

State News for NSPE Members

Members Contribute to Award-Winning Cultural Center

Members Ken Adolf, P.E, and Ryan Johnson, of Bolton & Menk, recently were part of an award-winning project team that contributed to a new cultural center for the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community. The center, located at 2300 Tiwahe Cir., Shakopee, was named a 2019 Top Project by the magazine *Finance & Commerce*. The award recognizes projects from all over Minnesota built in 2019 that showcases degree of difficulty, creativity in design, innovative construction techniques, cooperation among contractors and management, and sustainability efforts.

Named Hocokata Ti [ho-cho-kah-tah-tee], [the center](#) is a gathering space that is used to interpret and encourage traditional Mdewakanton Dakota cultural heritage, language, and history.

Ken was the project manager and lead design engineer for the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community's (SMSC) Cultural Center project in Shakopee Minnesota. He was responsible for making this unique vision for a site feasible for construction. With Ken's expertise in site design and grading, he managed a team of approximately 20 employees at Bolton & Menk that worked on this project. In addition, he worked outside the company with many stakeholders at SMSC and coordinated with all of the other engineers, architects, contractors, and local agencies to create this one of a kind site design. The site accommodates the Hocokata Ti cultural building along with 6 ponds that include multiple waterfall features and pedestrian bridges over them. His design also allows for a future building location on the site when the SMSC has a need for it. Ryan Johnson was the design engineer on the project. His key responsibility was modeling the grading surface, streets, parking lots, and utilities in Civil3D. This was needed for plan set production and sent to the contractor to be utilized in their GPS equipment during construction. Ryan helped the construction phase of the project by coordinating construction meetings and implementing revisions to plan sets between the site design and building design.

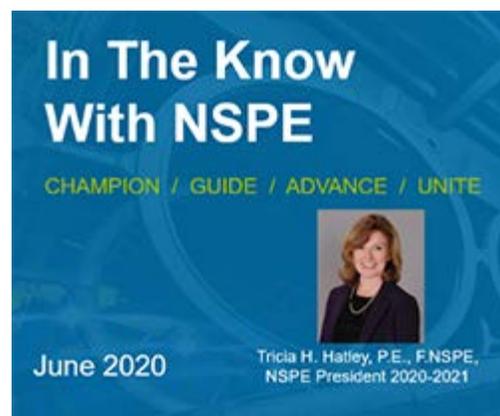


Excel Proposes Major Investment in Renewable Projects

As Minnesota's economy struggles through the COVID-19 pandemic, Excel has proposed almost \$3 billion in spending on mainly large renewable-energy projects, according to the *Star Tribune*. The proposal comes in response to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's request for the state's electric and gas utilities to explain how they could help the state recover from the pandemic. Among Excel's proposed projects is a new solar plant in Becker that would be at least four times larger than Minnesota's current largest solar array, the *Star Tribune* reports. [Read more.](#)

Are You “In the Know”?

Members who want to get a quick overview of the Society's news should check out the June “[In the Know with NSPE](#)” video on YouTube. The 15-minute presentation by President-Elect Tricia Hatley, P.E., F.NSPE, covers topics like the reopening of licensing and certification exams, *PE* magazine highlights, a breakdown of the Society's [strategic plan](#), [advocacy efforts](#) on behalf of PEs, the upcoming [Virtual Professional Engineers Conference](#), the Society's [statement](#) on social injustice, and the [Emerging Leaders Program](#).



Register for the *Virtual* PECon 2020

Registration is now open for the 2020 Virtual Professional Engineers Conference (PECon) on **August 3–7** with events centered around the annual celebration of [PE Day](#) on August 5.

Virtual PECon sessions can be experienced in a live virtual environment or by accessing recordings at a more convenient time. The virtual conference will also provide networking and social connection with colleagues by region and areas of practice in addition to professional development opportunities.



PECon at a Glance

- Keynote sessions featuring IBM’s Global Chief Technology Officer and the Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board
- Session: [Ensuring Successful Stakeholder and Community Involvement](#)
- Session: [Stormwater Pollution Prevention Planning: Compliance Guidelines for Your Facility](#)
- Session: [Professional Engineer’s Role in Artificial Intelligence and Technology](#)
- Session: [Ethics of Sustainable Design](#)
- Session: [Shrinking the Distance for Virtual Teams to Succeed](#)

There are three registration options:

1. **Single Session** provides individual one PDH sessions for \$39 (\$99 for nonmembers);
2. **Day Track** provides access to three PDH sessions, networking morning “coffee talk” roundtables, and evening post session discussions for \$99 (\$279 for nonmembers); and
3. **All-Access Pass** provides 15 PDH sessions with networking morning “coffee talk” roundtables each day and event post session discussions for \$249 (\$1,149 for nonmembers).

Nonmembers can join NSPE for \$299 and receive member pricing.

Virtual PECon 2020 Free for Students

NSPE is providing the opportunity for student members to participate in the upcoming **Virtual Professional Engineers Conference 2020** for free on August 3–7.

Student members who register for the conference can sign up for a track or an all-access pass and can also attend networking events, including morning coffee talks and evening round table discussions.

[Register now.](#)

[Register now to customize your attendance package for live events August 3–7.](#)

Call for 2020–21 Volunteers

NSPE needs your knowledge, expertise, and time to assist our organization carry out its [vision, mission, and meet the goals of the strategic plan](#). Volunteer positions begin in August and end at the annual conference in 2021.

These opportunities are organized into three types with various levels of engagement.

Engagement Level 1: Standing committees and select committees require the highest engagement level. They often involve attending at least one in-person meeting in conjunction with the annual meeting. Most meetings are held via conference call.

Engagement Level 2: These volunteer positions are responsible for organization activities and involve assignment to a committee, task force, or other group. Activities primarily include e-mail and conference calls.

Engagement Level 3: Ad hoc volunteers take part in activities on a project-by-project basis.

[Submit forms by July 15 to be considered for a 2020–21 term.](#)

Aiming for Leadership? This Program's for You

If you're starting your engineering career and looking toward a future of leadership, NSPE is excited to offer an opportunity to participate in the Emerging Leaders Program.

The NSPE Emerging Leaders Program is an intensive seven month, professionally facilitated, focused, practical, virtual program for emerging leaders. Between August 5 (Professional Engineers Day) and February 27 (National Engineers Week) participants will receive specific, relevant training and application on how to be successful at higher levels of leadership responsibility.

The target audience for the Emerging Leaders Program is for promising early-career professionals with 5-8 years of experience who are just beginning to lead and think strategically in the profession and their careers. The reality-based curriculum focuses on the core skills necessary to think strategically, build effective teams, deliver great service for their most valued clients, and lead successfully.

[Learn more and apply by July 1, 2020.](#)

Advocacy Opportunity: Speak Out for Future PEs

You have an opportunity today to advocate for the future of the engineering profession!

H.R. 5339 ([Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act](#)) amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow students with 529 Education Accounts to use those funds for expenses related to obtaining a post-education credential—including the PE license. Funds could be used for expenses associated with both exam prep and the exam itself.

The bill needs additional cosponsors in order to move forward. As NSPE's Government Relations team continues talking with House offices, your support of H.R. 5339 is crucial. The more support we have from NSPE members, the stronger position we're in to ask House Representatives to sign on.

You have the opportunity to take multiple actions if you'd like, [starting with writing a letter](#) , then following up with either a Tweet or a phone call. Or all three, if you're feeling especially ambitious!

Feel free to contact Stephanie Hamilton if you have any questions, or if you'd just like to talk about advocacy! Hamilton can be reached at 703-684-2844 or shamilton@nspe.org .

[Take action on H.R. 5339.](#)

To update your e-mail address, visit www.nspe.org and login to manage your account.

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