

# Kansas Professional Engineer News

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE KANSAS SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

MARCH-APRIL 2021

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## KANSAS PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER NEWS

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# A MESSAGE FROM YOUR KSPE PRESIDENT

Brian W. Scovill, P.E.

I try to enjoy life's moments and not wish for tomorrow but after the bitter cold winter we just experienced, spring can't come soon enough!

On a positive and encouraging note, have you heard about Jaacob Pledger, a Junior Aerospace Engineering student at Embry-Riddle in Arizona? I heard about him on TV and decided to share some of that story, from KMBC News 9:



Most people know Pledger, 20, as a standout student and president of the Black Student Alliance on campus. They don't know he was homeless while growing up in Kansas City.

"A moment is not a lifetime. You may be going through a bad moment, but this bad moment doesn't mean that the rest of your life will be like that," Pledger said.

This reminded me that we all come from different places and while you might be enjoying one of life's moments, others might be struggling. This feel-good story with an engineering angle reminds us of our blessings and to consider giving back to our community or profession. I know I have had personal and professional struggles and would not be where I am today without the generosity and kind-heartedness of others. You can read more about Jaacob [here](#).

Speaking of giving back, KSPE's STEM outreach efforts have been apparent over the last two months with Future Cities, Virtual Mathcounts, Bridge Building, and last month's E-week and Discover E activities. If you missed out and want to participate next year, please reach out to your local chapter or the State Board and we can get you more information.

Our Government Relations Committee has been actively tracking bills, requesting amendments, and testifying. This is one area where KSPE excels. KSPE is actively engaged in at least five bills and monitoring several more. Look for more information from Travis Lowe in this newsletter.

I want to recognize and congratulate Michael McIntire, P.E., Manhattan, Kansas, and Lauren Pins, P.E., Louisburg, Kansas, two professional Engineers and KSPE members who recently completed NSPE's Emerging Leaders Program. If interested, the next session is accepting applications through May 31.

Get involved, tell our story, and share the value of KSPE.

Sincerely,

Brian W. Scovill, P.E.

KSPE 2020-2021 President

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Travis Lowe, CAE

KSPE members,

Greetings from Topeka! We hope all of our members and their families are well and healthy. As the calendar turns to spring, we have many updates to share on KSPE's activity at the state and chapter level. First, we want to thank our members for their continued support that keeps KSPE strong.



As with every year, the legislative session keeps KSPE extremely active and the 2021 Session is no exception. Though the atmosphere under the dome is different due to pandemic limitations, there is actually more legislation introduced than in a normal year. Licensure bills have provided more evidence to cement KSPE's role in protecting professional engineer licensure. Though KSPE provides many benefits and opportunities, the 2021 Session alone sends a clear message, "if you are not at the table, you are on the menu." KSPE, because of its support from our members, is in a strong position to defend the professional engineer licensure. Please review the legislative update in this issue for more information.

In just a couple weeks, registration opens for the 2021 KSPE Conference, scheduled for June 23-25 in Manhattan. The Conference Planning Committee and staff has planned a great schedule and we are excited to see our members. We have several joint sessions planned, along with specific industry tracks and seminars for young engineers. We will gather safely and hope you consider attending, if you are able or feel comfortable.

Our Water Quality Seminar is just down the road on March 25-26 and will be an online event. Four PDHs will be available covering several aspects on water. Registration is still open on our website. Our 2020-2021 KSPE committees are hard at work. The Young Engineers Committee has developed a schedule for the KSPE Conference of interest to their peers. The Government Relations Committee meets regularly to review the session activity while the Awards Committee is preparing to recognize members at our KSPE Conference.

On a closing note, we encourage everyone to stay active at the chapter level. Our success begins at the chapter level, and each chapter is working to reestablish its footing as we get through the pandemic. Our society's mission is centered on licensure. It is what unites all of our members, regardless of discipline. Our young engineers on the path to licensure want the license to mean as much in twenty years from now as it did when they received it. With your help and continued support, we will work toward that goal in Kansas.

Thank you for your continued support!

See you soon,  
Travis Lowe

## Legislative Update: March 2021

With the 2021 Legislative Session just beyond the halfway point, KSPE's Government Affairs effort remains extremely busy. In a year with a nearly thousand bills introduced or in draft form, many licensure and industry bills are on the radar. It is fair to say Kansas is continuing to see a growing trend of bills challenging the status quo of licensure and it will likely continue in future years.

### Licensure Bills:

**Substitute for HB 2066/ SB 137, known as the Universal Licensure and Military Spouse Bill.** A bill that began last session, KSPE has offered input to improve HB 2066 on several occasions. In January, when a revised version included language that could result in consequences to engineer licensure, based on examples seen in other states, KSPE worked to successfully amend the bill to allow for professional engineer licenses to continue being measured by qualifications instead of just work experience. Substitute for HB 2066 has passed the House and is now being considered in the Senate.

**SB 176, known as the Home Inspector Bill.** The Kansas Realtors Association has spent the last three legislative sessions trying to create a registration act for home inspectors. KSPE has participated in these conversations to ensure licensed professional engineers who perform home inspections are not subject to additional mandates and requirements. Due to these efforts, the 2021 bill (SB 176) as introduced, protects licensed professional

engineers against double licensure mandates. Due to legislative deadlines, the bill is on hold until 2022 but the bill's opponents are openly questioning the exemption for licensed engineers.

**SB 10, known as the Right to Earn a Living Act.** SB 10 calls for every regulatory agency to provide a comprehensive review of all occupational rules and regulations and occupational licenses that justifies its function, impact on workers, consumer choices and cost and comparison to other states. The bill met heavy opposition and is on hold until next session.

**SB 34, known as the Rules and Regs Sunset Bill.** SB 34 proposes for all administrative rules and regulations currently on the books to expire after five years unless the agency and Legislature take action to renew the regulation. Like SB 10, the bill received considerable opposition and will likely be on hold until next session, when discussion may continue.

### Industry Bills:

**HB 2101, Extending the University Engineering Initiative Act.** Leading into 2021, extension of the University Engineering Initiative Act (UEIA) was KSPE's leading priority item. The UEIA has successfully met its targeted goals to increase the number of engineering graduates at Kansas State University, University of Kansas and Wichita State University from 2011 to 2021. However, the industry cites there are still not

enough engineers to fulfill the state's workforce demand. HB 2101 extends the UEIA another ten years through 2032. The bill was passed by the House 112-12 and will be considered by the Senate later this month.

**HB 2101, KDOT's bill related to IKE Comprehensive Transportation Plan.** This bill proposes to decrease the IKE's program alternate delivery project threshold from \$100M to \$10M and gives KDOT the option to let modernization or expansion projects under the IKE program if they utilize federal stimulus funds. The House and Senate have each passed this bill overwhelmingly, where it is expected to go to the Transportation Conference Committee later this session to merge the two bills together into one version.

**HB 2296, KDOT's Tolling Bill.** The Department of Transportation's other bill, related to tolling, met challenges and was essentially killed on the House floor. The bill requested the ability for KDOT to use toll revenues to support transportation improvements on the corridor where the turnpike or toll project was constructed. Discussion on the House floor saw comments noting concern on how tolls are currently being used or could be used in the future. A motion to pass the bill failed 50-72.



# 2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



## Promoting & Protecting the P.E. License

KSPE supports continued employment of licensed P.E.s in state agencies & local government, protecting the standards and meaning of the P.E. license, and preventing double licensure mandates. KSPE opposes elimination of licensure requirements for state technical & scientific positions where requirements are important to the health, safety and welfare of the public.



## Addressing the Engineer Shortage

Extending the Kansas University Engineering Initiative Act (UEIA) to increase engineering graduates in Kansas. Over 70% of Kansas engineer consulting firms report there are still not enough engineers to meet their hiring needs. The UEIA is scheduled to expire in 2022.



## Funding Our State's Infrastructure

KSPE supports protection of designated funds of the State Highway Fund and State Water Plan Fund. We also support completion of the T-WORKS comprehensive transportation plan and the commencement of its successor, the Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Plan.



## Project Design Procurement

KSPE supports Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) and opposes removal of the use of QBS for state projects that utilize P.E. services. KSPE also supports enforcement of K.S.A. 68-501 requiring County Engineers to be licensed P.E.s, and creation of a state-funded incentive program to ensure counties are equipped to employ a licensed P.E.



## Professional Services Taxation

KSPE opposes the imposition of state or local sales taxes on the delivery of professional services by engineering, architecture and/or design fees.

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

## *Eastern Chapter*

Philip Jennings, P.E.  
WSP USA  
Stilwell

## *Wichita Chapter*

Sergio Estevez-Perez  
Student  
Wichita

## PRACTICE DIVISION UPDATES

### Professional Engineers in Industry (PEI)

*Amy Martens, P.E.*



I hope everyone had an enjoyable Engineers Week. There were several virtual events across the state to recognize engineers, educators, and community members for their many contributions. It has been a difficult year due to the pandemic and unfortunately, Professional Engineers in Industry (PEI) was not able to participate in our typical E-week activities.

PEI is preparing for our annual meeting at the KSPE Annual Conference. The Conference will be held June 23-25 in Manhattan, Kansas. Please contact Amy Martens, PEI Chair, at [amy.martens@bcbsks.com](mailto:amy.martens@bcbsks.com) if you have agenda items you would like added to our meeting discussion or if you are interested in filling a leadership role with KSPE.

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

**EFK**  
**22nd Annual Golf Tournament**  
**October 1, 2021**

**Colbert Hills**  
**Manhattan, KS**  
**8:00 am Registration**  
**9:00 am Shotgun Start**

The poster features a bright yellow background with a white golf ball on a wooden tee in the center. Behind the ball is a black outline of the state of Kansas. The text is in bold, black, sans-serif font.

## Go Big or Go Home!

# EFK CREATES NEW PARTNERSHIP

Tom C. Roberts, P.E., F. NSPE

The EFK leadership team created a fund management agreement with the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation (GMCF). <https://www.mcfks.org/> in Fall 2020. The agreement was created within the scope of EFK Bylaws and operations and enhances the EFK Mission of supporting the educational and ethical practice needs of engineering students, engineering educators, and practicing professionals.



NSPE-KS ENGINEERS' FOUNDATION  
OF KANSAS

The GMCF enables people with philanthropic interests to easily and effectively support issues they care about - immediately, or through their will. EFK donors can now establish a charitable fund by contributing a variety of assets and may also recommend grants - in their name, if they choose - to nonprofit groups they want to support.

One of the most appealing advantages for donors who give through the EFK/GMCF partnership is flexibility. To this end, EFK offers donors a variety of tax-effective ways to make gifts and achieve their charitable goals.

The GMCF was established in 1999 with assets over \$200,000. GMCF ended 2019 with 919 funds, fourteen affiliates in Northeast Kansas, and over \$115M in assets. GMCF is the 2nd largest community foundation in Kansas. Fundholders distributed more than \$11M to charitable causes in 2019. GMCF has the lowest administrative fees in the state. In 2019, annual administrative fees were 1.00% for the first \$1M and 0.60% for the next \$4M.

GMCF has a staff of nine and provides fundholders with investment, communications, accounting, and marketing support. GMCF will assist EFK on changes in laws and information related to charitable giving options. GMCF services include:

- Counsel on giving instruments and funding options
- Illustrate, project, draft or review necessary documents
- Develop strategic giving plans for your clients and their families
- Assist with grantmaking research, recommendations, and outcomes
- Provide information and guidance on the communities' charitable needs. GMCF consultations are provided confidentially and at no cost.

## EFK CREATES NEW PARTNERSHIP

EFK/GMCF fund agreement criteria are contained in two documents:

- 1) Endowed Fund named: Engineers' Foundation of Kansas (EFK) – Endowed
- 2) Expendable Fund named: Engineers' Foundation of Kansas (EFK)

Authorized Fund Representatives are Greg Braden, BHL and Associates, Ken Bengtson, EFK Treasurer & Tom Roberts, EFK Vice-President.

The EFK/GMCF partnership will improve professional

fundraising and fund management efforts and will ultimately increase funds for MATHCOUNTS, Future City and other EFK programs. The agreement also expands needed administrative support and compliments our association with BHL.

Stay tuned for more information about EFK fundraising efforts. We need your help to “Go Big.”

Tom C. Roberts, P.E.  
EFK Vice President  
c: 785.565.1286 tcr@ksu.edu

## 2021-2022 EVENTS

### State MathCounts Competition

March 25, 2021  
Online Testing

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### 2021 Virtual Water Quality Seminar

March 25-26, 2021

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### P.E. Examinations

April 22-23, 2021

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### 2021 KSPE Annual Conference

June 23-25, 2021  
Manhattan, Kansas

### Professional Engineers Day

August 4, 2021

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### EFK Golf Tournament

October 1, 2021  
Colbert Hills, Manhattan, Kansas

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### 2022 KSPE Annual Conference

June 15-17, 2022  
Wichita, Kansas

# MARCH 2021 MATHCOUNTS UPDATE

by David Johnson, P.E.

## MATHCOUNTS<sup>®</sup> OF KANSAS

Greetings KSPE members,

Believe it or not, another year of MATHCOUNTS is winding down. This year has been much different than the past with all testing completed online from the students' homes or schools. Instead of the typical on-site chapter and state competitions for individuals and teams, this year has been only for individual students and has included four online practice exams, a chapter competition, and a chapter invitational competition. The final Kansas online contest is the state competition scheduled for March 25. All of the test coordination has also been completed this year by the national MATHCOUNTS staff with less involvement from our chapter coordinators and volunteers.

One of the biggest concerns with the online testing format this year was to have adult proctors for each student to make sure the competition was fair for all. In fact, in my last chapter article, I noted that we were needing proctor volunteers for the state competition. However, after further consideration, the national office decided due to logistics and potential liability, they would allow student parents and coaches, etc. be the volunteers instead of KSPE members. I haven't been inundated by KSPE member volunteers signing up, but want you all to know that volunteers are no longer needed.

The final step this year after the state contest on March 25 is the national contest in May. The national event

was going to be in-person in Washington DC until just recently when the national office announced that it will also be online this year.

Thanks again to each of you for your past involvement in MATHCOUNTS. This competition for 6th, 7th & 8th-grade students is only successful because of the many volunteers and financial sponsors like you.

David Johnson, P.E.  
Kansas MATHCOUNTS  
Coordinator

### 2021 Virtual Water Quality Seminar March 25 - 26, 2021




 KANSAS SOCIETY OF  
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 AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
OF KANSAS  


## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: March 2021

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: March 2021 (CONTINUED)

#### Infrastructure Funding Bills:

##### State Highway Plan Funding

The House and Senate are both compiling their proposed budgets for the next fiscal year. Thus far, it appears the budgets are following Governor Kelly's recommendation to reduce the transfer from the State Highway Fund from the current \$134M down to \$67M for the next fiscal year. This is a 50% reduction compared to the current fiscal year, working down the path to the Governor's promised stopped transfers by 2023. The House will consider its full budget next month.

##### State Water Plan Funding

Governor Kelly proposed transferring slightly more than \$4M from the State General Fund to the State Water Plan Fund. This is approximately \$2M less than statutorily required though remaining within recent trend seeing the majority of promised funds move to the State Water Plan Fund. The House and Senate will finalize this figure in the coming weeks.

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Your Professional  
License  
in Topeka**

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



# 2021

## KSPE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 23-25



Hilton Garden Inn

Manhattan, KS

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