

OhioENGINEER

Volume 83/Issue 3

The Official Publication of the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers

2023

Partnerships build bridges



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The Ohio Engineer (ISSN 0194-9276) is published quarterly by the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers. **Postmaster:** Send address changes to Ohio Engineer, 400 South Fifth Street, Suite 300, Columbus, OH 43215. Annual subscription rate \$25 (included in NSPE-OH membership dues). The Ohio Society of Professional Engineers is not responsible for the authenticity or accuracy of information provided herein. Published opinions and statements do not necessarily reflect the opinion of NSPE-OH. Products and services advertised, other than those offered as NSPE-OH member benefits, do not carry the endorsement of NSPE-OH. Publisher reserves the right to decline any advertisement that is deemed inappropriate. The sales representative for Ohio Engineer does not have final authority to determine whether an advertisement may be placed in Ohio Engineer. The ultimate determination as to the appropriateness of any advertisement is subject to the discretion of the NSPE-OH Public Relations Committee and the publisher acting in accordance with the guidelines established by NSPE-OH.

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LEADERSHIP VIEWS

by *Dennis Irwin, PhD, PE, FNSPE,*
President, Ohio Society of Professional Engineers



Engineering education as infrastructure

The theme for this issue of OhioENGINEER is "government and infrastructure." More specifically, we are including a feature article on the Brent Spence Bridge redevelopment plans. Indeed, when PEs talk about "government and infrastructure," we are largely discussing roadways, airports, transportation bills and, most recently, electric vehicles and the grid and charging stations to support them.

But there is *another* type of infrastructure, intimately involving government, that is perhaps most critical to our profession: that of the engineering education infrastructure. The people, the facilities (buildings and equipment), the curriculum, and the back-office support for education, on a yearly basis, of our new crop of engineering graduates. It may surprise you that a grade similar to the ASCE Infrastructure report card, if assigned to our engineering education infrastructure, might be about the same: a C-.

To explain, an update on the state of engineering education is necessary. For many years there has been a tendency to reduce the number of credit hours for all degree programs and engineering degrees are no different. For example, a 136-140 semester hour electrical engineering degree was common three decades ago. Now that degree is typically 126 hours or so, sometimes meaning almost a semester shorter and almost a semester less content, which is puzzling in a field in which the knowledge base is increasing rapidly.

Even within these thinner curricula, the ratio of engineering hours to general education hours has decreased. In an understandable response to these developments (usually imposed by a higher administrative level), cross disciplinary course requirements have largely gone by

the wayside. For example, no more do electrical engineers take statics, strengths, thermodynamics, and engineering materials, for the most part. There have been similar sacrifices in other disciplines, as well. And those that design the Fundamentals of Engineering exam have followed the lead. The FE no longer has a cross-disciplinary component. Visit the NCEES website at <https://ncees.org/exams/fe-exam/> for more information.

How did all this come about?

One answer is how funding models at all levels (federal, state, and university) have changed. It's certainly never been the case that the much higher cost of operating an engineering department or college has been duly recognized, but it has gotten much, much worse in the past few decades.

There are several reasons for this worsening. First, even when legislatures have recognized the importance and higher cost of engineering education by providing more funds per capita credit hour (and traditionally Ohio has done so), universities consistently ignored this by distributing funds more flatly among disciplines. In addition, in many institutions, discipline specific fees (often called technology fees) intended to somewhat offset the costs of lab equipment and supplies were disfavored or prohibited.

To make matters worse, over time the ratio of public funding versus tuition funding has decreased dramatically (often below 20 percent) and tuition charges are the same for every discipline. Thus, the differentiation that would simply be indicated by the cost of facilities and labs and by the higher compensation commanded

See Engineering Ed Infrastructure, page 3

On the cover:

Thanks to bipartisan leadership and funding from two federal grants, Ohio and Kentucky will break ground next year on the improved Brent Spence Bridge. The project, which will employ a progressive design-build process, will include the existing span for local traffic and a new span for interstate traffic.

See feature article, page 6.

Photo Credit: Bruce Hull/Ohio Department of Transportation



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NSPE-Ohio Past President Travis Rhoades, PE, is appointed to the NSPE Board of Ethical Review

NSPE-Ohio Past President Travis Rhoades, PE, has been appointed to the National Society of Professional Engineers' (NSPE's) Board of Ethical Review. Rhoades joins a distinguished group of licensed engineering professionals, recognized for its influential contributions to the study and guidance of ethical practices in the engineering field.

Rhoades' appointment comes as a testament to his extensive experience and unwavering commitment to the engineering profession. Serving a three-year term through June 30, 2026,



Rhoades will be representing NSPE-Ohio and the NSPE Central Region on the Board of Ethical Review.

The NSPE Board of Ethical Review, comprising seven licensed members appointed by the NSPE president, plays a crucial role in providing objective interpretations of the NSPE Code of Ethics, developing educational materials, and conducting studies related to the ethical dimensions of the engineering profession.

NSPE-Ohio President Dennis Irwin, PhD, PE, FNSPE, recognizes the fundamental challenges in ethics cases, stating, "Rarely do ethics cases have easy answers, and we appreciate the professionals who serve on the NSPE Board of Ethical Review to help bring clarity to the ethical issues engineers face. We are excited to see one of our own appointed

to this key role and look forward to his insights and expertise."

Rhoades also serves NSPE-Ohio as vice president of legislative and government affairs, chair of the ethics committee, and Ohio's representative to the NSPE House of Delegates. Through his leadership roles with NSPE-Ohio, Rhoades helps guide the legislative, educational and service activities for the engineering profession in Ohio.

With more than 22 years of extensive civil engineering experience, Rhoades is the new senior bridge engineer for Fishbeck and he's based in their Toledo office. He earned his bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from the University of Toledo in 2004.

Established in 1956, Fishbeck is a full-service engineering, architectural, environmental, and construction management consulting firm with over 600 employees. Fishbeck is one of the Top 500 design firms in the U.S. as ranked in Engineering News-Record.



From Engineering Ed Infrastructure, page 1

by engineering faculty were they to pursue employment in industry is in large part ignored by policy, intended or not.

If engineering education – that fundamental first step towards licensure and development as a PE – is to thrive, much of this must change and the PE profession must be proactive to make it happen.

The best way for a professional engineer to start influencing the higher education environment is to join and participate in one of the many advisory boards at the program, department, and college levels that are necessary to respond to the requirements by ABET accreditors to involve all stakeholder of individual programs in curricular design and other matters. Contact the program leaders, the department chairs, and the deans to find out how to do that. It's a bit different at every institution. Write me at ospe@ohioengineer.com for some guidance.

Certainly, there are other concerns about the state of higher education, but those outlined here are especially critical for engineering education.

Register by March 7 for The Engineer as Leader

Registration is now open for The Engineer as Leader virtual training taking place March 14-15, 2024. This training is worth 10 CPD hours. Now in its 56th year, the Engineers Leadership Institute is continuing its tradition of excellence with an invaluable program presented by leadership



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The Professional Engineers in Industry practice division of the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers is pleased to announce its 2024 Ohio New Product Award competition. If your company has developed a new product, machine, process or material, it may be eligible for this state-level competition. Award winners will receive significant recognition, including media coverage.

The purpose of the New Product Award is to stimulate and recognize the full spectrum of benefits that come from the research and engineering of new products or processes. These include added employment, economic development, strengthening of the nation's competitive position internationally and contribution to the public's standard of living.

Nominations are grouped according to the size of the manufacturing company. Winners will be selected in four firm size categories: Small (50 or fewer employees), medium (51 to 200 employees), large (201 to 9,999 employees) and mega (10,000 or more employees).

Judging is performed by the NSPE-Ohio-PEI Awards Committee. Nominations must be submitted via an entry form, which may be copied for multiple applications. A winner will be selected in each of the aforementioned firm size categories.

Download the New Product Award packet (including the entry form) at www.OhioEngineer.com. Please email admin@ohioengineer.com with any questions.

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WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these new NSPE-Ohio members from August 30, 2023, through January 4, 2024:

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by Ronald Poole, Ohio Department of Transportation

Partnerships build bridges

For two decades, political, business, and community leaders have talked about how to address congestion on the Brent Spence Bridge over the Ohio River. Presidents have stood in the shadow of the bridge to announce plans to do it, but those plans always fizzled.

In December of 2022, the Brent Spence Bridge Corridor Project, estimated to cost \$3.6 billion, was awarded a \$1.635 billion grant from the federal infrastructure law. The money allows for the rehabilitation of the current structure, a bridge stretching between Cincinnati and Covington, Kentucky. It will add a companion bridge and allow for numerous improvements to eight miles of the I-71/75 corridor and surrounding transportation system.

President Joe Biden joined U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky), U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), U.S. Senator Rob Portman (R-Ohio), Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, and Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear to announce the award for the project. These leaders represent a bi-partisan partnership without which the project could not come into being. It's an effort built on a foundation of cooperation and respect as much as it is on concrete and steel.

In July, Governors DeWine and Beshear announced a joint venture between Chicago-based Walsh Construction and Westerville, Ohio-based Kokosing Construction would be the design-build team on this massive project.

How it started

The Brent Spence Bridge opened in November 1963. Its opening was delayed by the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The bridge's namesake, Kentucky's longest serving congressman at that time, wanted to refuse the honor in favor of naming the span for the late president.

Over the years, the bridge became a heavily used mode of travel carrying twice as much traffic as it was originally designed to carry. Shortly after it opened, congestion began to be an issue on the bridge. To add a fourth lane to the bridge, the emergency shoulders

were removed in 1985. While this solved the capacity problem, it also resulted in significant backups due to a disabled vehicle or a crash on the bridge.

In November 2020, the bridge was the scene of a fiery crash involving two semi-trucks, one carrying hazardous materials, that closed the bridge. Inspectors found extensive damage, but determined the bridge could be saved and repaired. The emergency repairs took more than a month to complete during the busy holiday travel season. The bridge reopened on December 22.

A meeting of the minds

Currently, the bridge carries about 160,000 vehicles a day—double its designed capacity—on Interstates 71 and 75. It carries \$700 billion worth of freight each year. It has also been called the second-worst truck bottleneck in the nation.

Both the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) have maintained that the existing bridge is structurally sound and does not need replacing, but it is also severely over capacity. Nearly two decades ago, a project team consisting of representatives from both agencies was formed to explore solutions.

"We took into consideration how construction might affect local residents as well as travelers and freight haulers," reflected ODOT Director Dr. Jack Marchbanks. "We consulted with local communities on how this project would improve access to the central business districts of Cincinnati and Covington, Kentucky, and support underserved communities in historic neighborhoods on both sides of the river—and to do so with a plan that would shrink the project footprint on local communities and with fewer property acquisitions."

Improvements & benefits

The Brent Spence Bridge Corridor (BSBC) project will improve some eight miles of interstates 71 and 75 through Kentucky and Ohio. The existing Brent Spence Bridge will be rehabilitated and

reconfigured to accommodate local traffic exiting the freeway into Cincinnati or Covington. Enhancements will include replacing the bridge decks, completing spot repairs of the steel structure, and restriping the decks to restore the bridge's originally designed three lanes of travel in each direction. Emergency shoulders, once removed, will be restored on each side.

As a result of community engagement and technical analysis, improvements will be made to the current roadway network that ties into each river crossing. There will be enhanced pedestrian access across I-75 in Cincinnati to reconnect downtown with western neighborhoods, and the city of Cincinnati will regain nearly ten acres of land to develop in the downtown area. In Kentucky, the project will include a new storm sewer system that separates runoff from the highway to reduce flooding and improve local roads, including enhanced pedestrian and bicycle facilities. The current bridge will have a reduced speed limit set to a safer 45 miles per hour.

"This project doesn't just move vehicles, it moves people. We're able to reconnect neighborhoods to downtown Cincinnati, improve safety, and reduce congestion on this critically important route," said Marchbanks.

To address the increased need for capacity, the BSBC plan also calls for the construction of a companion bridge to the west of the existing structure. The new bridge will not only provide more capacity for traffic, but will also separate travelers based on their destinations; drivers taking short trips between Ohio and Kentucky can use the existing bridge, while those traveling through the area on the interstates will be directed toward the new span. There will be five lanes in each direction on the new bridge. An eight-mile approach to the bridge along the I-71/I-75 corridor will be reconstructed. Five of those miles will be on I-71/75 in Kentucky.

Overall, the project will be built in three phases, starting with the Ohio River crossing and the southern six miles

of the corridor. The second phase will improve I-75 from Findlay Street north to Linn Street, and the final phase will tie in a new Western Hills Viaduct to I-75.

To construct such an impressive and ambitious project requires a not-so-typical approach.

A new angle

The bi-state project team determined the project would need to be delivered using a “progressive design-build” method. Unlike construction projects awarded to the lowest-bidder, the progressive design-build contract was awarded based on qualifications, the best overall approach and value. This allows the design-build team the opportunity to collaborate with the bi-state project team and local stakeholders early in the process so potential risks can be assessed and mitigated.

“The progressive design-build process is the right delivery approach based on the complexity of this project,” said Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Secretary Jim Gray. “Working in collaboration with the contractor during the design process will bring more innovative design ideas to the table and improve the project overall.”

Funding

It’s only appropriate that a project of this scale would be made possible through a historic financing agreement. The once-in-a-lifetime competitive funding for this plan was made available through the passage of the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which invests billions of dollars to revitalize infrastructure and spur the economy.

“President Biden’s Investing in America agenda is moving critically needed projects forward in Kentucky, Ohio, and all across the country that will make travel safer, move goods to market more quickly, and improve the daily lives of countless Americans,” said Federal Highway Administrator Shailen Bhatt.

Ohio and Kentucky were awarded two federal grants: \$250 million from the new National Infrastructure Project Assistance discretionary grant program to go along with the \$1.38 billion from the Bridge Investment Program.

The journey begins

With funding secured, groundbreaking on the project is anticipated in

2024, with the new companion bridge slated to open in 2029. Kentucky and Ohio have signed an Interstate Cooperative Agreement that allows both states to begin preparing for construction. The agreement defines the roles and responsibilities for procurement, funding, construction, and maintenance of the project. Ohio and Kentucky will share the cost of the new bridge equally, and each state will be responsible for the needed work on its side of the river. Overall, expectations are high for a construction that will improve the quality of life for the millions of Americans who

use the federal highway system to travel between the two states and beyond.

“Our bi-state project team has spent a lot of time preparing for this work and reaching out to the public to ensure those within the project area have had a voice in the process,” said Marchbanks. “This project connects neighborhoods, states, and the nation. We can’t wait to get started.”

Ronald David Poole has been with the Ohio Department of Transportation since 1992. He works in the Division of Communications at ODOT’s Central Office.

NSPE-Ohio makes plans with chapters to celebrate National Engineers Week, February 18-24

For National Engineers Week, February 18-24, NSPE-Ohio leaders will travel to support chapters at their banquets and lunches. NSPE-Ohio is currently working to secure state-level government E-Week resolutions to share at the local celebrations. NSPE-Ohio President Dennis Irwin, PhD, PE, FNSPE, President-Elect Rod Wilson, PE, and Past President Travis Rhoades, PE, will present these resolutions at events in Central Ohio, Canton and Toledo, respectively.

Chapter leaders should plan to take advantage of the updated and NSPE-branded resources that are available for Engineers Week. These “plug-and-play” resources can be copied and pasted from NSPE’s website into social media, email templates, etc. These NSPE-branded resources can be accessed at <https://www.nspe.org/resources/partners-and-state-societies/engineers-week>.



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U.S. businesses agree lowering licensing standards raises their risk

In recent years, several state governments have considered the weakening or elimination of licensing requirements to alleviate workforce challenges. The proposals are often labeled as “pro-business,” but new research finds that many businesses have reservations.

Research released in 2023 by the Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing (ARPL) shows businesses are concerned that weak licensing standards may result in a rise in business risk.

They express strong concern that the proposals will create business challenges and even increase public exposure to harm.

ARPL partnered with the Benenson Strategy Group to survey 600 small and medium-sized business decision-makers, and learned:

- 85 percent would have less confidence in the competence of professionals.
- 84 percent would be concerned about increased public exposure to physical and financial risks.
- 84 percent would worry about hiring unqualified professionals that would jeopardize their reputation.

The research also finds that businesses value licensing standards and consider them critical for identifying and hiring

qualified professionals, building a strong reputation and keeping the public safe:

- 90 percent of businesses agreed that licensing protects and enhances their business reputation.
- 92 percent agreed licensing plays a crucial role in accurately assessing qualifications and making confident hiring decisions.
- 92 percent agreed that licensing ensures professionals meet continuing education standards.

Co-founded by NSPE, ARPL promotes a responsible, balanced approach to professional licensing.

Applications for EFO scholarships are due by February 15

The EFO scholarship program is underway. Applications are due to EFO@ohioengineer.com by February 15, 2024, at 5:00 PM. The brochure and application have been sent to Ohio high schools, college deans and NSPE-Ohio members. Download the materials, at <https://ohioengineer.com/index.php/Students-Educators/Scholarships>.

IN MEMORIAM: JIM KEARNS, PHD, PE (RET.)

The Ohio Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE-Ohio) is sad to share the news that Jim Kearns, PhD, PE (Ret.), passed November 5, 2023. Dr. Kearns was a past president of NSPE-Ohio, a long time leader in its Dayton Chapter, and a past president of the Engineers Foundation of Ohio. The year he was NSPE-Ohio president, his marketing/communications firm designed the Society's convention brochure, which won the 1996 Dayton Advertising Club's ADDY/HERMES Merit Award. He also annually supported the EFO Benefit Golf Outing to support education and scholarships.



Jim Kearns, PhD, PE (Ret.)

For 19 years, from 2005-2021, Dr. Kearns supported technology transfer with the Air Force Research Laboratory 711th Human Performance Wing. Previously, he worked for Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corporation, Wright Technology Network and Union Carbide. He also owned Kearns Communications Group for 14 years. Dr. Kearns was deputy director for FLC's (Federal Laboratory Consortium) Midwest Region, and he won two FLC Tech Transfer Excellence Awards. In 2021, he was presented with the George Linsteadt Award, the Department of Defense's highest technology transfer award. He held three patents and published technical papers. He earned his PhD from Iowa State University.

Dr. Kearns is survived by his son Ted (Corinne) Kearns and grandchildren, Claire and Graham, siblings and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife Nancy.

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EFO Golf Chair Steve Day, PE, FNSPE, thanks golfers for raising money for youth education, college scholarships & professional education

The Engineers Foundation of Ohio's 30th Benefit Golf Outing was a success for Ohio students (elementary school through college) who are reaping the rewards of the funds raised during a day of play. Ten golf teams and generous sponsors raised money for EFO educational programs: Imagine Engineering, Ohio MATHCOUNTS, scholarships, and the Engineers Leadership Institute. It was a pretty day at New Albany Links Golf Club and the EFO golfers said they had a great time! Congratulations to the 1st place team: **Stephen Prater** (captain), **Donald Bush**, **Ralph Litscher** and **Michael Louck**. Also, great job to the 2nd place team: **Chett Siefing** (captain) **Stace Bieber**, **Greg Holub** and **Brent McPherson**. Please watch www.OhioEngineer.com for plans for the 2024 Benefit Golf Outing, and plan to support EFO's invaluable work in engineering education by registering a team or sponsoring the charity fundraiser.



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Thanks, sponsors & golfers, for helping EFO impact 13K lives every year!

EFO benefits 13,000 Ohioans annually with quality educational programs. We could not reach so many Ohio students and professionals without the our loyal leaders, sponsors, golfers & volunteers. Thanks to these generous individuals and companies, EFO funds scholarships, introduces 2nd graders to engineering through the Imagine Engineering program, and delivers managerial training to practicing professionals through the Engineers Leadership Institute. With support from dozens of sponsors, the EFO Benefit Golf Outing is the Foundation's top fundraising event. Special thanks to EFO Benefit Golf Outing Chair **L. Steve Day, PE, FNSPE**, our county engineer co-chairs led by Fairfield County Engineer **Jeremiah Upp, PE, PS**, and EFO volunteers **Howard Jones, PE**, and **Deena Foley** and **Nina Puckett** of Ottinger & Associates CPAs.



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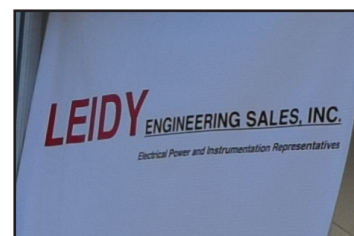
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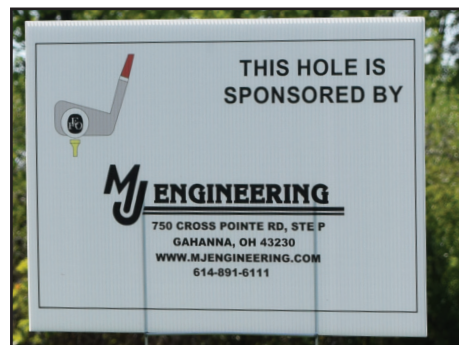


< On the course, golfers enjoyed refreshments from the beverage cart, sponsored by Sands Decker.



Thanks, GPD Group, for the Refreshment Break after golf!

< Cornell Robertson, PE, PS, Franklin County Engineer, was a VIP Sponsor.



Thanks, Jeremiah Upp, PE, PS, for sponsoring a hole, hosting two teams, and leading the support of the county engineer honorary co-chairs!



NSPE-Ohio President Travis Rhoades, PE, presents Society's awards



Citation: NSPE-Ohio's highest honor

Jeff Kennedy, PE, (right) receives the Citation from NSPE-Ohio President Travis Rhoades, PE (left). Kennedy, president of Shaffer, Johnston, Lichtenwalter & Associates, is a past president of NSPE-Ohio and he remains active in NSPE-Ohio and the Canton Regional Chapter. Through the Citation, NSPE-Ohio's highest honor, Kennedy is recognized for his distinguished leadership in the engineering profession and in appreciation of his selfless devotion to the highest ideals of service to society and to fellow man, and for sustained contributions to the technical and professional aspects of the engineering profession. NSPE-Ohio Past President Chett Siefing, PE, said, "For years, Jeff has been one of the very first people that we call to discuss various legislative concerns. Jeff has a wealth of experience, and he is not afraid to dig in and research an issue. He is reliable for delivering unfaltering, sound counsel."

Uncommon Engineer Award

Kevin Houser, PE, receives the Uncommon Engineer Award in recognition of his distinguished service to the engineering profession; devotion and commitment to NSPE-Ohio and his chapter; high standards of professionalism; and guidance in the role of a team player. Chair of NSPE-Ohio's Professional Engineers in Industry interest group, Houser holds BS degrees in mechanical and electrical engineering and an MS in mechanical engineering. He has more than 30 years of medical design experience.



Professional Engineering Management Award

Kevin Ernst, PE, won the Professional Engineering Management Award in recognition of his leadership, organizational and management skills in an engineering environment. Ernst serves as regional manager for Terracon Consultants, Inc., in the Columbus, Cleveland and Charleston, West Virginia offices. He has been employed with Terracon for more than 25 years and previously served as the firm's geotechnical department manager. A past president of both NSPE-Ohio and its Franklin County Chapter, Ernst earned his MSCE from the University of Rhode Island.



The Ohio New Product Award: Kevin Houser, PE, (left) chair of NSPE-Ohio's Professional Engineers in Industry interest group, and NSPE-Ohio President Travis Rhoades, PE, (right), present the Ohio New Product Award to Todd Hendricks, Sr., (center) of Pioneer Industrial Systems for the Robotic Maintenance Vehicle (RMV). By its nature, roadwork maintenance is very dangerous. The RMV eliminates this risk by eliminating the road crew entirely. The RMV is comprised of a robot, generator, crack sealer, vision system, air blow-off nozzles, controls and safety components integrated to a class 7 chassis to automatically crack seal roads and highways. Exceptionally innovative, it will have an immense impact on road maintenance throughout Ohio and beyond.



Legislator of the Year Award

State Senator Vernon Sykes (D-Akron) (left) was named NSPE-Ohio's Legislator of the Year in recognition of his joint sponsorship of Senate Bill 49 in the 134th Ohio General Assembly. This legislation allows a PE, PS, architect, or landscape architect who enters into a contract for services relating to commercial real estate to obtain a lien on the property. This important piece of law protects the valuable work that PEs and other design professionals perform for their clients. Pictured, Senator Sykes poses with NSPE-Ohio President Travis Rhoades, PE.

Star Chapter Recognition



Franklin County Chapter President Baba Yahaya, PE, received on behalf of his chapter an NSPE-Ohio Five-Star Chapter certificate in recognition of the chapter's fiscal year 2023 programming. Through the Star Chapter program, chapters may earn points toward stars by demonstrating their participation in programs, activities and services endorsed by NSPE-Ohio and the Engineers Foundation of Ohio.

Outstanding Engineering Educator Award

Sandra Anstaett Metzler, D.Sc., PE, a professor of practice in mechanical engineering at The Ohio State University, was named NSPE-Ohio's Outstanding Engineering Educator Award. Dr. Metzler works to help students develop into capable engineering practitioners, through integration of their of scientific and engineering knowledge into the framework of the engineering design process. In addition, she has a nationally-recognized consulting practice as an expert witness in the areas of product liability, biomechanical injury causation, and human factors engineering.



Outstanding Engineering Student Award

Ian Underburger is NSPE-Ohio's Outstanding Engineering Student. He was recognized as an accomplished student, carrying a 4.0 GPA in civil engineering at Ohio State. He future plans include a master's degree in structural engineering. President of the OSU Student Chapter of the Structural Engineers Association of Ohio, Underburger is also a member of the OSU Student Chapter of NSPE. He is also an Eagle Scout.



PROGRAMS: NSPE-OHIO AWARDS

Meritorious Service Award

Richard Henry, PhD, PE, won NSPE-Ohio's Meritorious Service Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the engineering profession through countless hours of work furthering the Society's goals and objectives. The president of Medway Technology, Inc., Dr. Henry is a past president and long-time member of NSPE-Ohio's Dayton Chapter. He is the former chair of the NSPE-Ohio's ethics committee, current chair of its Political Action Committee and an active member of its Legislative & Government Affairs Committee. >>>



Outstanding Engineering Achievement Award

Traffic engineer Doug Blegen, PE, PTOE, received NSPE-Ohio's Outstanding Engineering Achievement Award on behalf of ms consultants, inc., for the Stark Parks Fulton Road Multimodal Tunnel Project. Prior to this improvement, Fulton Road in Stark County was ranked in the top 15 for traffic accidents. High school students and faculty, as well as other pedestrians, had to cross a busy five lanes of traffic to access a newly-built amphitheater and library. ms consultants was hired to design a multi-use pedestrian tunnel, eliminating the risk of vehicle-pedestrian accidents. >>>



30-Year Service Award

NSPE-Ohio Executive Director Tim Schaffer (left) receives a surprise 30-year service plaque from Past President Chett Siefing, PE, (center) and President Travis Rhoades, PE (right). Since December 1993, Siefing said, "Tim has overseen NSPE-Ohio providing clearheaded guidance as our Board of Directors navigated recessions and the COVID-19 pandemic, while also developing and implementing countless innovative programs that have led to three decades of prosperity." Rhoades noted that Schaffer is a devoted champion of Ohio's professional engineers saying, "He believes in us and the invaluable nature of the services we provide society."

Young Engineer of the Year Award

Jared Alexander, EI, the electrical project manager for Wright Engineering, was named NSPE-Ohio's Young Engineer of the Year in recognition of his outstanding leadership and his support of NSPE-Ohio and his chapter. Past president of the Akron District Chapter, Alexander's leadership was instrumental in planning the regional Engineering Professional Recognition Ceremony to recognize the achievements of new, local PEs and Engineer Interns. Alexander also coordinates the Chapter MATHCOUNTS program.



PROGRAMS: EFO AWARDS

Aurea Rivera, PE, presents two EFO President's Awards



Photo 1

Photo 1: EFO President Aurea Rivera, PE, PMP, PMI-ACP, presents Joseph V. Warino, PE, PS, FNSPE, with the President's Award. In addition to supporting EFO's Imagine Engineering and Ohio MATHCOUNTS programs through NSPE-Ohio's Mahoning Valley Chapter, Warino has been a loyal supporter of the Foundation's fundraising efforts through its Benefit Golf Outing. A past president of EFO, Warino is also a past president of NSPE-Ohio and Mahoning Valley Chapter. He also served as NSPE-Ohio's longtime VP of legislative and government affairs. He retired from his career as Canfield's City Manager.



Photo 2

Photo 2: EFO President Aurea Rivera, PE, PMP, PMI-ACP, presents John Enderle of Terracon Consultants, Inc., with the President's Award. For many years, Enderle has been a loyal supporter of the Foundation's fundraising efforts via the Benefit Golf Outing, which benefits youth education, scholarships and professional education. Enderle is a senior project manager in the Columbus, Ohio, office of Terracon. Throughout his career, he has been extensively involved with geotechnical engineering, testing and inspection and construction projects.



Engineers Week Overall Observance Award



Together, two Toledo Regional Chapter leaders – Joe Cherry, PE, FNSPE, (left) and Fred Tito, PE, FNSPE, (center) – receive the Engineers Week Overall Observance Award from NSPE Ohio President Travis Rhoades, PE (right). The Toledo Regional Chapter of NSPE-Ohio is well established in providing multiple Engineers Week programs, including a local MATHCOUNTS Competition for middle school students, an Engineer-for-a-Day Program, an Engineer-of-the-Year Award Luncheon and an Engineers Week Banquet. Their 2023 win marks the 28th consecutive year that Toledo Regional Chapter brought home this award. *Congratulations also to the Franklin County Chapter for their exemplary nomination!*

Ohio Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE-OH) Member,

The complete text of the NSPE-OH Constitution is shown in this issue of *OhioENGINEER*.

The NSPE-OH Board of Directors proposes and recommends your approval of changes as marked within. Any recommended deletion will be shown as a red strikethrough, and any new language will be shown in bold red.

Voting Instructions

Please study these changes and return this original ballot so it is received at ospe@ohioengineer.com or NSPE-OH, 400 South Fifth Street, Suite 300, Columbus, OH 43215-5430, no later than **Friday, March 15, 2024, 5:00 p.m.**

Mark your vote below and provide your name, signature, member number, address and chapter. Your signature and member number are necessary to validate your vote.

Ballot

The NSPE-OH Board of Directors recommends a vote of "Yes" to accept the changes to the NSPE-OH Constitution as proposed.

All Articles with Changes

- ☐ **Yes**, I vote in the affirmative for the changes in the NSPE-OH Constitution Articles as proposed by the Board of Directors.
- ☐ **No**, I vote in the negative for the changes in the NSPE-OH Constitution Articles as proposed by the Board of Directors.

Print Name _____

Signature _____

NSPE-OH Chapter _____

NSPE Member Number _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Ohio Society of Professional Engineers

Constitution

Preamble

Recognizing that service to the public, to the state, and to the profession is a fundamental obligation of the professional engineer, the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE hereafter known as NSPE-OH) does hereby dedicate itself to the promotion and protection of the profession of engineering as a social and economic influence vital to the health, safety and welfare of the community and all mankind.

Professional surveying is as equally significant in importance and hereinafter is considered of equal stature with engineering. ("Surveyor" and "surveying" are included by reference in "engineer" and "engineering" as used hereinafter, except where they obviously do not apply, such as "professional engineer" or "engineer-in-training.")

Article 1 Name

- A. The name of this organization shall be the "Ohio Society of Professional Engineers", hereinafter called NSPE-OH.
- B. NSPE-OH shall be incorporated as a non-profit organization under the laws of the State of Ohio.
- C. NSPE-OH shall be a member state society of the National Society of Professional Engineers, hereinafter called NSPE, and hereby accepts the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of said NSPE.
- D. NSPE-OH subscribes to and supports the Code of Ethics of NSPE.

Article 2 Objectives

- A. The objectives of NSPE-OH shall be:
1. Advancement and promotion of the public health, safety and welfare.
 2. Encouragement of all qualified engineers to seek legal status through registration.
 3. Stimulation and development of professional concepts among all engineers.
 4. Uniting of all qualified engineers of the state in one organization.
 5. Advancement of the professional, social and economic interests of the professional engineer.
 6. Promotion of high standards of the engineering profession in governmental matters.
 7. Representation for the engineering profession in governmental matters.
 8. Cultivation of public appreciation for the work of the professional engineer through improved public relations.
 9. Development of a civic consciousness by members of the engineering profession.
 10. Establishment and preservation of high standards of ethical conduct in all professional matters.

Article 3 Chapters

A. Engineers

1. The membership of NSPE-OH may be organized into chapters. The Board of Directors, defined in Article 6 and hereinafter called Board, may authorize and charter such chapters defining geographical boundaries as may best serve the members of NSPE-OH.

Each chapter thus formed shall have a minimum of twenty-five voting members, which are defined as persons meeting membership requirements as set forth in Article 4, except students, and shall not be delinquent in dues payment to NSPE-OH

or NSPE. All members of each chapter shall be members of NSPE-OH and NSPE.

2. The Board shall make rules and regulations for chartering, combining or dissolving chapters. (These rules shall be expressed in the Bylaws.)

3. Each chapter chartered by NSPE-OH shall adopt such Constitution and Bylaws for its operation as it may deem proper; provided that nothing contained therein shall conflict with or contravene the Constitution and Bylaws of NSPE-OH. Such Constitution and Bylaws and any changes thereto are subject to approval of the Board.

4. Chapters shall engage only in such activities as are consistent with professional ~~ideas~~ **ideals** and ethics. Such activities shall be restricted to the area for which the chapter is chartered, except as the Board may authorize.

5. In all matters of local concern not covered by this Constitution and Bylaws, chapters shall retain full autonomy, but may call upon NSPE-OH and NSPE for advice, counsel and assistance.

6. Each chapter shall be represented on the Board of NSPE-OH as provided in the Constitution and Bylaws of NSPE-OH.

7. No chapter in any way can contract any debt or obligation on behalf of NSPE-OH unless expressly authorized by the Board.

8. The fiscal and administrative years of the chapters should be concurrent with those of NSPE-OH.

B. Students

1. Student Members in engineering colleges and universities may be organized into student chapters as provided by the Bylaws.

Article 4 Membership

A. The membership shall consist of various membership grades as defined by NSPE and as outlined in the Bylaws.

B. Any person becoming a member of NSPE-OH shall agree to abide by the Constitution, Bylaws and the Code of Ethics of NSPE-OH and NSPE. All members are subject to election, suspension, discipline or termination of membership.

C. Any applicant who has been refused membership shall have the right of appeal to NSPE in cases of tiered (NSPE, NSPE-OH) membership applications and the NSPE-OH Executive Committee in cases of associate (state-only) membership applications. (Tiered membership is the standard; there is no state-only **membership** currently allowed.)

D. All NSPE-OH members shall have voting privileges in NSPE-OH. Only licensed members may hold elected offices in NSPE-OH.

E. All members of NSPE-OH's chapters shall be members of NSPE-OH.

Article 5 Dues

A. The dues of NSPE-OH shall be determined by the Board and stated in the Bylaws. Dues for the various grades of membership shall be in addition to NSPE dues as prescribed in the Constitution and Bylaws of NSPE.

B. The procedure for billing and collecting all dues shall be determined by the Board and stated in the Bylaws but shall be consistent with NSPE's requirements.

C. The schedule and conditions for dues payment, delinquency, dropping from membership and reinstatement shall be determined by the Board and stated in the Bylaws, but shall be consistent with NSPE's requirements.

Article 6 Board of Directors

A. NSPE-OH shall be administered by a Board of Directors which shall determine all questions of policy and ~~shall~~ administer its affairs under this Constitution and the general provisions of the law

under which it is incorporated.

B. The following shall comprise the voting members of the Board of Directors:

Executive Committee
~~one~~ **One** director from each currently chartered chapter
~~the~~ **The** chair from each practice division
~~the~~ **The** national director
~~young~~ **Young** engineer (1)
NSPE-OH PAC Chair (1)
Investment Committee Chair
Constitution & Bylaws Committee Chair

The following shall comprise the nonvoting members of the Board of Directors:

~~Chair of the State Auxiliary~~ **(1)**
President of the State Student Council (1)

The "National Director" is the designated NSPE-OH representative to the NSPE House of Delegates (HOD).

C. All voting members of the Board of Directors shall be members in good standing of the NSPE-OH and the NSPE.

D. Any person who is entitled to Board representation and authorized to represent in more than one capacity shall vote in single capacity for the highest office to which elected.

E. The Board shall direct the investment and care of funds for NSPE-OH, ~~shall~~ adopt an annual budget, and ~~shall~~ make appropriations for specific purposes. The Board shall be empowered to invest and reinvest such funds as may be available for the creation of a reserve fund. Expenditures from the reserve fund other than for investment or reinvestment shall require an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the Board of Directors present and voting.

F. The Board is authorized to appoint an executive director, when the financial and other conditions warrant, to fix the compensation, and to define the duties. (See Bylaws)

G. No officer of NSPE-OH shall receive a salary or compensation, except for expenses incurred on behalf of NSPE-OH as approved by the Board.

H. Within the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws, the Executive Committee shall act for the Board between Board meetings. All action of the Executive Committee shall be reported to the Board and approved or disapproved or modified by said Board.

Article 7 Officers & Executive Committee

A. The officers of NSPE-OH shall comprise the Executive Committee, members of which shall be determined by the Board and outlined in the Bylaws.

1. The duties of the officers shall be defined in the Bylaws.

2. All officers shall be installed at the annual meeting or convention and take office (seated) July 1 (administrative year) and hold office until their successors have been duly elected, installed and seated.

3. Should a vacancy occur in the office of president; the president-elect shall assume the office. Other vacancies among the elected officers occurring during the year shall be filled from the unexpired term by election by the Board. Vacancies in state chapter directors on the Board shall be filled by the affected chapter. Vacancies in the representative of each practice division shall be filled by the affected practice division. Vacancies in a national director position on the board shall be filled by the Board of Directors in accordance with the Bylaws.

4. Each practice division shall be chaired by a chair who shall be elected by the practice division for a term of office determined by that practice division.

Article 8 Nomination and Election of Officers

A. All officers, chapter directors and nonvoting members shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the voting members of NSPE-OH, except in the case of practice divisions, in which the members of each practice division shall elect their own officers.

Article 9 Meetings

A. NSPE-OH shall hold an annual meeting at such time and place as may be selected by the Board, which meeting shall be open to all members and their guests.

B. Special meetings of the voting members of NSPE-OH shall be called by the president on two-thirds vote of the Board, or upon petition by 50 voting members of NSPE-OH, or by 10 percent of the membership, whichever is the smaller number.

C. The Board shall meet in accordance with the requirements in the Bylaws.

Article 10 Headquarters

A. The location of the headquarters of NSPE-OH shall be determined by the Board.

Article 11 Committees

A. Such committees as may be desirable shall be established in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Bylaws.

B. The duties of all committees shall be defined by the Board in the Bylaws.

Article 12 Practice Divisions

A. To further the objectives of NSPE-OH, establishment of practice divisions is authorized.

B. The Board may sanction the creation or order the dissolution of practice divisions according to provisions defined in the Bylaws.

Article 13 Amendments

A. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by a majority of the Board, or by a petition signed by not less than 10 percent of the voting members of NSPE-OH. Constitutional amendments submitted by petition shall be reviewed by the Board before being submitted to the secretary for ballot. The findings of this review may be transmitted to the members at the discretion of the Board.

B. Proposed amendments to the Constitution, together with a ballot, shall be transmitted by the Ohio Engineer to each voting member, providing thirty (30) days, from the date of the transmission, to vote on said amendment.

C. A Constitutional amendment shall become effective, as prescribed in Article 15, upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the votes cast by the voting members.

Article 14 Bylaws

A. The Board shall prepare and adopt a series of Bylaws which shall govern all procedures under this Constitution, including those of the Board and of the committees.

B. The Bylaws may be amended by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Board of Directors, or two-thirds of a weighted ballot (if used); provided that the text of the proposed amended Bylaw shall be mailed or electronically transmitted (as directed by the member) to each director at least 20 days before the meeting at which a vote on the amended Bylaw will be taken. Amended Bylaws become effective immediately upon approval.

Article 15 Effective Date

A. This Constitution shall become effective upon its adoption by the voting members of NSPE-OH.

B. Any amendment to this Constitution, adopted according to the procedure specified herein, shall become effective 30 days after deadline for the receipt of the ballot.



The importance of PE licensure

At the Statehouse in October, the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE-Ohio) made a compelling case for the continued support and maintenance of the state's occupational licensure standards for professional engineers.

On behalf of NSPE-Ohio, President Dennis Irwin, PhD, PE, FNSPE, delivered testimony to the House State and Local Government Committee. Through the Society's testimony, Irwin highlighted the indispensable nature of the Ohio PE license and the effective oversight of PE licensure provided by the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors.

NSPE-Ohio prepared its testimony for the House State and Local Government Committee as that body, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 101.63, held hearings with a view "to review, consider, and evaluate the usefulness, performance, and effectiveness" of our State Board of Registration.

To follow, I delve into the critical aspects of the Ohio General Assembly's review of state occupational licensing boards. I also highlight why NSPE-Ohio fervently champions rigorous standards for PE licensure and supports the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors.

The Ohio General Assembly reviews state occupational licensing boards

Ohio Revised Code 101.62 stipulates that each occupational licensing board must undergo a comprehensive review process, referred to as the "occupational licensure review." The law dictates that these reviews occur over six years, covering specific calendar years. The review process is designed to evaluate the performance and effectiveness of these boards, ensuring that they continue to serve their intended purposes.

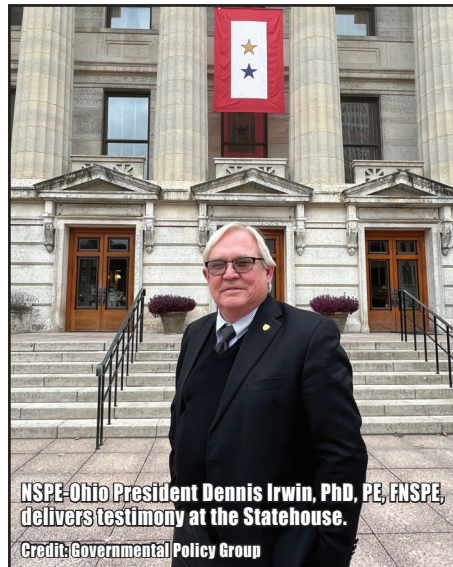
Approximately 33 percent of Ohio's occupational licensing boards are subject to review in each biennium. The Ohio House and Senate both play a role in reviewing these boards, with one chamber responsible for odd years and the other for even years. The review culminates in the publication of a report with findings and recommendations, potentially leading to legislative changes in the form of bills presented to the general assembly.

The significance of PE licensing

NSPE-Ohio's testimony before the House State and Local Government Committee underscored the importance of

professional engineering licensure in Ohio. Professional engineers play a pivotal role in ensuring the safety, reliability, and sustainability of the state's infrastructure. They are responsible for designing, planning, and overseeing the construction of critical projects, from bridges and roads to water treatment facilities and energy systems.

The professional engineer's license is a testament to their high level of competency in engineering work, and it is an essential requirement for those practicing engineering in Ohio. NSPE-Ohio emphasized the role of professional engineers in mitigating environmental impacts and fostering innovation, both of which contribute to attracting investment in the state.



The State Board of Registration's role

The State Board of Registration is the governing body responsible for issuing and regulating PE licenses in Ohio. In testimony, NSPE-Ohio highlighted that the State Board of Registration is highly effective. In upholding the state's engineering laws and rules, the State Board of Registration is an accountable steward for the protection of the public, and the Board's dedication to maintaining the integrity of the profession was commended.

In addition, the State Board of Registration is accessible, sensible and efficient for PE applicants and registrants. The State Board has adapted to the changing landscape of the engineering profession, including the growth of the digital age, the global economy, and non-traditional education models. Their collaboration with NSPE-Ohio and the National Council

of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying has been instrumental in ensuring that licensing standards keep pace with evolving industry needs.

NSPE-Ohio also addressed the competitive nature of Ohio's professional engineering licensing standards. Currently, the state boasts one of the lowest individual license renewal fees in the United States, with a \$40 biennial renewal fee that has remained unchanged for decades. This affordable licensing fee ensures that professional engineers are not burdened by excessive costs while maintaining their licensure.

Additionally, Ohio's continuing education requirements for professional engineers were cited as being on par with those of other states. These requirements can be met through in-person or online courses, allowing engineers to tailor their professional development to their specific needs. This flexibility encourages lifelong learning and ensures that professional engineers stay up to date with the latest developments in their field.

NSPE-Ohio urges General Assembly to maintain Ohio's current 'responsible and responsive' oversight of engineers

In delivering NSPE-Ohio's testimony, President Irwin urged the members of the House State and Local Government Committee to support Ohio's professional engineers and maintain the current high standards for professional engineering licensure. The continued support for a responsible and responsive State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors was seen as crucial to the profession's success and the protection of the public interest.

Conclusion

The Ohio General Assembly's review of the State Board of Registration is a process that allows the state to ensure that the Board continues to uphold its intended purpose in safeguarding the public while also supporting the administrative needs of registrants and helping Ohio prosper.

NSPE-Ohio's testimony in October underscored the essential role of PEs and highlighted the State Board of Registration's commitment to regulating the profession while remaining adaptable to changing times. Ohio's competitive licensing standards and low renewal fees make the state an attractive place for PEs to practice and maintain their licenses.

NSPE-OH bill tracking summary *

LEGISLATIVE INTENT-STATE FUNDING, House Bill 2 (Cutrona, Upchurch)	To declare the intent of the General Assembly to direct state funds to projects across the state for economic growth and community development.	<u>Status:</u> 2/16/2023 - Referred to Committee: House Finance
LEGISLATIVE INTENT-ECONOMIC BOYCOTTS, House Bill 4 (Young, King)	To declare the General Assembly's intention to enact legislation regarding financial institutions and other businesses that conduct economic boycotts or discriminate against certain companies or customers based on certain factors.	<u>Status:</u> 11/14/2023 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED; House Financial Institutions, (First Hearing)
TRANSPORTATION BUDGET, House Bill 23 (Edwards)	To make appropriations for programs related to transportation for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of those programs.	<u>Status:</u> 3/31/2023 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. 3/31/23
WORKERS' COMPENSATION BUDGET, House Bill 31 (Edwards)	To make appropriations for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025, to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of the Department's programs, and to make changes to the Workers' Compensation Law.	<u>Status:</u> 6/30/2023 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. immediately
INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION BUDGET, House Bill 32 (Edwards)	To make appropriations for the Industrial Commission for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of Commission programs.	<u>Status:</u> 6/30/2023 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. immediately
FY24-25 OPERATING BUDGET, House Bill 33 (Edwards)	To make operating appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025, to levy taxes, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs.	<u>Status:</u> 12/13/2023 - Consideration of Governor's Veto; House Overrides Veto, Vote 60-31
POLITICAL SUBDIVISION PURCHASE OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, House Bill 145 (Hall, Lampton)	To expand political subdivision joint purchasing authority to expressly include purchases for construction services.	<u>Status:</u> 6/20/2023 - House State & Local Government, (Third Hearing)
TIMELY PAY OF CONTRACTORS, House Bill 203 (Roemer Sweeney)	To require owners of private construction projects to timely pay contractors.	<u>Status:</u> 12/13/2023 - Referred to Committee: Senate Workforce & Higher Education
COUNTY ENGINEER QUALIFICATIONS, House Bill 215 (Johnson)	To modify the qualifications of county engineers in certain counties.	<u>Status:</u> 6/26/2023 - Referred to Committee: House State & Local Government
REVISE, STREAMLINE OCCUPATIONAL REGULATIONS, House Bill 238 (Fowler, Klopfenstein)	To revise and streamline the state's occupational regulations.	<u>Status:</u> 12/6/2023 - House State & Local Government, (Third Hearing)
INTERSTATE INTERCHANGES REQUIREMENTS, House Bill 276 (Miller, Ray/ Senate Bill 155 (Romanchuk)	To remove the requirement that the Department of Transportation construct certain interstate interchanges.	<u>Status:</u> HB 276: 10/17/2023 - House Economic & Workforce Development, (Second Hearing) SB 155: 11/15/2023 - Senate Transportation, (Second Hearing)
URGE CONGRESS - CREATE INFRASTRUCTURE BANK, House Resolution 108 (Grim, Brennan)	To urge the United States Congress to create a National Infrastructure Bank to finance urgently needed infrastructure projects.	<u>Status:</u> 4/25/2023 - Referred to Committee: House Infrastructure
PURCHASING AUTHORITY-CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, Senate Bill 23 (Lang)	To expand political subdivision joint purchasing authority to expressly include purchases for construction services.	<u>Status:</u> 4/19/2023 - REPORTED OUT, Senate Government Oversight, (Fourth Hearing)
LAW CHANGES-BUILDING INSPECTIONS, Senate Bill 41 (Roegner)	To make changes to the law relating to building inspections.	<u>Status:</u> 10/3/2023 - House Economic & Workforce Development, (Third Hearing)
ELECTRONIC LICENSING APPLICATION REQUIREMENT, Senate Bill 44 (Brenner)	To require a state occupational licensing agency to accept electronic license applications.	<u>Status:</u> 6/20/2023 - Referred to Committee: House State & Local Government.

* This is a partial list of the bills that the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers is tracking.

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improve engineering team
performance & cohesion,
and situational leadership.

Tuition:
\$154 for NSPE/OSPE members
\$220 for nonmembers

Register by March 7
www.OhioEngineer.com

