

Kansas Professional Engineer News

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE KANSAS SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2021

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KANSAS PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER NEWS

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR KSPE PRESIDENT

Brian W. Scovill, P.E.



Happy New Year! I am embarrassed to say that I haven't bought a single gift from a local store this holiday season. While I aim to improve that and to support more local businesses, I am also thinking- what else would I like to change in 2021? Our crazy 2020 makes it tempting to list social activities like family vacations, live sporting events, festivals, and concerts, but for me, those don't require a concerted effort for change and improvement. After some thought, I've decided to develop my patience and acceptance. I know there is room for growth, but to really improve I will have to keep this at the forefront of my thoughts and actions. Truly, we could all use a little more patience.

This brings me to KSPE. What are our goals? Where is there room for growth? Is our strategic plan still relevant or does it need a makeover or a refresh? I had not looked at our plan in over a year and realize now this was a mistake. I have not been leading our organization with our strategic plan in mind. NSPE's [strategic plan](#) was recently presented in a webinar called "[Moving Forward Together and Strategies for the Future](#)". In that presentation, they recommend each state either develop or update their plans to ensure we move forward together. On that note, at our last board meeting, we discussed forming a committee to review our current plan and recommend updates.

I want to thank our KSPE Board of Directors and all several chapters for their time and energy in serving our members and the engineering profession. There is no doubt that Covid-19 and other significant events, including BLM and the recent elections, will leave a lasting impact on our communities. It would have been easy to throw in the towel, cancel all events, and leave a "Temporarily Closed due to Pandemic" note on the door. It is because of our volunteer leaders that KSPE continues to be the recognized voice and advocate of licensed Professional Engineers in Kansas. So, thank you for all you do!

The Kansas Society of Professional Engineers is still here, we are still a resource, and we are actively engaged. Legislation updates are starting and you will be seeing more information on the upcoming Mathcounts, Bridge Building competitions, Future Cities, E-Week, and monthly chapter meetings.

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



KSPE members,

Greetings from Topeka! We hope all of our members and their families are well and healthy. 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.

After many months, the elections are finally over. We are gearing up for the legislative session. The election results provide a flavor of the new Legislature.

KSPE's advocacy efforts have been busy. KSPE's Political Action Committee (KSPE PAC) supported almost thirty candidates with proven records of supporting our legislative priorities. Thank you to everyone who contributed to KSPE PAC. The government affairs team is already reviewing legislative concepts for next session. Even while the Legislature is out of session, we have successfully improved proposed regulations offered by the Kansas State Board of Technical Professions.

Our 2020-2021 KSPE committees are hard at work. We thank all of our committee members who volunteer their time and encourage anyone interested in lending a hand to let us know.

We had a great virtual PEG Seminar in September, where over 70 folks participated. As we look ahead, the Water Quality Seminar will be held in March with the KSPE Annual Conference in June in Manhattan. Please note both of these dates. PHD requirements are still in effect so these are great opportunities to earn PDH credits and support KSPE at the same time.

We want to hear from you! If you have ideas for KSPE, please let staff or one of our leaders know. A strong society starts with our members at the ground level. Please ask yourself why you joined and how can this be spread to your colleagues. It's our pleasure as staff to serve such a great organization that not only takes their profession seriously, but also is a great group to engage with in all the KSPE events and committees. Thank you for your continued support!

See you soon,
Travis Lowe

KSPE MEMBER UPDATES



Harper Succeeds Kowach as KSPE Treasurer

C.W. Harper, P.E.

C.W. Harper, P.E. officially takes the reins as KSPE

Treasurer after Jim Kowach, P.E. resigned in October. Citing his plans to relocate to Nebraska, Jim Kowach leaves KSPE after fourteen years of membership, including several leadership roles within the Smoky Valley and KSPE Board of Directors. KSPE thanks Kowach for his service.

C.W. Harper, who recently served as High Plains Chapter State Director on the KSPE Board, volunteered to fill the remaining term as Treasurer through June 2022. Harper is a senior engineer at Kirkha Michael Consulting Engineers.

Trevor Ahring, P.E. joins the KSPE Board of Directors representing the High Plains Chapter, a role previously held by Harper. Ahring, a newcomer to KSPE, works

at Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management, professional NSPE members, and coordinating with the Continuing Education Committee to ensure that the program developed fits within the overall portfolio of NSPE continuing education offerings.



2021 Nominations Committee Formed

Jessica Rhein, P.E.

KSPE Immediate Past President Jessica Rhein, P.E. recently announced the members of the 2021 Nominations Committee. Per the association bylaws, the Nominations Committee is charged to canvas membership, chapters, and interest groups for candidates for KSPE officer positions. The committee is comprised of past presidents. Jessica Rhein will chair the committee with past presidents Ken Lee, P.E., F. NSPE and Brian Armstrong, P.E., F. NSPE serving as committee members.



KSPE Remembers Past President Dennis Kuhlman

Dennis Kuhlman, P.E., F. NSPE

With great sadness, the Kansas Society of Professional Engineers learned of the passing of Dr. Dennis Kuhlman on December 7. Dr. Kuhlman, P.E, F.NSPE, served as President of the KSPE from 2018-2019, after several years on the Executive Committee. Dr. Kuhlman, an agricultural engineer and former Dean of the Kansas State University Polytechnic Campus, joined KSPE in 1999. He served in multiple roles with the Smoky Valley Chapter, KSPE Board of Directors and earned designation as a NSPE Fellow.

During a recent meeting of the KSPE Board of Directors, directors shared reflections of Dennis, lauding his generous spirit, volunteerism, and leadership in the engineering community.

Please keep Dennis and his family in your thoughts.

KANSAS 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION PREVIEW

The 2021 Kansas Legislative Session officially began on Monday, January 11. The new session will be nothing like any other in Kansas history, with the Legislature's daily routines and procedures looking anything but normal. The Kansas Constitution provides the Legislature must meet in Topeka. To accommodate health concerns due to COVID-19, leadership in both the House and Senate have voted to limit the number of people in and out of the building, including public traffic, legislative interns, and even a reduction of legislative staff assistants. Committees will still meet, though members will be more spread out and voting on the Floor may even take place in groups of 10-20 members. Committee rooms, as well as the House and Senate chambers, have installed audio and visual components to broadcast proceedings to the public.

The 2020 Interim Session saw some of these measures implemented. While many of the interim committees were held virtually, this did not slow down the action. Dozens of new interim committees were formed to meet during the autumn months with the focus on COVID-19 relief or response. Joint committees and special committees met to review tax policy, economic relief, Federal COVID-19 relief utilization, broadband expansion, and budget issues.

Since 2020 saw all 165 legislators up for election, the makeup of the House and Senate changed

significantly. There will be 43 new members headed to the Statehouse in January. This equates to a 23% total turnover for the House and 35% for the Senate. The House Committee rosters are still to be released, but the Senate Committee assignments show committees will look vastly different, with many new chairs and members. Due to the high turnover in the House, House committees are also expected to look very different.

Senate Leadership will have all new faces after the retirements of Senate President Susan Wagle and Majority Leader Jim Denning. New leadership was elected on December 7 with Senator Ty Masterson (R-Andover) elected into the top spot of Senate President. Rick Wilborn (R-McPherson) won the office of Senate Vice-President which was previously held by Senator Jeff Longbine, who opted not to run for reelection to the post. Senator Gene Suellentrop (R-Wichita) won the bid for Senate Majority Leader, while Dinah Sykes (D-Lenexa) was elected Senate Minority Leader to replace previous Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, the longest-serving member of the Legislature. Hensley lost his bid for an eighth term during the 2020 election. He has served as Senate Minority Leader since 1997.

House Leadership saw no change with all the top office holders staying in place. House Speaker Ron Ryckman (R-Olathe) will become the first Speaker to serve a third term. Blaine Finch (R-Ottawa) was reelected to serve as House Pro-

Term. Dan Hawkins (R-Wichita) won reelection for House Majority Leader and Tom Sawyer (D-Wichita) won his reelection for House Minority Leader. All top spots in House leadership elections ran unopposed.

Even with all the COVID-19 restrictions, the new session promises to see plenty of action. Early indication is the Legislature wants to quickly complete their work to limit risk of COVID-19 exposure. This likely means most committees will begin to hold hearings soon after the Session begins. While much of the focus will be on COVID-19 responses and relief, the Legislature has many policy areas to tackle, including lingering 2020 issues cut short by the early dismissal last March. Most 2020 legislation prematurely died and must be reintroduced. The 2021 Session will see no shortages of issues such as constitutional amendments, tax policy, COVID relief, economic stability and growth, gaming and unemployment reform.

With the Legislature being more conservative, issues such as the Value Them Both constitutional amendment will be pushed higher on the priority list. Proposed constitutional amendments must be approved by a 2/3 vote in each chamber in order to appear on an August or November ballot. The Legislature tried to pass the Value Them Both amendment during the 2020 Session coming four votes short of passage.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

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.

EFK SPONSORS AND UPDATES

Wayne Nelson, P.E.



The Engineers’ Foundation of Kansas has been busy this fall and winter. The annual golf tournament was held at Colbert Hills golf course this past October 16. It was a chilly start to the day, but the sun was shining and the wind was light, so it was a near perfect day for golf. A big thank you to all who played and especially to those who were sponsors. David Jacobson and Brent Wooten were instrumental in generating the enthusiasm and sponsor support. This year’s sponsors are:

Baughman Company	Wilson & Company	WSO USA
Alfred Benesch	Bartlett & West	ADS Pipe
MKEC Engineering, Inc.	HNTB	Garver
Professional Engineering Consultants (PEC)	Burns & McDonnell	Kansas State University Carl R. Ice College of Engineering

I am sad to report that Dennis Livesay, Dean of the Wichita State University College of Engineering has submitted his resignation effective January 31, 2021 to become the dean of the College of Computing at Michigan Tech. The WSU program has excelled under Dennis’ leadership as enrollment continues to increase, the number of bachelor’s degrees has increased and they have started nine new academic programs.

The University Engineering Initiative Act (UEIA) will continue to be a closely watched item for EFK and KSPE in the coming legislative session. The deans of colleges of engineering have been meeting with the Board of Regents and Secretary Toland, among others, to start the education progress for the need to continue UEIA.

At the December 3 Board meeting we adopted the recognition/fundraising plan “Investing in the Future of Engineering” This plan was later endorsed by the KSPE Board. This plan is an outline for supporting educational and ethical practice needs of engineering students, engineering educators, and practicing professionals.

The plan will be our blueprint to build the Foundation into an organization that will support the needs of the engineering community in Kansas. The plan describes the funding needs, processes and details necessary to create endowed and expendable funds to sustain annual EFK activities by 2030. There are many STEM programs across Kansas, Future City and MathCounts are just two examples of the numerous programs that need support. Engineering licensure ceremonies, the FE exam support and PE exam support are other areas of need. Tom Roberts, P.E. will be forming a task force to help implement the plan. Volunteers will be needed from all chapters of Kansas to serve on this task force. Please contact Tom or me if you are interested.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Eastern Chapter

Bradley Schleeter, P.E.
Affinis Corp.
Overland Park, KS

Tri-Valley Chapter

Craig Stockebrand, P.E.
Wilson & Company
Salina, KS

High Plains Chapter

Trevor Ahring, P.E.
Southwest Kansas GMD 3
Garden City, KS

Meave VanLadingham, EI/EIT

Affinis Corp.
Overland Park, KS

Seth Allen, EI/EIT

Schwab-Eaton
Manhattan, KS

Topeka Chapter

Adam Olson, EI/EIT
Bartlett & West Inc.
Topeka, KS

Wichita Chapter

Azby Alshemeri
Student
Wichita, KS

Susan Randall, P.E.

NSPE
Andover, KS

Kevin Koester, P.E.

Topeka, KS

EFK SPONSORS AND UPDATES (CONTINUED)

Wayne Nelson, P.E.

The cornerstone of the plan is the recognition program. This program will have multiple levels of recognition: Friend or Corporate Friend, Colleague or Corporate Colleague, and Fellow or Corporate Fellow. There is also opportunities for a named endowed fund for each Fellow.

Every member of KSPE is a member of the EFK. Members are encouraged to contribute to EFK annually when renewing their NSPE membership and specifying a contribution on the renewal form. Membership contributions are typically used as expendable funds. Recommended levels listed in the EFK information brochure are: \$250; \$100; Other.

Tis the season for giving. Give back to your community, to your church or other organization, but don't forget about the engineering community. Hope you all had a wonderful holiday season.

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



[Chapter MathCounts Competition](#)

Feb. 5-6, 2021
Online Testing



[2021 Engineers Week](#)

Feb. 21-27, 2021



[State MathCounts Competition](#)

March 25, 2021
Online Testing

[2021 Virtual Water Quality Seminar](#)

March 25-26, 2021

[P.E. Examinations](#)

April 22-23, 2021

[2021 KSPE Annual Conference](#)

June 23-25, 2021
Manhattan, Kansas



[Professional Engineers Day](#)

August 4, 2021

[2022 KSPE Annual Conference](#)

June 15-17, 2022
Wichita, Kansas

2021 KSPE MATHCOUNTS UPDATE

by David Johnson, P.E.

Greetings KSPE members,

As the MATHCOUNTS year progresses, details continue to be worked out for this online competition year. As noted last month, the general competition schedule is as follows.:

1. Practice Exams – Four online practice exams are available to registered schools. October 15, November 15, December 15 and January 22, 2022 are the release dates for these tests. An unlimited number of students are able to take these practice tests.

2. Chapter Competitions – This online test will be available to all school registered students from 1:00 pm (ET) on February 5 through 1:00 pm (ET) February 6. Instead of being limited to 10 students per school, this year schools can register up to 15 students. All students will take this test, which will only be the traditional “individual” competition portion. This year, because of the online format, there will be no “team” competition portion. Competition scoring & ranking will be split up based on the same chapter boundaries/competitions as used in past years.

3. Chapter Invitational – Top scoring “individual” students from the Chapter Competitions for each participating school will

advance to this round. This online test will be held on February 25 @ 7:00 pm (ET) and all competitors must take this exam at the same time.

4. State Competition - Top scoring “individual” students from each Chapter Invitational competition will advance to this round. This online test will be held on March 25 @ 7:00 pm (ET) and all competitors must take this exam at the same time.

Since the competitions will be online and handled by the national office, there won't be as much need for volunteers and donations at the local level this year. However, chapters will still be providing awards for the Chapter Invitational winners and similar awards will be provided at the state level. In addition, **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** for the state competition. It is the goal of national MATHCOUNTS to have a volunteer to proctor each state competitor 1 on 1 during the March 25 testing either in-person or virtually. This is needed to verify no use of improper materials or other assistance that is not allowed by the rules. It will be up to each volunteer to coordinate with the student's parents & coach to determine what type of proctoring will work best. Volunteers are needed from all five KSPE chapter areas (Eastern, Topeka,

MATHCOUNTS[®] OF KANSAS

Southeast, Tri-Valley/Smoky Valley & Wichita.)

If interested, please contact your chapter coordinator:

Eastern

[Rachel Henkhaus, P.E.](#)

Smoky Valley & Tri Valley

[Greg Fief, P.E.](#) & [Jarred Green, P.E.](#)

Southeast

[Robin Philipp, P.E.](#)

Topeka

[Kevin Holland, P.E.](#)

Wichita

[Jessica Rhein, P.E.](#)

I want to thank the local coordinators and all KSPE member volunteers for their past involvement and for bearing with MATHCOUNTS during this unique year. The goal is to only have this format for this year and get back to “normal” next year in 2022 with the competition structure that we have used in the past. If you have any questions, please let me know.

David Johnson, P.E.

Kansas MATHCOUNTS
Coordinator

PRACTICE DIVISION UPDATES



Professional Engineers in Industry (PEI)

Amy Martens, P.E.

Professional Engineers in Industry (PEI) typically volunteers during the annual

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. The event is usually held on a Saturday in late March. Due to COVID-19, the date for the event has not yet been set. Last year, KCDC produced content online for families to utilize while at home 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 interested in assisting, whether in person or virtually.

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 Higher Education (PEHE)

Tom Roberts, P.E., F.NSPE

Congratulations and a tip of the hat to K-State Dean Matt O'Keefe for taking the Obligation of An Engineer at the November 2020 virtual Order of the Engineer Ceremony! His leadership and positive example for

students and faculty are appreciated.

Honoring Past-President Dennis Kuhlman, P.E. & the PEHE Value Statement:

PEHE supports the goals of NSPE & NSPE-KS by encouraging professional licensure of engineering faculty and encouraging professionalism and leadership within institutions of higher education.

All Honor to their names: W. C. Hoad, H. B. Walker, A. A. Potter, Roy Seaton, P. E., M. A. Durland, P. E., Glenn Anschutz, P. E., Dennis Kuhlman, P. E. – just a few of the deceased past presidents of KES / KSPE. All were engineering educators who lived and promoted PEHE values. Other past president educators are still living but have served their time. For example - Robert Snell, P. E. and Bill Wilhelm, P. E..

Who will fill the empty chair? Dennis was always present at annual conference PEHE Interest Group meetings. We drank a beer, celebrated our successes, and planned future actions. Now there is an empty chair. There is an old saying in legislative circles; "If you're not at the table you're on the menu." Kuhlman understood. Seaton & Durland understood. Snell & Wilhelm understand. However, there are empty chairs in the room. Some are gone, some have served their time.

Interestingly, you don't have to be a Dean or faculty member to understand and advance PEHE values. Richard Scherer, P. E. and Charlie Stryker, P. E. are two past presidents that come to mind. They understood and advanced PEHE values. Virgil Snell, P. E. was not a KSPE past president or a professor, but he sure advanced PEHE values. However, Charlie, Dick & Virgil served their time. Their chairs are empty.

There is much to be done in 2021 to support the University Engineering Initiative Act (UEIA), to promote the Order of the Engineer / ethical behavior, and to encourage professional licensure of engineering

PRACTICE DIVISION UPDATES

PEHE continued

faculty. What is your New Year's resolution to make a professional difference?

You are invited to the table! Give me a call. Send me an email. I'm betting there's something you can do to advance PEHE values and have some fun in the process. On June 24, 2021 (Hilton Garden Inn, in

Manhattan), let's fill some empty chairs at the PEHE table and raise a toast to Dennis!

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

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 large white golf ball on a tee, with a yellow watercolor-style background and a white outline of the state of Kansas behind the ball.

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 poster shows the top of the Topeka State Capitol building against a dark blue sky.

2021 Virtual Water Quality Seminar
March 25 - 26, 2021

NSPE-KS KANSAS SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

ACEC American Council on Education

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

The poster features a close-up of a water faucet with a single drop of water falling, set against a blurred background of a field.

KANSAS 2021 SESSION PREVIEW

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

KANSAS 2021 SESSION PREVIEW (CONTINUED)

Lingering issues such as Medicaid Expansion will see an uphill climb after compromise efforts fell apart last Session. This may still serve as an obstacle for the House or Senate acting as a bottleneck for other health related policy.

More so than most recent sessions, all eyes will be on the state's budget this year. Kansas revenue forecasters have projected the state will be running a \$152 million deficit for the following fiscal year. There will be plenty of discussion around where the money will come to fill in that deficit.

Expect comments about redistricting as the Legislature turns to its requirement to redraw the Kansas House, Kansas Senate, State Board of Education and Congressional maps in 2022. Stakeholder planning will begin after session in 2021 to gather public input. Other issues such as medical cannabis will likely be hot topics as Kansas is one of a few states to not approve its use, while others hope to approve sports wagering.

For KSPE, many issues are on the radar that could impact licensed Professional Engineers and the industry. KSPE is working with the Board of Regents and other stakeholders to extend the University Engineering Initiative Act (UEIA). The UEIA is a program created in 2011 that aims to increase the number of engineering graduates at Kansas State University, University of Kansas and Wichita State University. Scheduled to expire in 2022, the program has met and exceeded its statutory targeted goals, but the industry cites there are still not enough Kansas engineers to meet employer needs. KSPE is introducing legislation to extend the program another ten years through 2032.

Other licensure bills are expected to generate discussion under the dome. The 2020 Licensure Reciprocity Bill that passed the House before falling subject to the early dismissal will be re-introduced. This bill applies to all licensed professions and occupations (except attorneys) to provide license reciprocity if they are licensed in another state and move to Kansas. Last year, KSPE helped amend the bill to ensure the State Board of Technical Professions has ample authority to protect the Kansas license, but those conversations will have to be replicated with the new Legislature.

The Home Inspector Bill, which hopes to create a registry system for home inspectors, is giving a third try for passage in 2021. KSPE continues to work with stakeholders to ensure licensed Professional Engineers that perform home inspections are not subject to double licensure requirements.

Last session's passage of the Eisenhower (Ike) Comprehensive Transportation Plan relieves the new Legislature the task of creating a successor to TWORKS, but protection of State Highway Fund dollars will still be a primary focus. In addition, the new 2021 budget will review appropriations for the State Water Plan Fund.

Once session begins on January 11, please watch for the weekly legislative updates through session.

Thank you and please let us know if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Travis Lowe

KSPE Executive Director/Lead Lobbyist

2021 KSPE ANNUAL CONFERENCE June 23-25



Hilton Garden Inn

Manhattan, KS

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