

# Kansas Professional Engineer News

The official publication of the Kansas Society of Professional Engineers

Fall 2019

NSPE-KS™

KANSAS SOCIETY OF  
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

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KSPE Members Appointed to  
NSPE Committees

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**Above:** KSPE President Jessica Rhein, P.E., joins KSPE and MSPE leaders in Kansas City for the 56th Annual NSPE President Visit. **Left to Right:** Travis Lowe, Tom Greer, P.E., David Martini, P.E., F.NSPE, Tony Rome, P.E., Jessica Rhein, P.E., Tom Roberts, P.E., F.NSPE, F.ASEE



**KANSAS PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER NEWSLETTER**

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**Jessica Rhein, P.E.**

KSPE President 2019-2020

## A Message From Your 2019-2020 KSPE President

Hello KSPE Members!

I begin writing this on the coldest day of the year so far, October 30. I don't know about everyone else, but I am definitely not ready for this weather!

Travis Lowe and I began our Chapter Visits last week, starting with breakfast at my home Chapter in Wichita, and then heading to Garden Plains Chapter for a lunch meeting. It was great to see old friends and meet new ones. During our visits, I am stressing the importance of growing our membership. I ask you, how did you become involved in KSPE? Did someone ask (tell) you to go to a local meeting? Or were you curious on your own? I was basically dragged to a meeting by a former co-worker. I haven't looked back since.

KSPE and NSPE do great things, and as with much of what we do as licensed professional engineers, we don't even notice it's going on. But we would definitely notice if KSPE was not there, fighting on our behalf for licensure, funding, legislative issues. I imagine there are things I don't even know KSPE is fighting for on our behalf.

Upcoming Chapter visits include an evening dinner at the Eastern Chapter, a lunch meeting at the Smoky Valley Chapter, and an evening dinner at the Tri-Valley Chapter. I can't wait to see all of you and hear what you have to say. We are scheduling the Southeast Chapter visit soon.

As I finish writing this, it is probably the last warm day of the year, November 6. As we prepare for the Kansas winter, I ask each of you to think about who you can invite to a meeting, function, or who you can simply start a conversation about KSPE and NSPE.

Be safe out there, and Happy Holidays!

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

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

KSPE Members,

Greetings from KSPE World Headquarters! We hope everyone is enjoying the fall season. As we move into winter and prepare for the upcoming legislative session, we have many updates to share. But first, we want to thank you for your continued support of KSPE that enables KSPE to provide and operate efficiently for you.

KSPE President Jessica Rhein and I are traveling across the state to say hello to our chapters for the annual president visits. In our discussions with chapter members we are stressing the importance of membership recruitment. As many chapters invite their local legislators to the meeting, it gives us an opportunity to review KSPE legislative priorities with our members and the legislators. We reinforce the importance of having a strong legislative arm in Topeka to protect your license while you are hard at work. It is a right we cannot take for granted, as states across the nation debate the role of professional and occupational licensure. Your support keeps KSPE strong with the ability to represent your issues under the dome.

As the legislative session

approaches, issues are already beginning to take hold. The interim period between session has been the busiest in years, as several dozen interim hearings have met since September. We know KSPE will be involved in several areas of policy discussions. Once session begins in mid-January, please review the legislative updates we send each week. We are pleased to see our members follow the news closely creating an informed base.

Beyond legislative preparation, we are looking forward to 2020's KSPE activities. The Water Quality Seminar, MATHCOUNTS and Engineers' Week are around the corner and we are already planning the 2020 KSPE Conference in Olathe.

Thank you to everyone who attends, sponsors and plans to make this events successful.

In closing, please talk about KSPE to your fellow P.E.'s. Mentor new and/or young hires in your department, schools and firms and stress the importance of KSPE. We grow the membership by recruiting new members and



retaining the ones we have now. We also want to thank our 2019-2020 annual partner sponsors. This means a great deal to our operating income over the next year.

With all the activity and news in this issue, you can see 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



Above: The KSPE GRC gears up for the 2020 Kansas legislative session.

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

## Eastern Chapter

**Nicholas Kuzmyak, P.E.**  
Barlett & West Inc.  
Lawrence, KS

## **Scott Crain, P.E.**

Affinis Corp  
Overland Park, KS

## **Gareth Baus, Student**

South Dakota School of  
Mines and Technology  
Louisburg, KS

## **Elizabeth Neelly, Student**

Kansas State University  
Olathe, KS

## Topeka Chapter

**Carrick Finnegan, Student**  
Kansas State University  
Lawrence, KS

## Tri Valley Chapter

**William Kelly, Student**  
Kansas State University  
Manhattan, KS

## **Cassie Patrick, EI**

SMH Consultants  
Manhattan, KS

## **Joseph Forbes, Student**

Kansas State University  
Manhattan, KS

## Wichita Chapter

**Christina Holt, P.E.**  
Wood  
Wichita, KS

## **Nabil Reza, Student**

Wichita State University  
Wichita, KS

## **Stephen Schmidt, P.E.**

Kaw Valley Engineering  
Wichita, KS

## **Neal Lewis, EI**

Advantage Mac  
Newton, KS

## **Sangeeta Bhattacharjee, EI**

SCS Engineers  
Wichita, KS

## KSPE PRESIDENT'S VISITS

### WICHITA CHAPTER PRESIDENT VISIT



### HIGH PLAINS CHAPTER PRESIDENT VISIT



### EASTERN CHAPTER PRESIDENT VISIT



# Member Spotlight

Darren Meyer, E.I.T.



**KSPE Chapter:** Eastern Chapter

**Education:** 2016 BS Civil Engineering - Kansas State University

**What is your employment/education history?** I began pursuing a career as a civil engineer by earning a BS in Civil Engineering at K-State in 2016 (EMAW!). As a sophomore at KSU in 2014, I began an internship position for Schwab-Eaton in Manhattan. I continued this internship through my junior and senior years, working during semesters and summers, which allowed me to gain valuable industry experience, improving my design and technical skills, while working

towards my degree. I transitioned to a full-time position with Schwab-Eaton upon graduating in 2016. Working for Schwab-Eaton in Manhattan provided me a great opportunity to interact and learn from great people while being a project engineer for several local street improvement projects and residential/commercial land development projects. In late 2018, I was fortunate enough to be given another opportunity to expand my knowledge as a civil engineer in the Midwest by taking a similar position with Wilson & Company in Kansas City, Missouri. In my first year at Wilson & Company I've had the opportunity to work on various projects around the KC Metro as well as in Denver and Colorado Springs.

**Tell us about your family:** I grew up with three siblings on a farm just outside of Bern, KS in Nemaha County. My dad farms and my mom recently launched a quickly growing interior design business in the NE Kansas area, FreshUp Restoration. I recently got engaged to my girlfriend, Samantha, who I met at K-State. She earned an Elementary Education Bachelor's Degree with a Masters in Multi-Cultural Education. For her first year teaching in 2018, she took a job in the KCK school district at William Allen White Elementary. This year she decided to relocate back to the Shawnee Mission school district, where she grew up. She is currently teaching 5th grade at Christa McAuliffe Elementary and is loving getting to know her class and co-teachers!

**What is your greatest accomplishment to date?** My greatest accomplishment to date is by far convincing my girlfriend to say yes last month and a close second to that is converting her from a Chargers fan to Chiefs fan.

**One fun fact about you:** The entire county that I grew up in had one stoplight. My commute to work now has 14.

## WHY DID YOU BECOME AN ENGINEER?

Throughout middle and high school I always excelled in math and science classes so I knew I wanted to pursue a career that would support my analytical strengths. I grew up in a very small town, but every time my family went on road trips and vacations across the country, I was always fascinated with all of the public infrastructure in metropolitan areas and wondered how it was all designed and built. I started to ask teachers and engineers about the civil engineering industry and I quickly became interested in becoming a civil engineer.

## Darren Meyer, E.I.T.

**What do you like to do with your free time?** My fiancé and I really like to travel with friends. This last summer I had the opportunity to go to the beautiful country of Croatia. We spent a lot of time relaxing on the coast at beaches and islands. The people of Croatia are very nice and love to have tourists spend time with them. I know Italy has good pizza and seafood, but Croatia has got to be right up there with them. We also got to see many of the Game of Thrones filming sites in Dubrovnik and Split. It was an incredible experience and I look forward to many more like it.

**If you weren't an engineer, you would be a \_\_\_\_\_?** If I wasn't going into engineering, I was planning to be a P.E. Teacher and HS Football Coach. I had some really awesome P.E. teachers and coaches throughout my upbringing that were very influential to me and I wanted to have an impact on kids like they did.

### FAVORITES

**Restaurant:** Well I live in Kansas City so my favorite restaurant has to be in the BBQ genre and the best is Q-39.

**Vacation Spot:** I have enjoyed vacations all around the U.S., but I think one of my favorite trips to go on as often as possible is skiing in Colorado.

**Sports Team:** Definitely the team that has won 11 straight sunflower showdowns, the Wildcats. Also, I'm a huge Kansas City Chiefs fan. Shoutout Patty Mahomes, I know you read the KSPE newsletter every month.

**Song or Music Artist:** I probably jam to Twenty-One Pilots more than anything else.

**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?"*



# TIM AUSTIN NAMED CHAIRMAN

## KSPE'S TIM AUSTIN NAMED CHAIRMAN OF NSPE COPA COMMITTEE

A former KSPE and NSPE past president is giving Kansas a voice on the powerful NSPE Committee on Policy and Advocacy (COPA). This fall, Tim Austin, P.E., F.NSPE was named chair of the 17-member committee comprised of members, board representatives and staff.

COPA furthers the mission of NSPE through strategic policy development, thereby shaping NSPE's advocacy endeavors. Specifically, the group will develop positions on public policy issues that affect public health, safety and welfare as they relate to the professional practice of engineering and engineering licensure.



***"I am grateful for the opportunity to further serve NSPE and the engineering community. In today's world of rapid technological change, the need for engineers to protect public safety has, arguably, never been greater."***

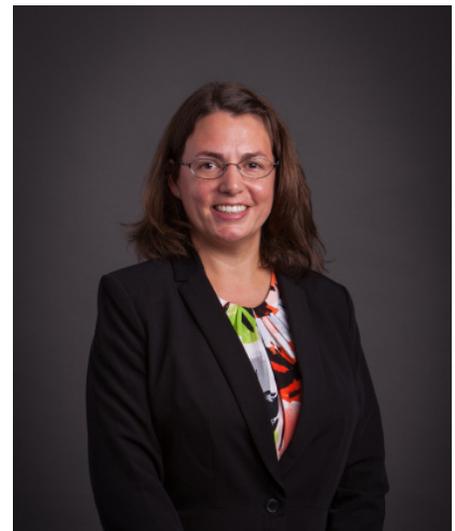
*-Tim Austin, P.E.*

# KSPE'S KERRIE GREENFELDER APPOINTED

## KERRIE GREENFELDER APPOINTED TO NEW NSPE COMMITTEE

Kerrie L. Greenfelder, P.E., BCEE, DBIA, who serves as KSPE's Second Vice President and a board member of the Society of Women Engineers, has been appointed to the 2019-2020 NSPE Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Advisory Committee.

This is a new committee that is tasked with developing a path forward for NSPE furthering the goals and objectives of the newly adopted strategic plan's key focus area of Diversity and Tomorrow's Engineers.



NSPE President-Elect Tricia H. Hatley, P.E., F.NSPE is chairing the Committee. The Committee will begin work this fall.

# NSPE PROVIDES KSPE, EFK AND CHAPTERS INSURANCE COVERAGE AT NO COST

In a world of increased liability, KSPE and its chapters are moving to be covered by NSPE's new blanket policy, becoming effective on December 1. In July, NSPE informed state society executives its intention to assist states and chapters by allowing states to opt into a large policy that covered general liability and directors insurance. To the delight of KSPE and the chapters, NSPE is absorbing the premium costs of the policies and as a national benefit.

The KSPE Board of Directors voted to approve KSPE's enrolling for the coverage. This saves KSPE and its chapters a combined several thousand dollars a year.

"We are extremely glad to see NSPE make this available to state societies and picking up the tab," KSPE Executive Director Travis Lowe told directors as they discussed the proposal. "This is a great example of how the partnership with NSPE has clear advantages for KSPE and our chapters."



## JOIN US FOR #PECON20 IN



# Philadelphia

## AUGUST 12-16, 2020

# NSPE NORTH CENTRAL REGION DIRECTOR UPDATE

MATT KRUSE, P.E., PTOE, NSPE NORTH CENTRAL  
DIRECTOR

Hello again fellow NSPE members and colleagues, I hope everyone is back into the swing of NSPE activities at their state or chapter level. I wanted to take this time to offer my gratitude for all of the members who volunteered on the planning and execution of the PECON Conference held in Kansas City this year. This was a tremendous opportunity for our region to host the Annual Meeting and it wouldn't have been such a great event without all of the volunteers. As we approach the end of 2019, I wanted to take this opportunity to give an update on things that have been going on in the North Central Region. Again, maybe for new members or maybe not everyone is familiar with the formal organization of NSPE, the North Central Region of NSPE is made up of North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri. The director of a region serves as a representative for two way communication between the chapter and state societies within NSPE and the Executive Board of NSPE.



With the adoption of the updated vision and mission statements, and the approval of the strategic plan, efforts on the national level have turned to implementing a business plan to support the objectives of the strategic plan. As for reference, the current main focus of the strategic planning effort is concentrated on the following areas: Shaping of Public Policy, Educating for the Future, Driving growth, Diversity and Tomorrow's Engineer, and Engaging the State Societies and NICET. The goal is to have the business plan ready for approval and then roll out early into 2020. One aspect that has been started already is a reestablished membership committee. Past NSPE President Michael Aitken, P.E., is chair of this committee and is looking to have a representative from each state be active on the committee. The committee is looking at trying something different this year to better engage state societies with national, and each other, regarding membership initiatives, resources, challenges, and solutions. We will be creating four subcommittees based on state tier groups. If you have any interest in this, please reach out to your local or state NSPE leaders.

As a region, we hold a conference call each month with state leaders from within our region where we discuss pertinent items to each state. If you have any questions or comments regarding NSPE, please feel free to reach out to me at 402-496-2498 or [matt.kruse@LampRynearson.com](mailto:matt.kruse@LampRynearson.com).

# PRACTICE DIVISION: 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. Please contact Amy Martens, PEI Chair, at [amy.martens@bcbsks.com](mailto:amy.martens@bcbsks.com) if you are able to assist with upcoming STEM events to encourage our youth to learn more about engineering!

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.



# PRACTICE DIVISION: PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE (PEPP)

JOSEPH DRIMMEL, P.E.

The ACEC Board of Directors hosted Keith Jackson, ACEC National Executive Committee Representative, this past month. Keith visited with the board of directors and membership about the newly adopted Strategic Plan for ACEC. The five goals and objectives of the plan are: Leading Business Strategy, Embodying Inclusion and Diversity, Expanded and Influential Membership, Essential Value to Society, and Vibrant Member Engagement. Keith also discussed the annual report, advocacy efforts and the strength of the Council.

Membership luncheons were held in Wichita on October 2nd and Lawrence on November 13th. This concludes our membership luncheons for the year.

The ACEC/KDOT Partnering Conference was held on October 22nd. Around 240 attendees came to Topeka for the conference. Forward Kansas was the theme and the group heard from KDOT, KTA, Legislators, and many others about what is happening around the state. Also, ACEC is currently hosting an on-line membership survey.



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](mailto:joseph.drimmel@hdrinc.com).

# PRACTICE DIVISION: PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS IN HIGHER EDUCATION (PEHE)

TOM ROBERTS, P.E., F.NSPE

The Order of the Engineer Ceremony at Kansas State University is scheduled for Noon, Saturday, December 14, 2019 in Fiedler Hall.

You are invited to attend the K-State Ceremony either as a new inductee or to promote licensure as a professional already inducted into the Order. Contact Carol Hewitt at 785.532.5455 to sign up.

KSPE/NSPE members who wear the ring help raise awareness of the concepts of licensure and professionalism. This awareness is extended to recent engineering graduates, to non-KSPE/NSPE members, and to the general public. Promoting the Order of the Engineer provides an opportunity for NSPE and its state partners to grow our membership. A strong membership base helps promote and protect the engineering license.

Below is an Executive Summary of the Nov. 1-2, 2019 ABET meeting attended by NSPE ABET Rep (and K-State Civil Engineer) Jon Nelson, P.E..



## Key Issues Addressed at the Nov 1-2, 2019 ABET Meeting (Executive Summary)

- General: In general, the meetings were quiet with no items of significant controversy.
- Licensure of ETAC Graduates: This issue did not come up at the meeting, but it probably will sometime during the next year.
- Applied Engineering: This issue did not come up at the meeting, but it probably will sometime during the next year.
- Partial Virtual Visits: NSPE has been tracking the use of partial virtual accreditation visits over the past five or six years. Originally, such visits were used for foreign visits when safety concerns prevented face-to-face visits. ANSAC is now using them for domestic visits, while EAC and ETAC are not, except when there are security concerns with foreign visits. The use of such visits should be carefully analyzed to ensure that the lack of face-to-face communication between PEVs and the administration, faculty and students does not compromise the quality of the evaluations.
- Data Science Programs: Data science programs are growing in numbers and popularity and are a potential future area for ABET accreditation. The assignment of the responsible commission and lead societies for such programs could be complicated due to their melding of mathematics, computer science and data from various engineering domains. The Computer Accreditation Commission (CAC) was assigned the task of sorting out the issue, but it was affirmed that some programs may belong to other commissions.

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](mailto:tcr@ksu.edu).

# UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

## DECEMBER

### **KSPE President Visit to Smoky Valley Chapter**

December 5, 2019

12 - 1 PM

Salina, KS

### **KSPE President Visit to Tri-Valley Chapter/Legislative Dinner**

December 5, 2019

5:30 PM

Manhattan, KS

### **KSPE President Visit to Topeka Chapter/Legislative Dinner**

December 4, 2019

5:30 PM

Topeka, KS

## FEBRUARY

### **Southeast, Topeka and Wichita Chapter MATHCOUNTS**

February 1, 2020

### **Eastern Chapter MATHCOUNTS**

February 4, 2020

### **Smoky Valley/Tri-Valley Chapter MATHCOUNTS**

February 8, 2020

The image is a promotional banner for a licensure ceremony. It features a blue background with a white and yellow logo for NSPE-KS (Kansas Society of Professional Engineers) in the top left. The text 'Join KSPE for our next Licensure Ceremony' is written in white. The date 'February 14, 2020' is prominently displayed in large white font. Below the date, it says 'At the Kansas State Capitol Rotunda Topeka, Kansas'. The bottom right corner shows a photograph of the Kansas State Capitol building at night, illuminated against a dark blue sky.

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

Join KSPE for our next Licensure Ceremony

# February 14, 2020

At the Kansas State Capitol Rotunda  
Topeka, Kansas

# Annual Conference June 3-5

Embassy Suites Hotel, Olathe, Kansas

# 2020



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