI Professional Engineers!

More details of the event are to follow shortly.

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.

Recent Tragedies Serve As Reminder of PE's Role

NSPE has expressed its deepest condolences to the families of the victims and those involved in two recent tragedies: the [pedestrian bridge collapse](#) at Florida International University and the [fatal crash involving a fully autonomous vehicle](#) in Tempe, Arizona.

After such events, there is often a rush to assign blame. But it is important to examine the facts. At the same time, both of these incidents remind us of the important commitment licensed professionals make to hold the public health, safety, and welfare paramount.

This ethos and the PE's knowledge, skills, and experience greatly reduce the chances of such problems occurring and also increase the ability to learn from and prevent failures.

Unfortunately, tragedies resulting from failure of engineered systems are a [longstanding phenomenon](#). State licensure laws arose out of a number of such events.

As [attacks on licensure](#) continue, it is critical for professional engineers to continue to speak up both about their role in protecting the public health, safety, and welfare, and ways in which those priorities are threatened.

[Learn about current issues and make your voice heard.](#)

Are Exemptions Getting in the Way of Qualified Engineering Practice?

NSPE believes that the public must be protected against incompetent engineering services performed by unlicensed individuals who lack the necessary education, training, and experience to perform engineering services as defined under state licensing laws. There is no greater need for the support of qualified engineering practice than in industry and government—yet there are efforts to chip away at the role of the licensed professional engineer in these sectors.

Last year, NSPE released a [state-by-state survey](#) to spotlight industrial, manufacturing, and governmental exemptions to engineering licensure laws. Many state engineering licensure laws contain additional exemptions for certain types of functions and activities. In addition, in some cases, state engineering licensure laws may be subject to interpretation by state attorneys general or state courts.

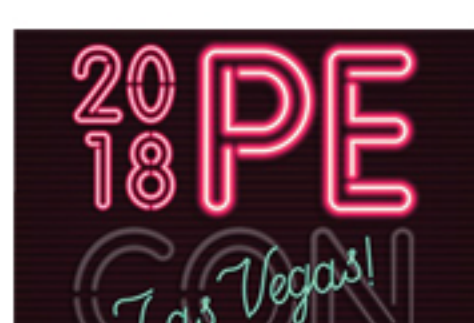


As stated in NSPE Professional Policy 173, "all engineers who are in responsible charge of the practice of engineering as defined in the NCEES Model Law and Rules in a manner that potentially impacts the public health, safety, and welfare should be required by all state statutes to be licensed professional engineers. The Society recommends the phasing out of existing industrial exemptions in state licensing laws."

[Access resources on the regulations that affect the professional engineer.](#)

Viva Las Vegas: Register for the 2018 Professional Engineers Conference

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 take place July 18–22 at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.



[Online registration is now open!](#) Register early and save.

Reasons to Attend:

- **Networking:** Connect with others who take as much pride in the PE license and engineering profession as you do.
- **Continuing education:** Learn about the latest trends in the profession and earn professional development hours.
- **Leadership:** Build leadership skills to help you in the workplace.
- **Be part of the profession:** For 80 years NSPE has been dedicated solely to supporting licensed professional engineers. Come to Las Vegas and be part of the profession's future.
- **Recharge:** Break away from the office, connect with colleagues, and gather ideas that can help you in your job and career.

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