

State News for NSPE Members

As Sea Level Rises, Engineers Say They Lack Guidance, Survey Says

A survey of maritime infrastructure engineers by University of Rhode Island researchers found that the rising sea level is often not factored into designs of ports, breakwaters, fishing piers and other coastal infrastructure. The survey of 85 engineers at consulting firms, port authorities and government agencies with experience working on port infrastructure projects in the US was conducted in 2019. The researchers found that 64% do not have a policy or planning document to guide how to incorporate sea level change into their designs. “The challenge they face is that they aren’t receiving concrete, consistent guidance for what they should be doing to integrate sea level rise projections into their work,” said Austin Becker, URI associate professor of marine affairs. “They need guidance, they want guidance, they don’t want to have to go on the whims of their clients, who may not have expertise in this area. They also don’t want to have to weigh potentially conflicting guidance from local, state or federal agencies.” He added that without guidance, port engineers are more likely to disregard sea level change projections entirely. [Read more](#) about the study.

Manufacturing Talent Needed for Submarine Construction

As the US Navy contracts for the construction of new submarines and Electric Boat expands its workforce, an industry group has received a Defense Department grant to survey manufacturers in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island to “open up job exploration and employment opportunities to more than 5,000 potential workers,” [reports the Hartford Courant](#). Electric Boat has shipyards at Groton and Quonset Point. The article describes the survey as “the latest effort to develop a workforce with basic industrial and manufacturing skills and exposure to robotics, automation and artificial intelligence.”

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

NSPE President Warns Against Broad-Brush Licensing Reform



NSPE President Tricia Hatley, P.E., F.NSPE, recently challenged an opinion piece that advocates making temporary licensing deregulation permanent, measures that were enacted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a letter to the editor of the *Oklahoman*, Hatley warns that efforts to weaken licensing, however well-intentioned, make no distinction for highly complex, technical professions. This is a critical distinction that broad-brush proposals like those referenced in the article fail to make—and puts thousands of lives at risk in Oklahoma and elsewhere.

She also states that professions like engineering, architecture, accounting, landscape architecture and surveying are responsible for the safety of our physical spaces and the integrity of our financial systems. Because of this, they are required to meet rigorous standards based on education, experience, and examination to demonstrate a minimum qualification level.

[Read more.](#)

An Adventure to the Moon with Future City

Future City is a project-based learning program where middle school students imagine, research, design, and build cities of the future. This year's Future City theme is "Living on the Moon." Teams will be challenged to design a lunar city and provide examples of how their city uses two moon resources to keep citizens safe and healthy.



Due to COVID-19, Future City [transitioned this year's program into a virtual format](#) to offer impactful volunteer opportunities you can do from the comfort of your home or office.

Inspiring the Next Generation

Kay Bailey is a senior research and development engineer currently working on an innovative mechanical device that relieves back pain and pressure. She knows firsthand the added challenges in academia—and professional settings—when few people look like you. "When I was a middle school



student, I didn't see many examples of African Americans doing engineering," she says.

This inspired Kay Bailey to volunteer as a Future City mentor in a predominantly African American school in Milwaukee. "I wanted to do whatever I could to show these students that it's okay to be interested in engineering. Right away I could tell Future City would be a great way to get involved."

Over the last two years, Bailey has loved working with these young scholars. Sometimes she helps them shape their creative ideas or explains STEM concepts, and other times they simply want to hear about what she is working on at her job. "I want these young people to be encouraged to pursue whatever they want."

If, like Kay Bailey, you're interested in inspiring the next generation, you can sign up to be a mentor by [clicking here](#) or email Info@FutureCity.org with any questions. This year, the program (including mentoring) will be virtual.

Upcoming Webinars: Roundabout Design Safety, the Engineering Team



NSPE's **PE Institute** helps members stay current in the profession, earn PDHs, and advance in their careers through webinars on important topics. The webinars are held at 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST at a member price of \$99 (\$129 for nonmembers).

October 28

[Put Me in Coach! The Engineering Team from Concept to Completion](#)

Within the construction industry, engineering-based decisions are made by professional engineers closely engaged with technicians. Working as an efficient team, a project moves smoothly and is successfully completed. A panel of PEs and technicians will share engineering best practices and approaches to overcoming technical challenges.

This webinar is **FREE** for members and non-members.

Presenters: Kent D. Dvorak, P.E., Chip Hollis (moderator), William Kenneth Johnson, Jr., P.G., Shannon Looney P.E., and John W. Quidley S.E.T.

November 2

Canon 1, NSPE Code of Ethics for Engineers: “Hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public”

This webinar will introduce you to four of the current members of the **NSPE Board of Ethical Review** (BER). Discussion will focus on four ethics cases that illuminate multiple aspects of Canon 1, to “hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public.” These cases are personal favorites selected by each BER member from the more than **600 opinions** the BER has published since the late 1950s.

Presenters: Mark Dubbin, PE, FPE, Jeffrey H. Greenfield, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, F. NSPE, David Kish, Ph.D., P.E., William D. Lawson, P.E., Ph.D., F. NSPE

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