

Kansas Professional Engineer News

The official publication of the Kansas Society of Professional Engineers

May/June 2020

NSPE-KS

**KANSAS SOCIETY OF
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

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Above: KSPE Conference Planning Committee and the Executive Committee continues to meet over video to discuss the upcoming annual conference.



**KANSAS PROFESSIONAL
ENGINEER NEWSLETTER**

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A Message From Your 2019-2020 KSPE President

Fellow KSPE Members,

As I write this, I am still working from home. I am looking out the picture window in my living room, and I'm seeing people walk by with their dogs, or their strollers, with a friend, or just by themselves. I'm noticing the birds eating out of the bird feeder. I'm just bored enough to look up what types of birds they are. Interspersed with being a referee for my two kids and video conference calls in my pajama pants, this is what my work life has been for a few months, and it will continue for at least a few more weeks.

With all this new found technological ability, it is great that KSPE has decided to move our Annual Conference to the virtual realm. It will still be June 3-5, and the Board members will be able to conduct our annual business meeting on Wednesday morning (as usual), the Conference Planning Committee has an awesome lineup of presenters ready to go for the Conference on Thursday, and the Practice Division Meetings will happen on Friday. Attendance for the Virtual Conference is just \$100 for members, and you get up to five PDH credits for attending. Come as you are, pajama pants included. And since the Kansas State Board of Technical Professions has not relaxed the requirements for PDHs, this is a great opportunity to support KSPE and get your requirements checked off at one time.

As we finish up this crazy year, remember we're all in the same storm, but not necessarily in the same boat. Continue to have compassion for your neighbors and colleagues as our challenging times carry on. Remember at the end of the day, we are all Kansans, and we will persevere through this.

Hope to "see" you at the conference in June. Until next time, take care and stay healthy!

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

KSPE Members,

Greetings from KSPE World Headquarters! We hope everyone is safe and doing as well as to be expected during this unprecedented time. As the state and nation work to get back to normal, 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 Kansas Legislature's early adjournment of regular session leaves almost all tasks undone for the year, save the passage of a budget and the new comprehensive transportation plan. The Legislature is due to return for one day on May 21 to officially end the session for the year. Though the session was shorter than usual, KSPE's advocacy efforts remained extremely active. The session offered KSPE the opportunity to weigh in on several licensure bills impacting Licensed Professional Engineers, funding for water and transportation and the passage of the Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program, aimed to succeed T-WORKS. As session formally ends on May 21, election year activity will keep KSPE busy monitoring 165 races, many supported by the KSPE Political Action Committee.



Thanks again to our Government Relations Committee, led by Travis Stryker, that meets monthly to review the status of the legislative session. We usually have a legislator join us for lunch to discuss their view of our issues.

The Society's event plans have modified to accommodate our safety reactions against COVID. Our 2020 Annual Conference will be held virtually on June 3-5. Registration is now open with a modest registration fee. The virtual event offers five PDH hours with free participation in our business and Practice Division meetings. This is a great opportunity to tune in and see what's going on in your practice division, especially if you have never been able to attend the event before. We look forward to seeing everyone on June 3-5!

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. We are forming a new Membership Committee, Young Engineer Committee and 2021 Conference Planning Committee. Let us know if you are interested! All meetings take place virtually so we can work with your schedules. It is important we have representation from each chapter. Thank you in advance to our volunteers.

Membership remains the most 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. Sometimes a little extra nudge is all they may need.

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.

See you soon,

Travis Lowe
KSPE Executive Director

ENGINEERS' FOUNDATION OF KANSAS (EFK) UPDATE

BY WAYNE NELSON, P.E.

The Board of Directors of the Engineers' Foundation of Kansas (EFK) met March 27 via Zoom.

EFK held another very successful fundraiser golf tournament this past October. This year's event is scheduled for October 16, 2020, at Colbert Hills in Manhattan. Save the date and I encourage everyone to play and become a sponsor for this event. It is a major fundraising event for the Foundation. Thank you to all who participated and contributed this past year.

Other annual events EFK sponsors and members participate in are the Future Cities and MATHCOUNTS programs. This year the Future City event was held at the University of Kansas. Next year the event is scheduled for Kansas State University. MATHCOUNTS was again held on the campus of Washburn University. Thank you to everyone who volunteered for these two events.

The EFK Recognition Program has been slowed by the corona virus but we are continuing to make progress. The Recognition Program is focused on engineers with ties to Kansas, whose careers have distinguished them as being among the very highest contributors to the field of engineering. EFK's goal is to build a permanent endowment to support EFK projects.

The University Engineering Initiative Act (UEIA) is an issue the EFK has been following. Currently the deans of the engineering colleges have been engaged with the Board of Regents to get the act renewed. At this point each of the schools have met the enrollment and graduation goals set forth in the UEIA. The KSPE Government Relations Committee is also monitoring the issue.

Kansas State University has announced the appointment of Matthew O'Keefe as dean of the College of Engineering. Dr. O'Keefe comes to K-State from the University of Mississippi. He begins his Wildcat career July 13.

The next Board meeting of the EFK will be June 3, 2020.



ENGINEERS' FOUNDATION
OF KANSAS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Smoky Valley Chapter

Kristofer Upson

Salina USD 305

Salina, KS

Topeka Chapter

Daniel Holloway, P.E.

CFS Engineers

Topeka, KS

Tri Valley Chapter

Michael Snapp, P.E.

Terracon

Manhattan, KS

Joe Milsap

1998

Lawrence, KS

William Stannard, P.E.

Raftelis

Kansas City, KS

Wichita Chapter

Juan Benral-Sosa

University of Kansas

Independence, KS

WELCOME!

NSPE-KS™ KANSAS SOCIETY OF
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

2020 KSPE Virtual Business
and Educational Conference
June 3-5, 2020

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

CASSANDRA PATRICK



KSPE Chapter: Tri-Valley Chapter

Education: BS in Environmental Engineering from The University of Oklahoma in May 2019

What is your employment/education history? I started at OU in 2015 and had two summer internships during my four years there: one at an environmental consulting agency near Chicago, Illinois and another one at a geotechnical engineering and construction materials testing company in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. I accepted my first full time job as a design engineer with SMH Consultants in April

of 2019 and moved to Manhattan, Kansas following graduation in May of 2019. I started with SMH in June of 2019 and have been with them for almost a full year now. I absolutely love SMH, the work we do, and especially all of the smart, hardworking, and all around fantastic people I get to work with daily!

Tell us about your family: I'm originally from the St. Louis, Missouri area with most of my family spread out around that area. I have four siblings: two sisters (12 and 14) and two brothers (26 and 27). I also have a dog, Lexi, back home.

What is your greatest accomplishment to date? Graduating from the best university! Boomer Sooner!

One fun fact about you: I was originally a petroleum engineering major when I first started at OU, but switched to environmental engineering after being so involved with environmental consulting in my first internship.

What do you like to do with your free time? I love to spend time outside going on walks or runs or spending time at the pool in the summer. Most nights you can find me relaxing and watching a movie or show.

If you weren't an engineer, you would be a _____? Math teacher.

FAVORITES

Restaurant: In Manhattan, I'd pick AJs. My all time favorite, though, is a small restaurant in my hometown called Cleveland Heath. Best pulled pork sandwich ever!

Vacation Spot: Anywhere with a beach.

Sports Team: OU, of course!

Song or Music Artist: Old Dominion

WHY DID YOU BECOME AN ENGINEER?

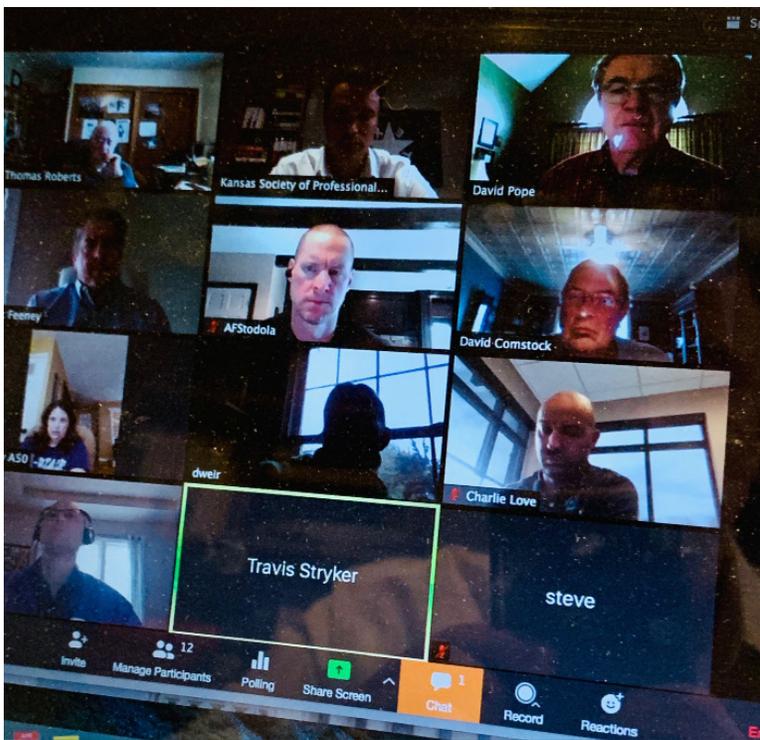
I grew up loving math and science in school and knew I wanted to pick a career where I'd be able to problem-solve and find creative solutions to everyday problems. I've really enjoyed getting to work on projects in Manhattan knowing that I'm helping to make the community better.

KSPE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Legislative Coordinating Council, composed of House and Senate legislative leadership, convened on May 6 to determine whether the Legislature would return for Veto Session or return to Sine Die, the ceremonial final day of the 2020 Session.

The majority of the Legislative Coordinating Council determined the Legislature will return for one day on May 21, which will serve as Sine Die, the official final day of the Session. Though Sine Die is traditionally saved for review of vetoes and consideration of possible votes to override those vetoes, official business, including conference committees, can still meet. Standing committees and conference committees are currently meeting.

As the 2020 session is the second year of the two-year Session. After May 21, all existing bills will be dead. In the event the Legislature must convene to address COVID impacts and its budget implications, a special session may be called by Governor Kelly or two-thirds of the Legislature and new legislation would have to be introduced.



Above: On April 23, KSPE’s Government Relations Committee met on video to discuss the updates of the Kansas Legislature.

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?”

The advertisement features a dark blue background with a photograph of the illuminated dome of the Kansas State Capitol building on the right side. The text is in white and yellow.

SUPPORT **KSPE PAC** TODAY!

What is **KSPE PAC**?

KSPE PAC is the Kansas Society of Professional Engineers' non-partisan Political Action Committee that supports candidates committed to our profession.

Members like YOU can help us with our efforts to lawmakers in Topeka.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE KSPE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE OR "KSPE PAC".

No donation is too small to aid our efforts.

In 2019, KSPE PAC raised almost \$4,000



2020 GOAL: \$6,000

All 40 Senators and 125 Representatives are up for election in the 2020 elections.

KSPE PAC helps ensure champions of our industry stay in Topeka. KSPE PAC works with legislators to ensure they understand the roles Licensed Professional Engineers have in public safety and the state's future.

Our association has more than 500 members, but only a few have participated in this initiative. We are setting an ambitious goal of raising

\$6,000 IN 2020



How can I support?

Visit kansasengineer.org/KSPE-PAC or contact KSPE's Executive Director, Travis Lowe at travis@kansasengineer.org.

NSPE-KS™ POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE
KANSAS SOCIETY OF
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

PRACTICE DIVISIONS

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS IN INDUSTRY (PEI)

AMY MARTENS, P.E.

The KCDC postponed their annual Engineering Expo that was scheduled for March 28. They have been producing content online for families to utilize while they are at home and are looking to engage families in unique ways, such as virtually delivering an engineer's real challenge. 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.

PEI will hold our Annual Practice Division meeting virtually on Friday morning, June 5. I plan to have a productive meeting to include updates to members on local and national issues impacting our profession as well as state and national society business. I hope you are able to virtually attend. I look forward to having more PEI members participate this year.



PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE (PEPP)

JOSEPH DRIMMEL, P.E.

The ACEC Board along with the Executive Director and member firms continued to help support Senate Bill 173 which created the new 10-year Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program! ACEC was able to be at the table throughout this process with many meetings with KDOT and other key members.

Karla Watters with Schwab Eaton led the ACEC Scholarship Committee and reviewed the applications that were submitted this year. The Committee decided to give three winners a \$1000 scholarship each to Sydney Gard, Civil Engineering, University of Kansas, Dalton Willbrant, Civil Engineering, Kansas State University and Angie Mitchell, Structural Engineer, University of Kansas.

Save the Dates:

- Rural Development Seminar is scheduled for August 13 at the Ramada Inn in Topeka.
- ACEC/KDOT Annual Partnering Conference is scheduled for October 21 at the Manor Conference Center in Topeka.

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.



PRACTICE DIVISIONS

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS IN HIGHER EDUCATION (PEHE)

TOM ROBERTS, P.E., F.NSPE

Virtual Order of the Engineer Ceremonies have been approved by the Board of Governors for use during the COVID-19 crisis. State societies are being encouraged to use the virtual Link ceremony guidelines as a part of their upcoming virtual annual conferences.

Below is a summary information regarding the March 2020 virtual ABET meeting attended by NSPE ABET Reps Jon Nelson and Tom Roberts. The full report sent to Pres. Martini on March 22 is available.

Board of Delegates: Officer elections were held during the meeting. William Wepfer, Ph.D., was elected 2020-21 ABET President-Elect and Charles Menke as 2020-21 At-Large Director. Gillian Bond, Ph.D., was re-elected as ABET Secretary and David Whitman, Ph.D., P.E., as ABET Treasurer. They will be inaugurated during the fall governance meetings later this year.

Board of Directors: MOTION that the Board of Directors reduces current Society fee assessments and curricular fees as proposed for fiscal year 2020-21. ACTION: Form ad hoc group to support Strategic Goal 4 Steering Committee.

Engineering Technology Area Delegates (ETAD) spent considerable time discussing technology graduate licensure. Kansas is one of 10 states not allowing the licensure of technology graduates. Below is a summary of the Group Four: Professional Societies break out discussion. Society Representatives attending: IISE, SAE, SME, SFPE, TMS, NSPE, ASCE, ASEE

Minutes:

For the states which have no way Engineering Technology Graduates earn a PE license, lobbying to the state licensing agencies could be a good way to go.

Developing a collective taskforce among the interested societies could be a good support to engineering technology programs and the licensing body to show their support. However, the workload of society reps is usually heavy. Some small societies have their ET graduates licensed in high percentages. They are pretty supportive, and the other societies could do the same.

The NSPE's 33-page full report presenting September 2018 data (<https://www.nspe.org/sites/default/files/resources/pdfs/admin/publications/NSPE-Eng-Tech-Grad-PE-License.pdf>) should be shared with societies and educate them. That one and its latest copy should be made available to societies.

NSPE presented to the ASEE Engineering Technology Leaders Institute (ETLI) October 12, 2018. Included in the presentation is the observation that: "ABET ETAC and EAC Accreditation Standards Do **Not** Display Obvious Comparability *What is lacking is comparability. No judgement is made or assumed regarding quality or completeness." The presentation also outlined obstacles in the path of engineering technology program graduates achieving licensure:



PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS IN HIGHER EDUCATION (PEHE)

(CONTINUED)

- Students enrolled in an ABET-ETAC accredited program with an expectation that their degree will be accepted for licensure when this may or may not be the case
- A minority of Engineering Technology programs are ABET accredited
- Faculty indifference or active hostility to licensure
- Even in ABET-EAC Accredited programs, too few faculty members are willing to even make students aware of licensure as a potential goal, let alone promote it
- ABET Delegation indifference or active hostility to including any awareness of licensure as a program outcome.

The 2018 NSPE presentation to ETLI concluded by stating:

NSPE is open to working with ASEE to improve acceptance of ETAC bachelor's degrees as the base educational requirement for licensure. This is consistent with long-established NSPE Policy, provided:

- There is comparability between the ETAC-Accredited degree and EAC-accredited degree requirements
- Licensure qualification standards are not compromised or reduced.

ASEE liaison Jacqueline El-Sayed did not receive the ZOOM meeting information in time to attend the Friday afternoon ETAD break out session however she requested that the following input on the discussion topic be included in the report.

ASEE as the leading Engineering Education society strongly supports the position that baccalaureate graduates from ETAC/ABET accredited Engineering Technology programs are fully capable of protecting the health, safety and welfare of the public and should, therefore, be eligible, without additional requirements, to become Licensed Professional Engineers.

Statement retrieved from: Link 1: <https://www.asee.org/about-us/the-organization/our-board-of-directors/asee-board-of-directors-statements>

Link 2: https://www.asee.org/documents/about-us/the-organization/public-policy/ASEE_proposed_position_statement_BS_ET_and_PEs_2020.pdf

Read the full statement:

ASEE Position Statement on Professional Licensure of Baccalaureate ETAC/ABET Graduates Issue: Professional Engineering (PE) licensing is regulated by the states. Model laws for states to adopt are created by the National Council of Examiners in Engineering and Surveying (NCEES). Currently, all states permit EAC/ABET Engineering graduates to become licensed professional engineers. However, only some states permit baccalaureate graduates from ETAC/ABET accredited Engineering Technology programs to obtain professional licensure despite the fact that with only minor exceptions, examinations to become a PE are the same in all states. A majority of states that permit ET baccalaureate graduates to attain professional licensure do so only after imposing additional course, work experience or even degree requirements on ET baccalaureate graduates. Those states that have prohibitions or additional requirements create economic hardship for ET baccalaureate graduates by making the licensure process longer or impossible. Lengthening or restricting the licensure process keeps ET baccalaureate graduates from well-paying engineering jobs. A 2017 report by the National Academy of Engineering indicates that ET baccalaureate programs have at least twice the percentage of African American students and significantly more economically disadvantaged students than EAC/ABET Engineering programs. The National Society of Professional Engineers regularly reports that Licensed Professional Engineers earn more money and have more opportunities than unlicensed engineers. A recent tagline from NCEES boasts "P.E. Prove yourself without saying a word." Position: The

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS IN HIGHER EDUCATION (PEHE)

(CONTINUED)

American Society for Engineering Educators, a society made up of educators in both Engineering and Engineering Technology programs, strongly supports the position that baccalaureate graduates from ETAC/ABET accredited Engineering Technology programs are fully capable of protecting the health, safety and welfare of the public and should, therefore, be eligible, without additional requirements, to become Licensed Professional Engineers. Qualifying Statements: There is no expectation that any of the requirements for licensure be changed other than to make ETAC/ABET baccalaureate graduates eligible to sit for all required exams and be able to accrue experience in the same way and at the same rate as EAC/ABET graduates. Nor is there an expectation that any industry-based need for licensing be changed. *Approved by the ASEE Board of Directors January 2020*

The KS-PEHE supports the goals of NSPE by encouraging professional licensure of engineering faculty and encouraging professionalism and leadership within institutions of higher education. Please send your ideas and suggestions for assuring this vision to: Tom Roberts, P.E., Asst. Dean Emeritus, Kansas State University, 785-565-1286 or at tcr@ksu.edu.

RECENTLY ON @KANSASENGINEER TWITTER



UPCOMING EVENTS

2020 KSPE Virtual Business and Educational Conference

June 3-5, 2020

NSPE Virtual PE Conference

KSPE/MSPE Kansas City PEG Seminar

September 16, 2020

EFK Golf Tournament

October 16, 2020

2021 KSPE Annual Conference

June 23-25, 2021

Professional Engineers in Government

Kansas City Seminar

September 16 Kansas City, MO
2020



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2020

KSPE Virtual Business and Educational Conference

June 3-5, 2020

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Platinum Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsor



Kansas Society of Professional Engineers

2020 Virtual Business and Educational Conference

June 3-5, 2020

Wednesday, June 3

- 9:00am - 12:00pm **KSPE Board of Directors Meeting**
- 1:00pm - 3:00pm **Engineers' Foundation of Kansas Board of Directors Meeting**
- 3:30pm - 4:30pm **Professional Engineers in Government (PEG) Meeting**

Thursday, June 4

- 8:00am - 9:00am **NSPE Update & KSPE Outgoing Presidents Message**
- 9:30am - 10:30am **KSPE Installation of Officers**
KSPE Incoming President Message
KSPE Awards
- 11:00am - 12:00pm **KSPE PAC Update/Legislative Advocacy**
Travis Lowe, KSPE Lobbyist & Executive Director
- 1:00pm - 2:00pm **KDOT Update**
Julie Lorenz, KDOT Secretary of Transportation
- 2:30pm - 3:30pm **Building Johnson County Government's Largest Project- Tomahawk Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility**
Alex M. Szerwinski, P.E., Johnson County Wastewater
John Keller, P.E., Black & Veatch Corporation
Kerry Klausner, McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.
- 4:00 - 5:00pm **Keynote Speaker: "What Shadow Do You Cast?"**
Cindy Wallis-Lage, P.E., President, Global Water Business at Black & Veatch

Friday, June 5

- 9:00am - 10:00am **Professional Engineers In Construction (PEC) Meeting**
- 9:00am - 10:00am **Professional Engineers in Industry (PEI) Meeting**
- 10:30am - 11:30am **Professional Engineers in Higher Education (PEHE) Meeting**
- 10:30am - 11:30am **ACEC Kansas Annual Meeting / Professional Engineers in Private Practice (PEPP) Meeting**

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Go to www.kansasengineer.org/Career-Listings
for more information

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