

Kansas Professional Engineer News

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE KANSAS SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2021

**KSPE
PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE**

▶ Page 3

**SMOKY VALLEY
UPDATE**

▶ Page 5

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 3 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
- 4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
- 5 SMOKY VALLEY CHAPTER EVENT
- 6 EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION UPDATE
- 7 WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
- 7 PRACTICE DIVISION UPDATES
- 8 KSPE PAC CONTRIBUTORS
- 9 UPCOMING EVENTS
- 10 2021-2022 ANNUAL PARTNER SPONSORS



KANSAS PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER NEWS

Publisher

Travis Lowe, CAE

Contact

825 S. Kansas Ave., Ste. 500
Topeka, KS 66612
(785) 233-2121
travis@kansasengineer.org

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR KSPE PRESIDENT

Brian Coomes, P.E.

“We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives.” – John F. Kennedy.

With Thanksgiving right around the corner, I can't help but reflect on all the impactful people and blessings in my life. I would encourage all of us to think about those that have made or continue to make a difference in our lives and let them know about it. I, for one, could use some more personal connectivity after the long, monotonous haul of virtual meetings and restrictions we've all lived through. What better way to make that connection this holiday season than to let someone know how much we appreciate the difference they've made.

As I've journeyed my way through an engineering career, there have been so many talented individuals that have given their time and energy to 'mentor' me. For me, the camaraderie within the engineering community is what keeps me excited and engaged in the profession. I'm inspired by those among us that dedicate so much to the profession and ultimately the service of the public. I'm thankful for an advanced engineering community that builds a safe and secure environment where my family

can thrive. What a rewarding profession we all have chosen!

KSPE continues to provide excellent services to promote, support, and protect our ability to practice this great profession of engineering. We are fortunate to be on stable ground as an organization as we come out of the pandemic. I believe we are poised for continued growth and success, but we must all continue to commit to attracting and retaining the next generation of engineers to our organization.

I've had the pleasure of attending events with many of our local chapters to date, and I'm continually amazed at the level of activity we are able to generate across our great state. To date, I've been able to attend events with the Southeast, Wichita, High Plains, and Eastern chapters. Strong local chapters are what make our organization successful. These local events are the perfect way to engage new members, both young and old, and you can find a full list of upcoming events [here](#). Let's face it, who can turn down a serious invitation to Beers with Engineers?

I started my discussion by reflecting on those that have mentored me over the years, but we must not forget that we are



all in positions to be leaders and mentors to those around us. Let's take time to thank the difference-makers in our lives, and let's also take time to pass that wisdom and experience on to others. It's that attitude that will continue to allow our profession to thrive. Thank you all for saying 'Yes' to KSPE!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Travis Lowe, CAE



KSPE members,

Hello from Topeka and Happy Thanksgiving! It is hard to believe a new year is upon us, ushering in opportunities for KSPE and licensed professional engineers. Over the year, it has been amazing to see our society active across the state and reengage. In this publication, we have many updates to share, but first, we want to thank our members for their continued support that keeps KSPE strong.

Within a couple of weeks, KSPE President Brian Coomes will have traveled to all seven chapters for the annual president visits. These meetings are very important. We know KSPE's success begins at the chapter level and Brian's visit provides a perspective of how it all comes together at the state level.

I have been able to visit the chapters too, particularly at the legislative events. It is quite impressive to see five of our chapters have local legislators at their meetings to hear KSPE discuss our legislative priorities in Topeka. Having the local connection is key and though the legislative chapter visits will conclude next month, it looks like we will have 30-40 legislators attend. This is a large percentage of the whole legislature, sitting down with local licensed professional engineers and learning

about KSPE legislative issues. It is an incredible investment for chapters that provides enormous value. Thank you and keep it up!

To that end, there is still time to contribute to the [KSPE Political Action Committee](#). This publication notes this year's contributors in the last couple months and we would love to add your name to our next issue. This effort helps retain our proven champions in the legislature. This makes all the difference as we head into an election year in 2022.

Save the date for our 2022 Annual Conference in Wichita on June 15-17. We are excited to build on the great attendance we saw in Manhattan last year. Our Conference Planning Committee is working hard with staff to put together an interesting agenda.

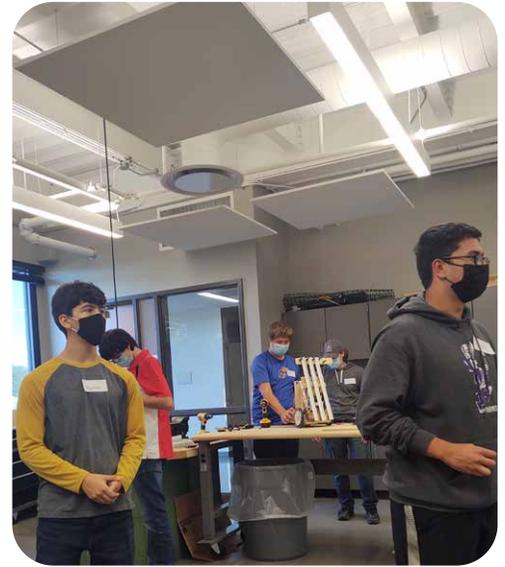
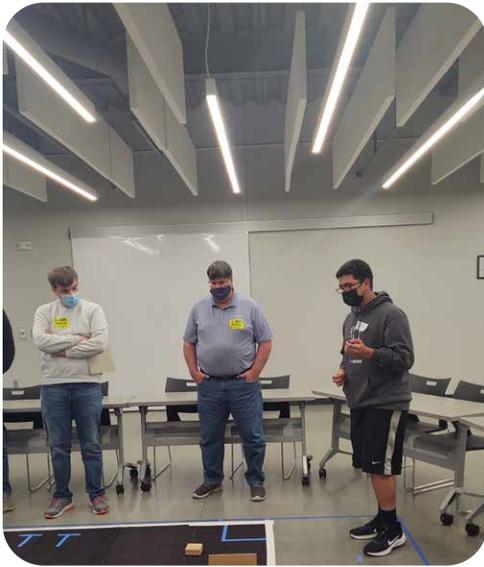
On a closing note, we want to welcome again our new members who joined in the last few months. Please visit with us about why you joined. Whether it's for local engagement, PDH opportunities or to support our society's mission on licensure, we are proud to have you aboard!

Thank you for your continued support!

See you soon,

Travis Lowe, CAE

SMOKY VALLEY CHAPTER EVENT



Smoky Valley Chapter members as they present the robot they are working on for the 2021 BEST (Boosting Engineering Robotics Competition) Robotics Competition

Smoky Valley Chapter members attended the October chapter meeting hosted by Salina South High's Robotic Team. Six team members and coaches Mrs. Lyric Cairns (Former KSPE SVC Teacher of the Year) and Mr. Adam Lesser presented the robot they are currently working on for the 2021 BEST (Boosting Engineering, Science & Technology) Robotics Competition.

After presenting their robot, the students ate dinner with Smoky Valley Chapter members. This year's competition scenario is "Demo Daze", where teams are tasked with managing a demolition site with their robot. All teams are given, free of charge, the same sets of supplies and have 8 weeks to strategize, problem solve and build the robot. The students will be competing against 20+ teams throughout Kansas for a chance to move on to the regional competition in Denver. We want to wish the Salina South High Robotics Team the best of luck at their competition on November 20 at Charles Koch Arena!

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION UPDATE

by Wayne Nelson, P.E.

EFK

ENGINEERS FOUNDATION OF KANSAS

The Engineer's Foundation of Kansas golf tournament was held October 1 at Colbert Hills in Manhattan. We had a great turnout with 20 teams competing and more importantly, we had 15 hole sponsors this year. I especially wish to thank our sponsors for their support of the Foundation. The weather was perfect and the course challenging, but everyone enjoyed some golf, food and seeing old friends.

The board of directors met October 8 on the campus of KU and hosted by Arvin Agah, Ph.D., Dean of the College of Engineering. After the board meeting we were treated to a tour of the KU engineering facilities. Thank you Arvin and to Professor Bob Parsons for conducting the tour. Perhaps those of you at the golf tournament had a chance to visit with Bob as he headed up the KU professors golf team and provided an update from KU College of Engineering.

A legislative highlight from the past session is the renewal of the University Engineering Initiative Act (UEIA). Tom Roberts, EFK Vice-President, provided testimony to both the House and Senate. Governor Laura Kelly signed the bill October 18th in Topeka at the offices of Bartlett & West. The Expanded Lottery Act Revenues Fund transfer benefiting engineering programs at KU, KSU and WSU was scheduled to end in fiscal year 2022. With the passage of House Bill 2101, the program will be extended from fiscal year 2023 through fiscal year 2032.

A date for everyone to remember is April 20, 2022, the next Greater Manhattan Community Foundation (GMCF) Grow Green Match Day. The Grow Green day provides you an opportunity to increase the value of your donations to the EFK through GMCF with a match of \$0.50 for every dollar you donate.

As we noted in the July message, the Kansas state-wide MATHCOUNTS competition is being named in honor of Don & Lynne Rathbone. Below is the new MATHCOUNTS OF KANSAS logo.

MATHCOUNTS
OF KANSAS
In honor of
Don & Lynne Rathbone



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Eastern Chapter

Charles Henley, P.E.
Kiewit Engineering Group Inc.
Lenexa

Feras El-Ghussein, P.E.
Forterra, Inc.
Shawnee

Topeka Chapter

Davis Green
University of Kansas
Lawrence

PRACTICE DIVISION UPDATES

Professional Engineers in Industry (PEI)



Amy Martens, P.E.

martens@bcbsks.com

if you are interested in assisting with upcoming STEM events to encourage our youth to learn more about engineering!

The NSPE Industry Community has been focused on the following topics: licensure, ethics, problem solving/lean, and digital/physical world alignment with PEs from automation, data analytics, data sciences, and AI. If you are interested in learning more about the NSPE Industry Community, please let me know.

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.

It is that time of year when many community programs are seeking volunteers willing to donate their time and energy. The KSPE Professional Engineers in Industry (PEI) regularly provides volunteer services to local organizations and community programs. Please contact Amy Martens, PEI Chair, at amy.martens@bcbsks.com

Professional Engineers in Higher Education (PEHE)



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

The Forum comments ultimately evolved into a discussion about the industry exemption.

The NSPE Position Statement No. 09-1766 is our current position on Faculty Licensure.

Adopted: January 2012 Latest Revision: July 2018 NSPE Contact: Committee on Policy and Advocacy

Professional Policy Supported: 09-Licensure

“It is the position of the National Society of Professional Engineers that licensing jurisdictions should be encouraged to incorporate in their statutes the NCEES Model Law definition of the practice of engineering which requires engineering faculty who teach advanced engineering subjects to be licensed professional engineers in the jurisdiction where they are practicing. “Advanced engineering subjects” as referenced in the Model Law are typically interpreted to mean upper-level undergraduate or graduate-level engineering courses with a component of design.”

Kimberly Kramer, P.E., Ph.D., is a Professional Engineer Member of KS State Board of Technical Professions and a great example of faculty licensure. She received her bachelor's

Faculty Licensure? Do you read & participate in the NSPE Communities Platform?

The NSPE Communities platform is a great way to connect with other NSPE members and to learn about current issues facing the profession.

In the past 6 weeks, there has been a vigorous discussion in the Open

Forum Communities platform about faculty licensure. The

Professional Engineers in Higher Education (PEHE) continued

degree in architectural engineering from K-State in 1989. After working in the industry for several years as a structural engineer, Kramer accepted a faculty position with K-State in the department of architectural engineering and construction science in 2003. She was appointed to the KSBoTP in September 2019. Thank you, Kimberly, for your service to our profession and for being a member of KSPE/NSPE!

ABET Update

The ABET Fall 2021 Governance virtual meetings were held October 27 – 31. Computing, Applied & Natural Sciences, Engineering, and Engineering Technology delegate meetings conducted several elections and considered a variety of criteria & program changes. A summary of key items includes:

- a) ABET delegations are finding it difficult to create harmonized criteria on Diversity;
- b) There is a need for licensed P.E.s to serve as Program Evaluators - Industry representation provides diversity to the visit process;
- c) NSPE continues to seek licensed P.E.s/NSPE members to fill Engineering Technology (ETAC) & Computer (CAC) commission seats;
- d) ABET visits & meetings into 2022 will continue to be virtual but most commission members recognize that face-to-face interactions are more effective. However, virtual meetings save \$ for institutions and member societies.

Please encourage your engineering faculty to be licensed and to encourage students to take the Fundamentals of Engineering exam. Send your ideas, comments, and suggestions to:

Tom C. Roberts, P.E., F.NSPE, F.ASEE
NSPE-KS and PEHE Chair
785.565.1286 or at tcr@ksu.edu

2021 KSPE PAC CONTRIBUTORS

Thank you to the following who have made a KSPE PAC contribution since the last issue.

WAYNE NELSON

MICHAEL HOFFMAN

MARK WILLIAMS

RACHEL HENKHAUS

THOMAS ROBERTS

BRIAN SCOVILL

TRAVIS STRYKER

CLAUDE PERDUE

UPCOMING STATE EVENTS

DEC

1

Topeka Chapter Legislative Dinner and KSPE President Visit

December 1, 2021

DEC

2

KSPE President visit to Smoky Valley & Legislative Lunch

Salina

December 2, 2021, 12:00 PM-1:00 PM

DEC

2

KSPE President visit to Tri-Valley & Legislative Dinner

Manhattan
December 2, 2021, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

FEB

20-26

Engineers Week 2022

February 20-26, 2022

JUNE

15-17

2022 KSPE Annual Conference

Drury Plaza Hotel Broadview, Wichita

June 15-17, 2022

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

Eastern Chapter

DEC

16

Eastern Chapter Chiefs Game Social

December 16, 2021

You can find more details about our events on [our website](#).

THANK YOU TO OUR 2021-2022 ANNUAL PARTNER SPONSORS!

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KAPA

Kansas Asphalt Pavement Association

The logo for Affinis features the word 'Affinis' in a blue, serif font. A green, curved line arches over the 'A' and 'f' of the word, starting from the top left and ending at the top right.

BRONZE SPONSORS

Annual **CONFERENCE**



Drury Plaza Hotel
Broadview
Wichita, Kansas

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PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

For questions, contact us at
info@kansasengineer.org or (785) 233-2121

JUNE 15-17, 2022