

## State News for NSPE Members

### MN Licensing Board Considers Early Exam Taking

As more states make the move to allow early taking of the PE exam, will Minnesota be next?

The Minnesota Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience and Interior Design is considering a rule amendment to allow licensure applicants to take the PE exam prior to gaining four years of professional experience. Applicants will still be required to complete all education, examination, and experience requirements before being granted a PE license.

The board is considering this action because it believes that allowing applicants the option of taking the exam prior to completing the experience requirement may encourage and facilitate emerging professionals to pursue the path to licensure without having to polish their exam-taking skills many years after graduating from a college degree program.

In 2005, Nevada became the first state to allow the early taking of the PE exam. The following states have followed suit: Arizona, California, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming.

To provide guidance to engineering professionals on the path to licensure, NSPE has published [When Can I Take the PE Exam? States Allowing Examination Before Experience](#), which covers the state-by-state details.

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### Refocusing for the Future

*By 2019–20 President David Martini, P.E., F.NSPE*

As I proudly begin my term as NSPE president, I look forward to the opportunity and challenges our organization will face during my term. Over the past year, under the leadership of President Michael Aiken, P.E., F.NSPE, we have spent a significant amount of time and resources developing a new strategic plan. The

product of this effort is a plan with four main areas of focus: driving growth, shaping public policy, educating for the future, and diversity and tomorrow's engineer. I am excited to be part of the implementation of this new plan because I believe it aligns very well with my personal experience and passion for the profession.

Membership is the engine that makes NSPE run. Like so many, I originally joined NSPE because I was invited to attend a chapter meeting. With that in mind, I think it's important for each of us to reflect on how our involvement in the organization started and to return the favor of inviting others to be part of this great organization. One thing that members and leaders frequently ask for, are tools to increase enthusiasm and engagement within the organization. NSPE is committed to empowering and equipping state societies by providing leadership, sales, and marketing tools. It is our goal to promote and celebrate the pride PEs have for their profession and to generate public appreciation for what PEs contribute to society. We will work to change the conversation from what we do to why we do it.

[Read more.](#)

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## **Iron Range Engineering Program Goes National**

What started as a program nearly a decade ago to address engineering talent pipeline challenges in northern Minnesota industries is now going national. Minnesota State University's Iron Range Engineering program is serving as a model across the nation to assist community college students with earning an engineering bachelor's degree in a cooperative learning program.

According to a [Mankato Free Press article](#), students have been enrolled for the fall semesters of 2019 and 2020 from two-year colleges in Ventura, California; Mobile, Alabama; and Sommerset, New Jersey in addition to dozens of other locations around the nation.

The Iron Range Engineering program, which will be known as the "Bell Program" in new localities, has received recognition for its innovative approach to growing the engineering profession and providing the technical skills that industries are demanding of their employees.

The program was featured in a [PE magazine article](#) to highlight how its "learning by doing" education model effectively engaged students and promoted professional licensure.

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## **Looking for a Good STEM Job? Head to Minneapolis.**

Minneapolis, Minnesota made the top ten list of metro areas that provide the best

opportunities for STEM professionals, according to a [Wallet Hub review](#), which analyzed and compared the 100 largest metro areas across 20 key metrics.

Seattle, Boston, Pittsburgh, Austin, and San Francisco lead the pack of metro areas.

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## Career Comebacks are an Option

Discussions around failures in engineering typically involve tragic events such as the St. Francis Dam failure (1928), the Tacoma Narrows Bridge collapse (1940), the Hyatt Regency Hotel walkway collapse (1981), and the space shuttle Challenger explosion (1986). Those failures certainly do matter when illustrating how important it is to be a competent professional engineer, but they are not the usual types of failures that an individual engineer will experience during his or her career. “Failure” can come in many forms: a disastrous presentation to a client, miscommunication that hampers the progress of a project, or a missed promotion due to poor performance or attitude.

Researchers and career development experts have found that not only is to err human, but it’s also good for the type of learning that can pave the way to thriving in your studies and career. In his book *Success Through Failure: The Paradox of Design*, renowned engineer and academic Henry Petroski, P.E., illustrates how success and failures are connected. There’s an important role in recognizing that mistakes will occur, and it’s essential to understand how to leverage them to navigate the path to successful design.

In a *PE* magazine article, NSPE-MN Past President Cameron Klos, P.E., and other NSPE members shared how they dealt with career challenges and used them to boost their professional growth.

[Read more.](#)

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## Advocacy Campaign a Success—But More Action Needed





 **Trish Hatley** @triciahatley - Aug 7. Met with Senator Inhofe's field rep @BrysonPanas this morning in our @FreeseNichols office to talk about the need to reduce licensure exemptions and how PE's help protect the public health, safety and welfare. [#LicensedPEday](#) [#PEDayAdvocate](#)

More than 100 NSPE members either met with or called their legislators and staffers on August 7 as part of the Society's Professional Engineers Day advocacy campaign. It was the largest such campaign in remembered NSPE history. PEs joined together to speak up for the importance of licensure and passage of a federal bill that would require PE oversight of utility pipelines, following the 2018 Merrimack Valley, Massachusetts, gas line explosion.

NSPE's Manager of Government Relations and Advocacy Stephanie Hamilton called the day "a strong success" as enthusiastic NSPE members worked to build lasting relationships that will help them be seen as experts on licensure and technical matters now and in the future.

However, the week before the campaign, the Senate version of the bill was added as an amendment to a larger pipeline safety bill and watered down to remove the PE requirement. According to Hamilton, the Society was "disappointed" and "dismayed" about this change to the Leonel Rondon Pipeline Safety Act, named after the teenager killed.

It's not too late to make a difference, however. NSPE members are urged to contact their legislators.

### Read More

- [PE article on the advocacy campaign](#);
- [Hamilton's column on the changes to the bill and how members can take action](#);
- [Popular Mechanics article highlighting the personal impacts of the deadly explosion](#).

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## 2019 Fall Webinar Series Open for Registration



Register now for the [2019 Fall Webinar Series](#) ! Develop your skills and earn continuing education credits this fall. Stay current on a variety of topics from the comfort of your home or office. Don't miss NSPE Deputy Executive Director and General Counsel Arthur Schwartz's Ethics Forum each month—register for individual webinars or [get a special bundle price](#) until **September 17**.

Sign up now for these webinars:

- [Ethics Forum: Conflicts of Interest - Employers and Clients](#)  
**September 18**
- [Leading Project Teams: Emerging Technologies and Smart Design](#)  
**September 25**
- [Mindfulness in Action](#)  
**October 2**
- [Ethics Forum: Conflicts of Interest - Vendors and Colleagues](#)  
**October 16**
- [Clients are from Venus, Consultants from Mars: A Guide to Effective Management of Consultants](#)

**November 6**

- [Ethics Forum: Conflicts of Interest - Serving the Public](#)

**November 13**

And don't forget that, as part of your NSPE membership, you also receive access to [15 free online seminars](#) .

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## Find Quality Candidates or a Great New Job



NSPE's online event for employers and job seekers will take place again on **October 2** from 11 am – 3 pm Eastern.

Whether you're an engineer just starting out or an experienced professional looking for a new opportunity, you can connect with employers from the comfort of your home, office, smartphone, or tablet. The event is free for job seekers.

Companies in search of top talent will be able to access professionals representing all engineering sectors around the country.

[Employers: Learn more and register.](#)

[Job seekers: Learn more and register.](#)

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