

TO: NSPE Board of Directors

cc: NSPE Committee, Task Force, Council and Interest Group Chairs
State Society Presidents and Presidents-Elect
State Society Executives Council
NSPE Past Presidents

FROM: Wendel Stewart, CAE
Interim Executive Director & COO

DATE: October 2, 2020

RE: Board Update: September 1–30, 2020

As the nation continues to navigate its way through the health pandemic and social and economic challenges, NSPE members and staff continue to remain vigilant in creating a world where the public can be confident that engineering decisions affecting their lives are made by qualified and ethically accountable professionals. Collectively, all efforts are focused on providing leaders in the profession, legislators, and the public with information and resources to respond to business and life-changing decisions. We must continue to remain resilient, forgiving and supportive of each so together we can come out of the above challenges stronger.

As mentioned in last month's report, the Executive Director Search Task Force was formed, and Immediate Past-President David Martini was appointed to serve as chairperson. Members of the task force included: Rick Guerra, President-Elect; Tricia Hatley, President; Adam Jones, SSEC President; Austin Lin, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Advisory Committee member; Stacey Ober, Director of Marketing (as staff representative); David McCullough, Northeast Region Director; Eric Strack, Emerging Leaders Task Force Chairperson; and Kodi Jean Verhalen, Past President.

Staff liaisons supporting the task force are Human Resources Director Elizabeth Ryan-Drewyer and myself.

The committee selected the executive search firm Vetted Solutions to partner with NSPE and lead this project. Vetted Solutions, led by President Jim Zaniello, are specialists in executive-level leadership searches for associations, including engineering and other scientific societies. As a specialist executive search firm, they provide highly personalized services that are tailored to each client's unique needs and will work closely with the committee to understand our needs for the next executive director and CEO. If you know of anyone who might be qualified and interested please have them contact Vetted Solutions directly at NSPEsearch@vettedolutions.com.

As we work through the process of selecting the next executive director and CEO, the board of directors and staff will be meeting virtually on October 1 and October 2 to update and revise the tactics and metrics of the current strategic plan. Everything possible is being done to stay on track when it comes to accomplishing the goals for each of the key focus areas: Driving Growth, Shaping Public Policy, Educating for the Future, and Promoting Diversity and Tomorrow's Engineers. While the above-mentioned challenges have created some bumps in the road, under President Hatley's direction, we continue to make great strides and adjust as necessary.

In the sections below, you will discover the various activities and accomplishments that the team (PEs, NICET engineering technicians and technologists, state societies, and staff) continues to work on in various segments of our Society.

Champion

Fireside Chat with Rep. Westerman: The Government Relations team held its final "Fireside Chat" on September 14. Congressman Bruce Westerman, P.E., was our guest, GR Policy Associate Margaret Edwards was the host, and the discussion was moderated by NSPE President Tricia Hatley. We had 50 attendees and a robust conversation about federal transportation legislation, the role PEs can play in sustainability, and the benefits of being a PE in elected office. We received very positive feedback from attendees, which prompted some brainstorming around how we can continue getting members of Congress in front of our members. Zoom meetings provide excellent opportunities for legislators and their staff to not only talk about what they're working on, but also to hear from NSPE members.

Michigan Bills Placed on Watch List: The Professional Certification Coalition held a member strategy call, during which it flagged a couple of bills in Michigan: H.B. 4488 on criminal history and S.B. 40, a sunset review bill that assumes market competition is sufficient to protect the public. H.B. 4488 passed the House on September 15 and is now in the Senate Committee on Regulatory Reform. S.B. 40 was introduced at the beginning of the year and hasn't moved much. Though there isn't much momentum on S.B. 40, the coalition wanted its members to be aware of it, given its "market competition" language.

ARPL Activity Update: Stephanie Hamilton, NSPE's manager of government relations and advocacy, gave a 45-minute presentation to the Illinois Society (via Zoom) about the Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing. The presentation gave an overview of ARPL's mission and NSPE's role as a founding organization. She also shared information about potential licensure threats in the 2021 legislative session.

Stephanie Hamilton participated in media training hosted by the [Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing](#). The 90-minute training, which covered best practices and mock interviews, was in preparation for

NSPE encourages states to use the information in this report in newsletters or other updates to their membership to inform members on the activities of NSPE. As a suggestion, it may be most useful to take the bullets of most interest from the transmittal email. The full report (and past reports) can always be found [online](#).

media opportunities with Hill staff and news outlets, and also so that ARPL coalition members have staff who are prepared to respond quickly to future media requests.

The Government Relations team participated in an ARPL discussion about licensing boards and how best to partner with them on state issues. The organizations representing architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, and CPA boards participated and shared some of the limitations that boards have regarding advocacy, and also some of the misconceptions regarding what they can and cannot do. It was decided that ARPL will develop informational material that the national board organizations can share with their members to educate them on the limitations so that we can partner more effectively in the fight against efforts to weaken licensure laws.

The team, through ARPL and CRAFT, helped draft a [letter to the editor](#) for President Tricia Hatley to submit to the *Oklahoman* newspaper, which appeared online on September 22. The letter was in response to an op-ed that also appeared in the *Oklahoman*, calling for relaxed licensure requirements in the wake of the pandemic. Thank you to President Hatley for helping us to quickly draft the letter and submit it! Shortly after the letter was published, the Government Relations team alerted Oklahoma Society members, encouraging them to share it with their elected officials and express their support for rigorous licensing standards for highly technical professions like engineering.

Licensure ‘Heat Map’: The Government Relations team had a strategy conversation with staff from NCEES and the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards regarding a “heat map” that NCARB develop, showing how active they expect each state to be on licensure issues in the coming legislative session. The map gives NSPE’s Government Relations team greater insight into where to focus their limited resources, time and attention in the coming year. As a follow up, government relations staff plans to reach out to the states identified as “highly active” and work to develop a strategy for responding quickly, or preemptively, to potential threats.

Emerging Technology Guide Released: A new [policy guide](#) from NSPE has added the professional engineer’s voice to the growing conversation around the safe development and deployment of emerging technologies. The guide’s safety recommendations begin with the premise that the public’s interests are best served when licensed professional engineers oversee the design, development, and/or deployment of emerging technologies. NSPE’s Emerging Technologies Task Force crafted the recommendations as a starting point for adopting standards that protect public safety and to provide guidelines to measure the safety readiness of technologies before they are deployed. The guide is intended for public policy decisionmakers, regulators, manufacturers, and others. NSPE strongly encourages the adoption of these recommendations and is available as a resource for information and drafting of regulations.

Guide

Fall Webinar Schedule is Filling Up!

[The Four Languages of Influence](#)

October 7, 2020

[Vintage/Heritage Trolley Cars in Transit Use - Past, Present, and Future](#)

October 14, 2020

[Too Many Crashes at Your Roundabout? Learn Design Techniques to Optimize Safety](#)

October 21, 2020

Did you miss our first webinar of the season? Get “[The Physics of the Yellow Traffic Signal – ITE’s First Recommended Practice](#)” in Shop NSPE.

Coming Soon: Be on the lookout for our annual Fall Ethics Webinar Series!

Advance

Emerging Leader Program: The Emerging Leader Program is off to a great start with sessions held September 2 and September 16. September focused on personal ownership and were introduced to the behaviors of cohesive teams. The group is reading *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team*. The books were sent to all participants free of charge through a grant by the NSPE Education Foundation. Participants have begun meeting with their mentors and discussing group projects. Projects align with the NSPE Strategic Plan. Groups will reach out to appropriate NSPE committees and staff with any questions in their particular focus. Projects currently being discussed are:

1. Young Member Attraction
2. Engineering and Public Policy
3. Educational Offerings
4. Student Members Beyond School
5. Promoting Diversity

On the Road to the Summit: The Road to the Summit, a leadership development program for state society volunteers, is underway. The first training session, covering the member lifecycle, was held September 17 with 51 attendees representing 29 states and territories. The training will be presented through online communities, video conferences and monthly meetings, and online resources in the Leadership Toolbox that will include checklists, program outlines, and prerecorded videos. Participants will work together to identify current issues and develop new resources to support strategic goals. The Road the Summit is a first and important step in the journey for NSPE and state societies to cooperatively drive growth. Learn more: [Road to the Summit Invitation and Schedule of Events](#).

Federal Engineer of the Year Award: [Nominations](#) are now being accepted for the Federal Engineer of the Year Award. This award honors engineers employed by a federal agency that employs at least 50 engineers worldwide. Deadline for applications is October

31. The luncheon and ceremony will take place February 18 at the National Press Club in Washington, DC.

If you know or work with a stellar federal engineer, look into this recognition. If you do a lot of federal engineering work, you may also want to consider [sponsorship](#).

EWeek, Girl Day, Future City: The 2021 Engineers Week has announced this year's theme of "Imagining Tomorrow." Engineers Week 2021 will take place February 21–27, 2021, and this year's focus will be on virtual role models, distance learning, and diversity and belonging.



Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day, or "Girl Day," will also carry this theme forward and will be held on February 25. The focus will also be on virtual role models and diversity and belonging, but it will also feature special editions of DiscoverE's "[Chats with Change Makers](#)" series.



This year's Future City Competition theme is "Living on the Moon." Future City has been reimagined for the coming year, and competitions will be virtual. Additional changes have been made to help facilitate a virtual program, including allowing teams to work remotely, a video presentation of their cities, and

models being presented in a slideshow format. There will be a live Q&A for the teams to answer questions about their models and presentations. Volunteers will be needed to serve as mentors and judges. These opportunities will be *virtual*, allowing you to participate from anywhere. If interested, please contact Jake Williams at jake@discovere.org.

The following are the important event dates to note. More information, and participation opportunities for members, will be shared as they become available:

- Chats with Change Makers – new "season" begins Sept. 25 and continues monthly
- Future City Competition – September through April
- The Persist Series (formerly Global Marathon) – begins January and continues monthly. More information to come.
- Engineers Week – February 21–27, 2021
- Girl Day – February 25, 2021
- World Engineering Day – March 4, 2021

Maintenance on NICET's Special Hazards Systems Nearing Completion: NICET regularly performs maintenance on exams to reduce the effects of question exposure, and to stay up to date with industry changes and codes and standards. In November 2019, NICET started maintenance on Special Hazards Systems with the Level IV exam, with a plan to work down through the levels. Even though COVID-19 restrictions caused delays and a change from in-person to virtual meetings, maintenance is almost complete. All of the updated exams are expected to be available in early 2021.

NCEES Speeds Transition to Computer-Based Civil PE Exam: The Principles and Practice of Engineering Civil exam is moving to computer-based testing, with appointments available year-round at Pearson VUE test centers (also used for NICET certification testing) beginning April 1, 2022. The exam will be offered for the last time in pencil-and-paper format in October 2021. Registration for the April 2022 CBT exam will open November 1, 2021. NCEES originally planned to complete the PE Civil exam's transition to CBT format in 2023 but fast-tracked the change as part of its response to COVID-19.

Unite

2020–21 Presidential Appointments and Committee Charges: President Tricia Hatley, P.E., F.NSPE, completed her [committee charges and appointments](#) for the administrative year. With a quick review of the document, you will learn more about the initiatives in which NSPE is investing and the names of dedicated volunteers who will work hard this year to complete the charges. Thank you to everyone who responded to the call for volunteers.

Nominations Open for VP, Treasurer: Nominations are now open for the positions of NSPE 2021–22 vice president and 2021–23 treasurer. The individual nominated for vice president will advance to president-elect in 2021–22 and president in 2022–23. The deadline for submitting nomination packages for either position is January 11, 2021. The NSPE nomination and election process is governed by NSPE Bylaw 16 and Operating Procedures. Copies of the relevant documents will be posted to the State and National Leaders Community and will be available in the [Governance section of the Leadership Toolbox](#). If you have any questions, email the NSPE Executive Office at executive@nspe.org. Please start now to assist your society in identifying outstanding, qualified leaders.

Reminder—Call for State Society and Regional (Virtual) Event Information: Obviously, the pandemic is restricting the travel of NSPE national officers to attend major meetings of each affiliated state society. These opportunities provided a meaningful way to meet face-to-face with state leaders and members, learn about best practices, share recommendations, and resolve issues of concern. That said, NSPE officers and state meeting organizers are finding innovative ways to collaborate as officers present PDH webinars, install state leaders, and provide updates on the NSPE Strategic Plan and current activities. To make certain the partnership continues during these unique times, state leaders should submit planned virtual events via the [Call for Event Submission form](#). Even if you do not have all the details, submit the form so we can “save the date” and make certain an officer is available to join you.

NSPE Bylaws and Policy Manual Updated: The NSPE Bylaws and Policy Manual, found in the [Leadership Toolbox/Governance](#) are updated to reflect the bylaw changes recently voted on at the [August 1, 2020 NSPE House of Delegates General Assembly](#). Delegates passed an amendment to NSPE Bylaw 24 (Electronic Voting Provisions and Procedures) to align electronic voting procedures governing actions taken

between meetings with the process of in-person voting at House of Delegates meetings. Please replace previously downloaded copies.

The current iteration of [NSPE's Strategic Plan](#) represents *both* continuity *and* change: continuity with the Society's unchanging goal of protecting the public health, safety, and welfare; and a recognition that we needed change in order to achieve more impact, through strategies backed by resources that will deliver real-world results.

COVID-19 has impacted all of us, but the organization remains focused on adapting to the externally imposed disruptions and remains active and effective in its continued pursuit of its mission.

Please remember, you always have access to numerous NSPE leadership resources in the [Leadership Toolbox](#). This includes [talking point](#) scripts and presentations for use by NSPE officers, board members, and other leaders during state visits, chapter meetings, or other venues to promote NSPE and its activities, updated on an at least quarterly basis.

The [State and National Leaders](#) community page is not only a direct means of engaging, sharing ideas, and asking for advice from your peers in leadership across the country, it is your link to data, reports, and analysis on membership, programs and activities to better inform and support your leadership duties at the national, state and chapter level.

Current board members can access an online library of board meeting materials (past, current and future) through the online board book site, ([BoardBookIt](#)).