

# Kansas Professional Engineer News

The official publication of the Kansas Society of Professional Engineers

## March/April 2020

**NSPE-KS**<sup>TM</sup> KANSAS SOCIETY OF  
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

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Above: KSPE Government Relations Committee meeting at the end of February.



**KANSAS PROFESSIONAL  
ENGINEER NEWSLETTER**

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Select Engineers Foundation of Kansas as your preferred charity when you shop.

# ADDRESSING COVID-19

KSPE recognizes the growing concern associated with the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) as federal, state and local governments work to minimize risk and prevent its spread. We are closely following the guidelines set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and our public health officials.

To that end, KSPE is postponing the 2020 PEG Seminar scheduled for April 1 in Wichita for a date to be determined. KSPE will be issuing refunds for attendees that have registered for the event. We also urge our society chapters to follow CDC recommendations regarding upcoming meetings this spring. No other changes have been determined for future KSPE state events at this time.

KSPE staff remains committed to maintain membership services without interruption. We are equipped with technology services and solutions that allow us to continue serving you from our Topeka office or in the event staff must work from home. KSPE has a dedicated conference call line available for committees and chapters to continue necessary business while avoiding in-person meetings. For assistance in this area, please contact our office at 785-233-2121 or [info@kansasengineer.org](mailto:info@kansasengineer.org).

We will keep our membership abreast of updates as soon as it becomes available. We urge our members to use caution and stay safe during the following weeks.

Stay safe,  
KSPE Staff

## A Message From Your 2019-2020 KSPE President

Greetings from Wichita!

This is my second attempt to write this message. The first message I submitted about two weeks ago was full of talk about March Madness, upcoming conferences and seminars, and other (at the time) pertinent info. It is scary to realize how much can change in a very short amount of time. Here in Sedgwick County, talk has started about working from home, and other ways to avoid contact with people. Technology will play an important role in the coming months as we utilize work from home connections, video conference calls, and online review tools.

I've been through some recent health issues just before all this began, and it has really made me pause and take stock in what is important in my life. Playing catch with my son or watching a movie with my daughter are no longer things I take for granted. A good work-life balance has always been important to me, but even more so now. It's easy to get bogged down in the everyday mundane, and it's important to stop and enjoy the small things while we can.

I know parts of the state have been dealing with this situation longer than others. I feel like this is going to affect us all, in all parts of the state, in many ways. We will be recovering from this for a long time, economically, financially, and in general health. The good thing about our state is we will make it through and come back stronger.

Until next time, stay healthy!



Jessica J. Rhein, P.E.  
2019-2020 KSPE President



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

KSPE Members,

Greetings from KSPE World Headquarters! The new decades continue to offer countless opportunities for KSPE. We have many updates to share but first we want to thank you for your continued support of KSPE that enables us to provide and operate efficiently for you.

KSPE is working on multiple fronts. The 2020 Legislative Session has reached its halfway point, known as Turnaround, with many issues of interest for the Society. Licensure issues have dominated KSPE advocacy efforts, fueled by stakeholders questioning the role of licensure and asserting the claim it provides barriers to employment. Our legislative update in this publication provides more information on the licensure, transportation and other legislative issues under the dome.

Our office sends out weekly legislative updates on Fridays. We hope you take a few minutes to look them over. Our Government Relations Committee, led by Travis Stryker, is meeting monthly in the KSPE office to review the status of the legislative session. We usually have a legislator join us for lunch to discuss their view of our issues. Thanks to all involved for the support!

The Society has several important events on the horizon. Our 2020 Annual Conference will be in Olathe on June 3-5. Registration will open April 1. If you are not already an annual partner sponsor, please consider being a sponsor of this event. We hope to see you all there! We just finished the Water Quality Seminar, which is a combined day event with ACEC Kansas and KDHE. We had over 60 people attend with a lot of positive feedback. Thanks to all that took the time to attend!

We also just finished E-Week, which encompassed very exciting events across the state. The KSPE Eastern Chapter held its annual lunch in Kansas City with the MSPE Western Chapter, where nearly 500 people attended the event and lunch. Chapters across the state celebrated the week. It is great to see how much work and time volunteers spend to bring awareness to the profession. Thank you!

The same can be said about this year's MATHCOUNTS. Last month, chapters held local MATHCOUNTS competitions where the winners advanced to the state event on March 6 in Topeka. Congratulations to the winners and participants and thank you to



the members that volunteered to help make these events successful!

As we look ahead, KSPE is growing with well over 500 members. We urge our newer members to sign up for a committee to get involved. This helps KSPE, the local chapter and fosters new relationships for you.

Membership remains an important action item for our society. Please talk about KSPE to your fellow P.E.'s. Mentor new and/or young hires in your department, schools and firms and press the importance of KSPE. Remember, for anyone joining the association or renewing after July 1, 2018, KSPE membership dues dropped from \$329 to \$299. We hope

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

you help us retain and grow our membership by promoting the dues reduction and the benefits KSPE provides. While most associations are having to increase dues to account for rising costs and inflation, KSPE is reducing the dues. Please help spread this message.

With all the activity and news in this issue, check out the ways KSPE is working hard on your behalf. There are many opportunities to get involved with KSPE. We appreciate your support to help promote and protect Licensed Professional Engineers.

In the meantime, please stay safe,

Travis Lowe  
KSPE Executive Director



## **Now Hiring: Project Engineers**

**Open positions include traffic, highway, and structures.  
Find Out More at: [www.affinis.us/career-opportunities](http://www.affinis.us/career-opportunities)**



# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

## **Eastern Chapter**

### ***Siddharth Choudhury***

University of Kansas  
Shawnee, KS

### ***Emily Guzy***

University of Kansas  
Lawrence, KS

### ***Jacob Hammil***

University of Kansas  
Lawrence, KS

### ***Fallon Herrick***

University of Kansas  
Prairie Village, KS

### ***Derek Hopkins, P.E.***

TranSystems  
Mission, KS

### ***Robert Krewson, P.E.***

Alfred Benesch & Co.  
Overland Park, KS

### ***Shreya Kulshrestha***

University of Kansas  
Overland Park, KS

### ***Zac Lenz***

University of Kansas  
Lawrence, KS

### ***Martin Ntonjira, P.E.***

Unified Government of  
Wyandotte and Kansas  
City Kansas  
Kansas City, KS

### ***Steve Schultz, P.E.***

Bartlett & West Inc.  
Overland Park, KS

### ***Michael Terman***

University of Kansas  
Overland Park, KS

### ***Dana Weir, P.E.***

Burns & McDonnell  
Overland Park, KS

## **Smoky Valley Chapter**

### ***Brett Wilkinson, P.E.***

Kaw Valley Engineering  
Salina, KS

## **Topeka Chapter**

### ***Clair Bexten***

University of Kansas  
Lawrence, KS

### ***Alexander Chamberlin***

University of Kansas  
Lawrence, KS

### ***Aneeq Chaudhry***

University of Kansas  
Lawrence, KS

### ***Matthew Drummond***

University of Kansas  
Lawrence, KS

### ***Ethan Henderson***

University of Kansas  
Lawrence, KS

### ***Kyle Kelsey***

University of Kansas  
Topeka, KS

### ***Brittany Kracht***

NSPE  
Lawrence, KS

### ***Anh Le, EIT***

University of Kansas  
Lawrence, KS

### ***Monty McCoy***

U.S. Water Services  
Lawrence, KS

### ***Hailey Neidig***

University of Kansas  
Lansing, KS

### ***Katlyn North***

University of Kansas  
Ankeny, IA

### ***Ellen O’Gorman***

University of Kansas  
Lawrence, KS

### ***Kennedy Pate***

University of Kansas  
Bentonville, AR

### ***Chaudhry Hassan Rasool***

University of Kansas  
Lawrence, KS

### ***Kristen Sawyer***

University of Kansas  
Lawrence, KS

### ***Ashlyn Turk***

University of Kansas  
Lawrence, KS

### ***Ryan Winkle***

University of Kansas  
Lawrence, KS

## **Wichita Chapter**

### ***Joseph Cillessen***

Cillessen & Sons  
Kechi, KS

### ***Justin Harris***

Kikham Michael & Associates  
Goddard, KS

### ***Emily Orawaru***

World Trade Council of Wichita  
Wichita, KS

### ***Viraphonh Soukamneuth, P.E.***

ARCCA Inc.  
Aventura, FL

WELCOME!

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

DANA WEIR, P.E.



**KSPE Chapter:** Eastern Chapter

**Education:** BS in Civil Engineering, University of Iowa, 2007; MS in Civil Engineering, University of Kansas, 2012

**What is your employment/education history?** I've been at Burns & McDonnell since 2008 working in the municipal water/wastewater group. My primary focus has been design and construction of drinking water treatment facilities and pump stations throughout Kansas, Missouri, and Arkansas. My first project was the \$35M rehab and expansion of a 40 MGD water treatment plant in Fort Smith, Arkansas that I managed

construction just 2 years out of college. I truly enjoy working on the complicated/challenging projects, am always willing to raise my hand to help a colleague in need, and look forward to the future of the water sector.

**Tell us about your family:** I grew up in Rockford, Illinois, daughter of two teachers, one brother that lives in KC. Proud animal parent of one blind dog and one PITA cat.

**What is your greatest accomplishment to date?** Completing the design and construction of a brand new reverse osmosis water treatment plant for Arkansas City, KS to replace an aging plant. Our team provided the city with several value engineering items that saved nearly \$4M from original estimates by working with KDHE to reclassify the source water as ground water (GW) rather than ground water under the direct influence (GWUDI) – the first successful reclassification in KS in over 25 years. The plant has been in service for over two years and was recently awarded the "Best Tasting Water in Kansas" by KRWA for 2019.

**One fun fact about you:** My first trip outside the United States was to China and I immediately left my passport at the currency exchange and left the airport...

**What do you like to do with your free time?** I enjoy anything that involves water, in the summer my favorite spot is reading a book with a pool nearby.

**If you weren't an engineer, you would be a \_\_\_\_\_?** Sports analyst.

## WHY DID YOU BECOME AN ENGINEER?

My high school chemistry teacher turned me onto engineering. I always loved puzzles and Legos, and for the longest time I said I wanted to design roller coasters. As I started taking structural engineering courses, I quickly realized that my interest lay more on the environmental side of things and that water chemistry and treatment

## FAVORITES

**Restaurant:** Martin City Brewery

**Vacation Spot:** Salzburg, Austria

**Sports Team:** Iowa Hawkeyes

**Song or Music Artist:** Recently been listening to Maggie Rogers

# KSPE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## KSPE WORKS TO PROTECT YOUR PROFESSION WHILE YOU ARE AT WORK!

With the 2020 Legislative Session past its halfway point, KSPE's government affairs team, is working on its members' behalf on several legislative fronts. The 2020 Session has particularly generated considerable discussion on licensure issues in both the House and Senate, along with transportation, water policy, KPERs and others.

## KSPE WORKS TO STOP BILL THAT WOULD ELIMINATE P.E. REQUIREMENT FOR CHIEF WATER ENGINEER

KSPE strongly opposes SB 329, which is the Kansas Livestock Association's bill to remove the requirement for the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Chief Water Engineer to be a Licensed Professional Engineer or even have a degree in engineering. The proposal comes in the wake of the retirement of Chief Water Engineer David Barfield, P.E., as the Department looks for a successor. KSPE visited with Senate committee members stressing our strong opposition. A hearing was not scheduled for the bill.



The KSPE Eastern Chapter came to the Kansas Capitol to advocate for KSPE issues in Topeka with a Johnson County delegates lunch on February 24!

## KSPE ADVOCATES FOR NEW COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

KSPE testified in support of KDOT's Forward Transportation Bill, contained in HB 2588 and SB 375, which is the comprehensive transportation plan set to succeed TWORKS, once it is completed. Forward Kansas is a new ten-year transportation plan but is considered to be a rolling plan as far as project selection. Specifically, the bill allows the KDOT Secretary to select projects for development and construction every two years, after a series of local consultation meetings.

# KSPE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## KSPE WORKS TO STOP DOUBLE LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN P.E.'S

KSPE has worked to amend SB 168, known as the Home Inspector Bill. The bill aims to create a registration act for home inspectors. KSPE opposed language that would require Licensed Professional Engineers that perform home inspections to have additional licensure, education and financial requirements. KSPE is working with the other stakeholders to amend the bill to exempt Licensed Professional Engineers from extra licensure requirements.

## KSPE WORKS TO AMEND LICENSURE RECIPROCIITY BILL

HB 2506 and SB 366, known as the "Reciprocity Bill", which allows new Kansas residents or military spouses who are licensed in another state to have their license be transferred to Kansas, includes the amendments advocated by KSPE and other stakeholders to relieve concerns on unintended consequences. The amendments provide more authority to the Board of Technical Professions to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public with transfer requests.



The KSPE Government Relations Committee recently met to discuss legislative session activities and advocacy.

**NSPE-KS**™ KANSAS SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

### KSPE Protects Your Professional License in Topeka

*"Who's watching out for your profession while you're at work?"*



Left: Adam Stodola, P.E., F.NSPe testified in the Senate Transportation Committee on behalf of KSPE and ACEC of Kansas for SCR 1601, which proposes a constitutional amendment to protect Kansas Department of Transportation money.

# DISCOVER ENGINEERS WEEK

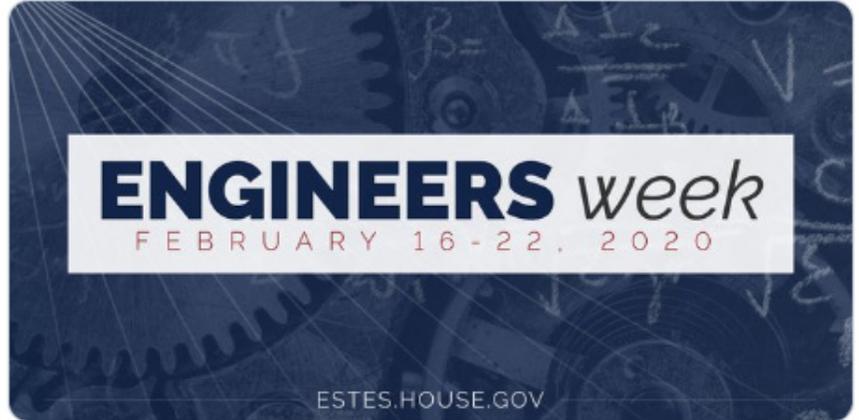
FEBRUARY 16-22, 2020

Engineers Week was founded by NSPE in 1951. It is "a week dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce by increasing understanding of and interest in engineering and technology careers." ([nspe.org](http://nspe.org)) Thank you to all who helped celebrate, including the hundreds of attendees at the KSPE Eastern Chapter/MSPE Western Chapter Engineers' Week Lunch in Kansas City (below)!



Rep. Ron Estes  
@RepRonEstes

Engineers throughout history have changed the way we work, build, travel, and explore. With my background in engineering, I'm pleased to celebrate #EngineersWeek and encourage Kansans pursuing STEM education and careers that will change the world.



## P.E. LICENSURE CEREMONY

The recent licensure ceremony held on February 14 included around 30 participants who received their license. KSPE Past President Wayne Nelson, P.E. (pictured below) was the keynote speaker. Congratulations to all of the newly licensed Professional Engineers!



Kansas Licensed Engineers  
Licensure Recognition Ceremony  
February 14, 2020



# 2020 WATER QUALITY SEMINAR

ACEC-Kansas, KSPE and KDHE's Bureau of Water jointly sponsored the Water Quality Seminar for continuing education. The event focused on some of the water quality issues facing Kansas today. There were over 60 attendees and a vendor this year.

The seminar offered 5.5 CEUs and included topics such as integrated planning, SRF developments, BOW update, KWO projects and several different panels.



# MATHCOUNTS<sup>®</sup>

## OF KANSAS

The 2020 MATHCOUNTS of Kansas competition was held in Topeka on Saturday, March 7 at Washburn University. There were 16 teams from 16 schools and one individual that participated for a total of 65 competitors. The competition started at 10:00 a.m. and finished up with awards around 3:30. This was the second year for the earlier start time to allow schools to travel during daylight hours. Coaches were not only appreciative of the earlier time, but also the give-aways for students and pizza lunch for all. In the end, 4 students from 4 different schools made up the top 4 spots that will advance to the National MATHCOUNTS Competition May 9-12 in Orlando, FL. *For a listing & photos of those students, please see the MATHCOUNTS event photo pages.*

MATHCOUNTS is a program that relies on volunteers at the local, state and national levels. Nationwide there were about 40,000 Mathletes that participated in 2020, with 438 from 52 different schools in Kansas. Many thanks go out to the Local Coordinators, KSPE Chapter members and others that volunteered & contributed funding to make this another successful year in Kansas. As the State Coordinator, I sincerely appreciate the support. Each year I am a bit nervous that we will have enough help & funding and each year I realize there was no need to worry! To everyone, THANK YOU, and I hope to see you again next year at the competitions.

If anyone has any questions or would like more information on how to get more involved with MATHCOUNTS next year, please let me know.

David Johnson, P.E.  
Kansas MATHCOUNTS Coordinator



Kavın Li, Harmony MS, 2nd Place Individual advancing to the national contest.



William Ku, Overland Trail MS, 3rd Place Individual advancing to the national contest.



1st Place Team - Pleasant Ridge MS

# State Competition

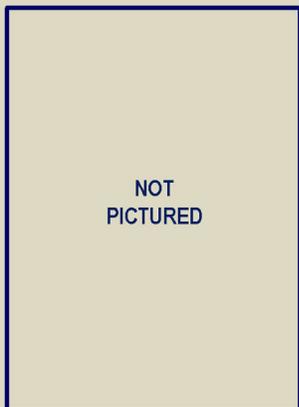
Washburn University, Topeka KS

March 7, 2020

# MATHCOUNTS<sup>®</sup>

OF KANSAS

## 2020 TOP 4 INDIVIDUALS ADVANCING TO THE NATIONAL CONTEST



1<sup>st</sup> Place Indiv  
Rebecca Xue, Lakewood MS



2<sup>nd</sup> Place Indiv  
Kevin Li, Harmony MS



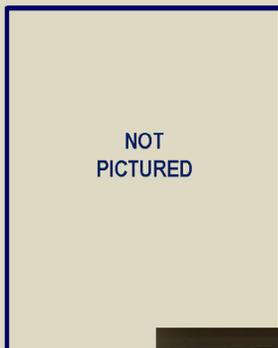
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Indiv  
William Ku, Overland Trail MS



4<sup>th</sup> Place Indiv  
Arnesh Sharma, Pleasant Ridge MS

Kansas Team Coach  
Sharad Sharma  
Pleasant Ridge MS

## 2020 TOP INDIVIDUALS



5<sup>th</sup> Place Indiv  
Medha Goli  
Lakewood MS



7<sup>th</sup> Place Indiv  
Bo Lu,  
Robinson MS



9<sup>th</sup> Place Indiv  
Lillian Xia  
Overland Trail MS



6<sup>th</sup> Place Indiv  
Shivan Kumar  
Harmony MS



8<sup>th</sup> Place Indiv  
Sriam Srinvasa Kalki,  
Overland Trail MS



10<sup>th</sup> Place Indiv  
Krrish Madduru  
Pleasant Ridge MS

# State Competition

Washburn University, Topeka KS

March 7, 2020

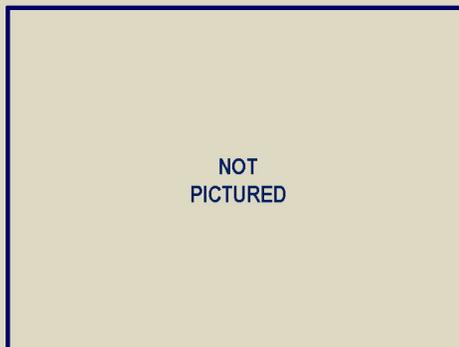
# MATHCOUNTS<sup>®</sup>

OF KANSAS

## 2020 TOP 4 TEAMS



1st Place Team - Pleasant Ridge MS



2nd Place Team - Lakewood MS

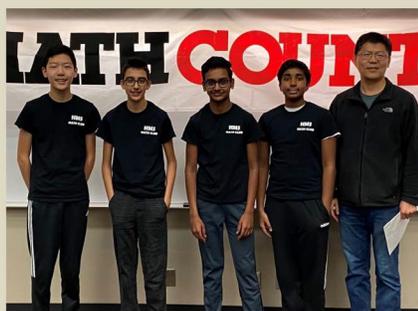


3rd Place Team - Overland Trail MS



4th Place Team - Robinson MS

## 2020 PARTICIPATING TEAMS



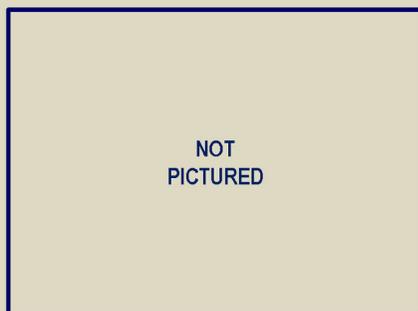
Harmony MS



Leawood MS



Southeast of Saline JH



Southwest MS



Altamont MS



Pittsburg MS

# State Competition

Washburn University, Topeka KS

March 7, 2020

# MATHCOUNTS<sup>®</sup> OF KANSAS

## 2020 PARTICIPATING TEAMS



Susan Anthony MS



Sacred Heart JH



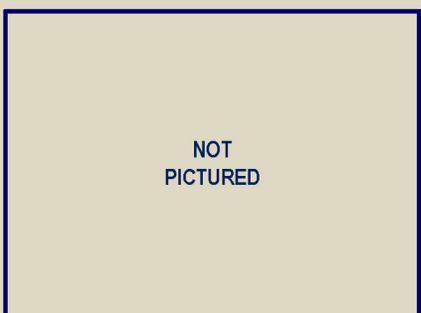
Washburn Rural MS



Maize MS



Bishop Seabury Academy



Wichita Collegiate

## A BIG THANK YOU

GOES OUT TO ALL SPONSORS AND VOLUNTEERS!

### VOLUNTEERS

#### WASHBURN FACULTY

Kevin Charwood  
Janet Sharp

#### WASHBURN STUDENTS

#### KSPE MEMBERS

Bill Hughes  
Brian Armstrong  
Cindy McCann  
David Jacobson  
David & Mack Johnson  
Don Taylor  
James Koelliker  
Jessica Rhein  
Jon Callen  
Lynn & Jennifer Berges  
Scott Uhl  
Wayne Nelson

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Bennington State Bank  
(Bottled Water)

Charlie's Car Wash  
(Pizza Lunch)

# PRACTICE DIVISIONS

## PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS IN INDUSTRY (PEI)

### **AMY MARTENS, P.E.**

Professional Engineers in Industry (PEI) will volunteer again during the Engineering Expo at the Kansas Children's Discovery Center (KCDC) in Topeka. This is always a great event to encourage local youth to consider engineering as a future career. PEI will be overseeing the Balloon Build station. The kids have a great time building balloon towers and enjoy the opportunity to win prizes. The event will be held on Saturday, March 28 from 11 am to 3 pm. Please contact Amy Martens, PEI Chair, at amy.martens@bcbsks.com if you are able to assist!

PEI provides value to members in industry through the promotion of professional practices and policies, including support of the licensure process for engineers in Industry. Our mission includes offerings of educational and professional development opportunities and actions to increase the public awareness of the contribution of professional engineers in Industry.



## PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE (PEPP)

### **JOSEPH DRIMMEL, P.E.**

ACEC members showed up in strong numbers for the Transportation Day at the Capital on February 12. Members met with legislative and committee leadership throughout the day. The Governor held a press conference to introduce FORWARD which is the new transportation plan and is SB 375 and HB 2588. ACEC is also working with KDOT on the alternative delivery legislation and has been a critical team member in the procurement process of the on-call contracts. A small committee of members met with KDOT to review the KDOT Consultant Standard of Care Policy. The board also hosted Secretary Lorenz at the February board meeting to discuss all things transportation and FORWARD.

The ACEC board is continuing to utilize David Comstock to help educate local municipalities about Qualification Based Selection QBS. David is also working with KU Public Management Center to potentially get QBS into their curriculum. The board is also continuing to work with KDHE in regards to permitting projects through the Bureau of Water. A legislative work group has been created to work on changes to legislation related to KDHE.

Bylaws are in the process of being updated and will be presented to the membership for a vote at the annual meeting in May. Also, the membership survey results are in and most members are generally satisfied with their membership.

The ACEC Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) registration is open and registrations are due by May 22nd. This is a great program for the next group of leaders within the membership firms. Are you interested in an entertaining and somewhat educational podcast? The ACEC-KS QBS Express Podcasts might be the thing for you. Check it out and let us know what you think.

The NSPE-KS PEPP representative exists to safeguard professionalism of engineers working in private practice throughout Kansas. If you have any issues or concerns you feel are compromising this professionalism, please contact Joseph Drimmel, P.E. of HDR Engineering at 816-360-2701 or at joseph.drimmel@hdrinc.com



# UPCOMING EVENTS



**NSPE-KS**™ KANSAS SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

# 2020

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 3-5, 2020  
Embassy Suites  
Olathe, Kansas

## Professional Engineers in Government

### *Kansas City Seminar*



September 16 Kansas City, MO

# 2020

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# *Philadelphia*

AUGUST 12-16, 2020



**NSPE-KS**™ KANSAS SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

**NSPE-MO**™ MISSOURI SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

# EFK

**21st Annual Golf  
Tournament**

**October 16, 2020**



**Colbert Hills  
Manhattan, KS**

**8:00 am Registration**

**9:00 am Shotgun Start**

**NSPE-KS**

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PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

# 2020

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 3-5, 2020  
Embassy Suites  
Olathe, Kansas

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for more information

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