

State News for NSPE Members

President's Message

By Frederick W. Groth, P.E., SE



We are three quarters of the way through the 2024–2025 NSPE-WI professional season. I hope that everyone enjoyed the holidays and time with family. Personally, I'm looking forward to the upcoming spring season and working in the garden.

So, what happened during this winter quarter? We recently celebrated Engineers Week in February. On February 19, we held an event with 30 participants. During this event, state awards were presented to both Glen Jablonka and Kim Lobdell for Engineer of the Year and to Mike Zelinsky for Engineer of the Year in Industry. NSPE-WI scholarship winners were recognized, and chapter awards were presented by the Southwest, Northwest, and Metro Chapters. The Fox River Valley and Western Chapters will be presenting scholarships later this year. A special thank you goes out to Norm Arendt for coordinating this event. For more on this event, please review the NSPE-WI Engineers Week section.

Keith Nikolay has finalized the 5-year strategic plan. We plan on getting this out to members for your final review and the board's approval shortly. Keith and John Brome, thank you for your hard work on this. It is important to get this plan updated.

Our NSPE-WI (WSPE) Virtual Discovery Conference kicked off on March 18 and will continue until April 23. You can earn 15 PDH's of continuing education credits by attending all of the sessions. I encourage everyone to register for the conference as we have a lot of very interesting topics and speakers.

We have also restarted our membership committee to review ways to get more younger members interested in joining NSPE-WI and in general, recruiting and retaining members. We have had

three meetings and have outlined recommendations for key issues. Volunteers have been assigned to champion these key issues. If you want to participate, please send me an email at fred.groth@graef-usa.com. For more information on membership committee activities, please see the 2025 Membership Committee Key Issues summary in this newsletter.



NSPE-WI Mission Statement: *NSPE-WI is an organization of licensed Professional Engineers (PEs) and Engineering Interns/Engineers in Training (EIs/EITs). NSPE-WI enhances the image of its members and their ability to ethically and professionally practice engineering through education, licensure advocacy, leadership training, multi-disciplinary networking, and outreach.*

2025 Discovery Conference Registration Underway

By John Brome, P.E.

In case you haven't noticed any geese flying north yet, another sure sign of spring is the open registration of our annual virtual Discovery Conference which begins March 18 and will run through April 23.



Although a link to our conference brochure may be found on our state website, WSPE.org, here are a few tid-bits to spark your interest: The theme of our conference is "How Legislation is Changing our Engineering Landscape." In addition to two ethics presentations, we'll have presenters talk about how a nuclear fusion start-up is finding new ways to develop this technology for consumer access; concerns about non-ionizing radiation; how virtual reality is being used to train fire fighters; challenges involved in designing the Wisconsin Historical Society Building; how AI is being used to balance growth; our grid and our environment; using 3D polar coordinates to direct medical instruments; electric and hybrid aircraft; redesigning the Yahara River Trail; Congressional policy and advocacy issues; and WisDOT's implementation of the "Infrastructure and Jobs Act" of 2021.

You're invited to attend all presentations, totaling 15 PDH, for just \$85! You can't beat that price and presentation quality for presentations nearly all given by scientists or licensed engineers. Retirees can attend for only \$40 and students are free. NSPE members (from other states) and ASCE members are welcome to attend the conference.

[Register NOW](#) for our 2025 Discovery Conference and we hope to see you there!

NSPE-WI State & Chapter Officer Nominations Due

So, what happens every March? We set our clocks ahead one hour, we hold our annual Discovery Conference, and **we nominate officers for our professional society's state and chapters leaders!**

According to our bylaws, we are to submit all nominations for our state and chapters by March 31



and since Norm Arendt is our state society's membership VP, he is the one that you should be sending your state nominations to and submit your chapter nominations to your chapter's membership VP.

At the very least, we need chapter officer nominations for President, Treasurer and Secretary although it is customary for each chapter to also have a membership VP, a program and arrangements VP, a president elect and hopefully a state director to interface with the state board on

the chapter's behalf.

The state board needs a president, president-elect, membership VP, education VP, legislative VP, treasurer, secretary, and a state delegate to the national House of Delegates.

Again, the deadline to submit state and chapter nominations is March 31. A vote for preferred nominees will take place in April. Please take a few minutes to jot down your nominations and respective offices and submit your state nominees to Norm (normarendt@gmail.com) and your chapter nominations to your chapter membership VP.

Wisconsin Grants \$100M for Ag, Forestry Road Repairs

By Noel Fletcher, Transport Topics

Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers has awarded \$100 million to the state transportation department to spend on 55 projects repairing rural roads to better move agricultural and forestry products.

"It's exceedingly important to have good roads and infrastructure, which not only ensure Wisconsinites can get from Point A to Point B safely but also make sure our farmers and agricultural industries can get products to market to put food on the tables of families the world over," Evers said. "We must continue investing in repairing and fixing our roads and modernizing our infrastructure to support our farmers, agricultural industries and rural communities across our state."



The grants, announced Feb. 5, will be distributed by the [Wisconsin Department of Transportation](#). The funding is earmarked for projects that revamp rural roads and culverts to more safely and efficiently handle Wisconsin's transportation of its key agricultural and forestry products across the state.

Wisconsin's freight network includes more than 1,100 miles of the National Highway Freight Network and 143 miles of critical rural freight corridors. The rural freight network is on public roads that connect to primary freight highways, interstates, ports and intermodal freight facilities.

Rural roads serve as Wisconsin's "first- and last-mile links in the state's farm-to-market commerce," according to the 2023 Wisconsin State Freight Plan. The plan highlighted "an area of

concern” in local bridges with weight restrictions on secondary roads.

“In 2022, 504 local bridges were posted (load restricted) because of condition and/or obsolescence. In many cases, heavy vehicles (mining, agricultural, energy cargo or equipment, and some timber-related vehicles) are not designed to meet the local road and bridge size and weight requirements found in Wisconsin statutes,” the freight plan states.

The new grants will improve rural infrastructure in 36 counties using 2023-25 biennial budget funds (totaling \$150 million) from the [Agricultural Roads Improvement Program](#). The ARIP was created in the state Legislature through the enactment of the “2023 Wisconsin Act 13.”

“Contributing a combined \$116.3 billion in economic impact and supporting nearly 354,000 jobs across the state, Wisconsin’s agriculture and food processing sectors are a critical part of our state’s history and our future,” Evers said.

Rural roads form primary transportation networks for Wisconsin’s haulers, processors and distributors that move goods such as ethanol, dairy products, animals, grain/feed, manure/fertilizer, potatoes, other vegetables and cranberries. The grants are the second release of funds under the ARIP.

Last July, the first batch of ARIP grants totaling \$50 million was awarded to 37 rural infrastructure projects in 28 counties. Eligible projects must meet several conditions. Infrastructure must be on a local rural highway, bridge or culvert used by at least one agriculture producer to access land or facilities used in agriculture or forestry. The program covers 90% of eligible project costs and requires a local sponsor/rural public government to pay for the remaining 10%.

“ARIP is designed to improve already existing weight-restricted or Class B roadways or bridges or culverts on weight restricted or Class B roadways used by agricultural or forestry producers such that they are no longer weight restricted. Construction of new roadways, bridges, or culverts are not eligible,” according to WisDOT.

Strong demand for the funding is evidenced by the number of applications submitted in both grant solicitations.

“WisDOT received 299 unique ARIP applications, reflecting \$507 million in project costs, highlighting the increased statewide demand and interest in the program,” the governor’s office stated.

The lowest ARIP grant (\$188,555) was awarded to the village of Endeavor, which has under 500 residents in Marquette County in an Amish area. The largest ARIP grant of \$4.8 million will repair County Trunk Highway in Juneau County.

We Need Your News!

Is your Chapter hosting an event? Did your Chapter get some new members? Have you started your own business? Is your company taking on a really challenging project? If you said yes to any of these questions, or would like to share extracurricular activities, please email these articles to Keith Nikolay (knikolay@coleman-engineering.com) and we will post these on website and *PE Matters*. We look forward to including your news in our quarterly updates!

Regulators Approve Largest Solar Project in Wisconsin History

By Darrell Proctor, POWER*

The Public Service Commission (PSCW) of Wisconsin has approved construction of a \$2 billion solar power project that could have more than 1,300 MW of generation capacity. The [Vista Sands Solar Project](#), sited on more than 6,000 acres in Portage County, was greenlighted by a unanimous vote of the PSCW on Dec. 12.

Vista Sands as presently designed would be more than four times the size of the state's largest current solar array, the 300-MW Badger Hollow Solar Park in the southwestern part of the state. The first phase of that solar farm entered commercial operation in late 2021. Vista Sands also is expected to have 300 MW of battery energy storage.

The project, located near the towns of Plover and Grant in central Wisconsin, is being developed by Vista Sands Solar LLC, a subsidiary of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania-based Doral Renewables. Construction is expected to begin in 2026, with commercial operation expected in 2028 or 2029. Doral officials said they've had discussions with utilities that could buy power from the solar farm. Portage County is part of Wisconsin Public Service Corp.'s service territory; Wisconsin Power & Light and some electric cooperatives also have customers in the region, according to the PSC.

Wisconsin Public Radio reported that Vista Sands also would bring more than \$6 million in annual utility aid payments to Portage County other areas around the project. It is an agrivoltaic development, with Doral leasing the land from the owners, who are mostly farmers.

"We are thrilled with the approval of the Vista Sands Solar Project by the PSCW," said Jon Baker, vice president of development at Doral Renewables and project manager for the Vista Sands Solar Project, in a statement. "This milestone marks an exciting new chapter for clean energy in Wisconsin."

Katie Nekola, general counsel for the nonprofit Clean Wisconsin, in a statement said the Vista Sands project represents the "biggest step toward curbing Wisconsin's carbon emissions" in the state's history. [Quantum Energy in a report filed earlier this year](#) with the PSCW said Vista Sands in its first year of operation would offset more than 1.6 million metric tons of carbon dioxide.

"This is significant because Wisconsin cannot meet its carbon reduction goals or contain customer costs without acknowledging and indeed embracing the need to invest in the least-cost, cleanest generation available," said Nekola. "Deployment of clean energy on this scale will do more to advance state energy policy than has any construction project in Wisconsin to date."

Summer Strand, chair of the PSC, told Wisconsin Public Radio that "This would be by far the largest solar project in the state of Wisconsin and one of the largest in the upper Midwest. This is one of the most beneficial and impactful renewable energy projects ever proposed in Wisconsin."

Doral Renewables is developing several renewable energy projects in the U.S., including the 1,300-MW Mammoth Solar installation in Indiana. The first phase of that project, the 400-MW Mammoth North, came online in October.

* *POWER* is at the forefront of the global power market, providing in-depth news and insight on the end-to-end electricity system and the ongoing energy transition. We strive to be the "go-to" resource for power

professionals, offering a wealth of information on innovative business practices, sound safety measures, useful productivity enhancements, and much more.

NSPE-WI Membership Committee Key Issues Summary

Our membership committee has outlined several key issues to focus on in 2025. These focus issues are the following:



- PowerPoint presentation (with video) of why being a licensed professional engineer is important. We are seeking practicing engineers to provide testimonies of why being a PE is important and the opportunities a PE licensure provides.
- Welcome letter to new members.
- Assigning mentors to new members.
- Enterprise Membership Benefits for NSPE-WI members.
- Ethics for Engineering Students.
- AI Panel Discussion.
- PE advocacy via social platforms.
- Continuing education through NSPE-WI Discovery Conferences.

We need volunteers for each key issue above. Please contact at fred.groth@graef-usa.com or (608) 335-2978 if you wish to participate.

Engineers Week State Awards

By John Brome, P.E.

This past February we once again celebrated Engineers Week virtually and presented three well deserving NSPE-WI professional engineers with our highest “Engineer of the Year” awards.

Glen Jablonka and Kim Lobdell shared the coveted “Engineer of the Year Award for the many, many years of service not only to NSPE and NSPE-WI, but also to the engineering profession. Glen heads the EFW and Kim is the owner of KL Engineering which serves many locations in Wisconsin, addressing many civil engineering challenges in our state.

Engineer of the Year in Industry was awarded to Metro Chapter member Michael Zelinsky, who is a professional engineer currently employed by Xylem in Pewaukee. Michael is an applications engineering regional supervisor and is involved in testing and certifying pumps used for a variety of water treatment applications. Michael serves as the Metro Chapter treasurer and takes the engineering profession very seriously. He has volunteered to help with many of the social functions, especially for fundraising and scholarship needs.

Again, we congratulate Glen, Kim and Michael for their contributions to our State Society and to the engineering profession; very well done!



Calendar of Events

March - April 2025

Virtual NSPE-WI Discovery Conference
How Legislation is Changing Our Engineering Landscape

March 31

State and Chapter Officer Nominations Due
Norm Arendt (normarendt@gmail.com)

April 23

NSPE-WI Executive Committee Meeting
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Zoom Meeting

May 11 – 12

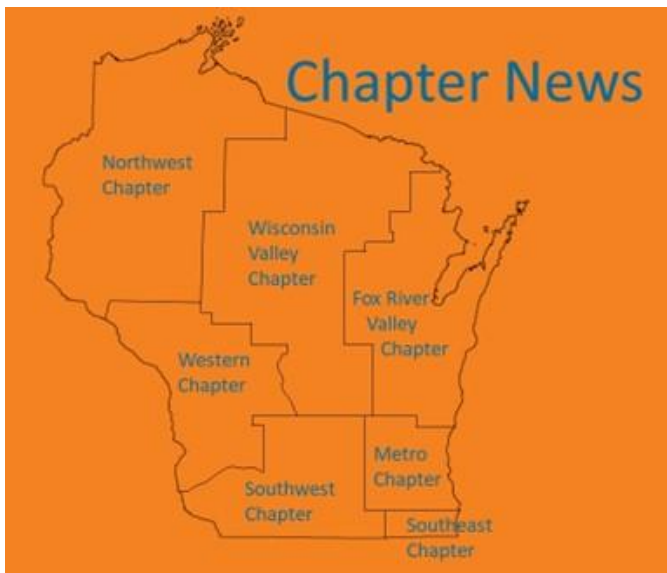
National MATHCOUNTS Competition
Washington DC

May 26

Memorial Day
Thank you, veterans!

August 6 – 8

NSPECon 2025
Kansas City, MO



Northwest Chapter President

Justin Musser

Wisconsin Valley Chapter President

Archie Becher

Fox River Valley Chapter President

Glen Schwalbach

Western Chapter President

Alex Jaromin

Southwest Chapter President

Angela Hanz

Metro Chapter President

James Buggs

Southeast Chapter President

Robert Latta

Southwest Region Chapter

By Angela Hanz, P.E.

On Saturday, February 8, the SW Chapter of WSPE conducted the Madison regional MATHCOUNTS competition at the Kromrey Middle School in Middleton. There were 8 total schools represented registered as schools. There were an additional four schools under the non-school competitors for a total of twelve schools represented with 80 total registered mathletes. Three registered mathletes did not participate on the day of the event (no-show due to illness).

Six official teams of 4 mathletes and 53 individual mathletes squared off to determine which 2 teams and which 6 individuals would advance to the State competition held in Sheboygan on Saturday, March 8.

Among the middle schools represented were: Eagle (Madison); Hamilton (Madison); Glacier

Creek (Cross Plains); Barwick's Home School (Madison); Kromrey (Middleton); Madison Country Day School (Waunakee); Madison Circle Home School (Blanchardville) and Sennett (Madison) Middle School. The three schools with individual competitors were: Ezekiel Gillespie Middle School (Madison); Prairie View (Sun Prairie), and Akira Toki Middle School (Madison).

Registration began at 7:45 am and the competition officially began at 8:30 am. The four standard rounds (target, sprint, team and countdown), were administered by six volunteers and scored by another 18 volunteers to identify the finalists:

Top scoring mathlete for target, sprint and team rounds:

- Augie R (Eagle School)

Top 10 individuals participating in the countdown round:

- Augie R (Eagle School)
- Joseph L (Kromrey Middle School)
- Arie S (Eagle School)
- Avery L (Hamilton Middle School)
- Alex D (Glacier Creek Middle School)
- Julia D (Kromrey Middle School)
- Matthew W (Kromrey Middle School)
- Brian L (Glacier Creek Middle School)
- Lucy C (Eagle School)
- James L (Hamilton Middle School)

Top 2 teams advancing to State:

- EAGLE School of Madison (Augie R, Arie S, Lucy C, Ani P)
- Glacier Creek Middle School (Alex D, Brian L, Liam H, Eric Z)

The Top 6 Individuals (not on a team) advancing to State:

- Matthew W (Kromrey Middle School)
- Julia D (Kromrey Middle School)
- Avery L (Hamilton Middle School)
- James L (Hamilton Middle School)
- Joseph L (Kromrey Middle School)
- Arthur W (Kromrey Middle School)

Teams & Coaches awarded trophies. All mathletes were given a MATHCOUNTS gift bag.

- The top 3 individuals and top 3 Teams were awarded trophies and the Coaches of the top 3 Teams received a Coaches Plaque. The 10 individuals in the Countdown Round were awarded trophies. Special recognition trophies were awarded to the other Team Coaches and all Team Coaches received a \$25 gift certificate to KwikTrip. An Oplet subscription was given to the first team to turn in its roster (Sennett). A special recognition trophy was also given to Nancy Brome, who generously donates her time each year to help set-up the event, works the registration table, and organizes the spread of snacks and refreshments.
- All Mathletes were given a MATHCOUNTS bag that contained a MATHCOUNTS medal for participation and random items that were donated by UW-Platteville College of Engineering, Mathematics, and Science.

25 Raffle Items were given to Mathletes such as Green Bay Packer Bags with gifts, Gift Certificates to Chocolate Shoppe Ice Cream, MATHCOUNTS t-shirts, MATHCOUNTS water bottles, hats, Movie Night Snack Boxes, and the famous barrel of Cheese Balls that has become to be known as the most coveted raffle prize each year.

The 2025 competition ended at 12:30 pm. Twelve dozen doughnuts, 600 oz. of coffee, Snack Chips, Granola Bars, Rice Krispy Treats, apples, oranges, bananas, water and soda were provided at break time.

A special thank you goes out to our local MATHCOUNTS sponsors who funded facility rental costs, snacks/beverages, and awards: UW-Platteville College of Engineering, Kwik Trip, Strand Associates, MSA Professional Services, Corre Inc., Analog Devices/Jen Parkinson, Green Bay Packers Foundation, Chocolate Shoppe Ice Cream, and Food Fight Restaurants/Hubbard Ave Diner.

Fox River Valley Chapter

By Todd Kinney, P.E.

The 42nd Annual MATHCOUNTS for the Fox Valley Chapter was held at Acuity in Sheboygan on February 1. We had 22 volunteers consisting of Chapter members, other engineers, spouses, family, and friends. The volunteers' time is greatly appreciated by myself, the students, and the coaches. A special thanks to Acuity for their generous donations used to sponsor the Fox River Valley Chapter Competition.

We had 94 students from 13 schools participate in the MATHCOUNTS Chapter competition. The top 3 teams plus the top 5 individuals not on a top team advance to the State competition in Sheboygan on March 8. The top 4 individuals from the State competition advance to the National competition on May 11-12 in Washington DC.

Top 5 Teams

1. West De Pere Middle (De Pere)
2. Parkview Middle (Green Bay)
3. De Pere Middle (De Pere)
4. Riverview Middle (Plymouth)
5. Sevastopol Middle (Sturgeon Bay)

Top 10 Individuals

- Anthony V (West De Pere Middle)
- Tyler N (Parkview Middle)
- Prayag D (West De Pere Middle)
- Chloe C (Sabish Middle – Fond du Lac)
- Troy R (West De Pere Middle)
- Trenton K (Riverview Middle)
- CJ T (West De Pere Middle)
- Josiah R (West De Pere Middle)
- Issac B (West De Pere Middle)
- Maggie T (Sevastopol Middle)

Northwest Chapter

By Brad Volker, P.E.

The Northwest Chapter held its MATHCOUNTS competition on January 30 at Delong Middle School in Eau Claire. A total of 178 mathletes from 17 schools participated!

Altoona

Barron

Chetek *

Eau Claire Delong

Eau Claire Northstar

Eau Claire South

Frederic

Hudson

Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa *

Menomonie

New Richmond

New Richmond St. Mary

Osceola

Poplar

Rice Lake

River Falls

Port Wing *

* First time attendees

Rice Lake and Hudson A teams tied for first place with Rice Lake barely getting the top spot by tiebreaker! Eau Claire South came in third place.

NW used a countdown round to get the final rankings of individual mathletes. This did result in a shake up with a handful of mathletes bettering their position by a spot or two. In the end Vivaan Brahambhatt of Eau Claire South held on to his original rank of first place! Eli Fastelin of New Richmond gained two spots to take 2nd place! Daniel Jevne of Rice lake ended up in third place.

NW is advancing five A-teams, and then eleven more top-ranked individuals to the state competition in Sheboygan. We ended up with 35 volunteers from NW engineering firms and

utilities to pull off our chapter event. Fun was had by all. Good luck to our NW Mathletes at State, and big thanks to Todd Kinney for the massive amount of work he does for both chapter and state competitions!

Top 5 Teams

1. Rice Lake (by tie-breaker!)
2. Hudson
3. Eau Claire South
4. Eau Claire Delong
5. New Richmond

Top 10 Individuals

1. Vivaan B (Eau Claire South)
2. Eli F (New Richmond)
3. Daniel J (Rice Lake)
4. Evan P (Eau Claire Delong)
5. Max M (Hudson)
6. Andrew S (Hudson)
7. Ethan G (Eau Claire Delong)
8. Easton G (Eau Claire Northstar)
9. Elijah M (Eau Claire South)
10. Hunter T (New Richmond)

Top individuals advancing to state, who are not already on top 5 advancing teams. Due to a scoring error on the day of competition, and not realizing until it until a few days later, the State MATCHCOUNTS coordinator allowed us to advance 12 individuals instead of the usual top 11.

Top 12 Individuals

- Easton G (Eau Claire Northstar)
- Jackson K (Osceola)
- Grifynn D (Altoona)
- Simon R (Osceola)
- Royden R (River Falls)
- Kip H (Eau Claire Delong)
- Charlie D (River Falls)
- Aiden K (Menomonie)
- Wyatt T (River Falls)
- Jack C (Menomonie)
- Vincent H (Osceola)
- Dominik J (Rice Lake)

Thank you to our corporate sponsors!

Gold Sponsor



Silver Sponsor



Bronze Sponsors



Stay up to date on legislative issues through the [NSPE Advocacy Center](#).

2025 Spring Webinar Series Kicks Off

NSPE offers a live webinar series free to members —“WORKability Wednesdays”— to support their professional development goals. The season launched with the webinar— [Board of Ethical Review: Case Review and Discussion](#)— on March 12.

The series will include the following webinars:

March 26: [My Way or the Highway? The Impact: Designing Flexible and Future-Ready RTO Policies That Work](#)

April 9: [Trust Matters: Empowering Leaders to Foster Team Trust and Performance](#)

May 14: [Using Your Engineering Expertise as a Forensic Expert](#)

May 28: [How Has Technology Shaped Workstyles Across Generations?](#)



Register now at [NSPE's PE Institute](#) and invite a colleague to attend. An additional presentation will take place on April 23 – save the date and stay tuned for details. *Members are advised to consult their [state licensing board](#) to determine requirements for PDH or CPD credits.



The 2025 Scholarship Season Opens

The NSPE Education Foundation is now accepting applications for the 2025 scholarship season through an [online submission platform](#). The **application deadline is April 15** for the Steinman Scholarship, the Auxiliary Legacy Scholarship, and the George B. Hightower, P.E. Fellowship.

[Steinman Scholarship](#)

The \$5,000 scholarship is awarded annually to undergraduates entering or continuing their junior year in a four-year ABET-accredited engineering program.

[Auxiliary Legacy Scholarship](#)

This scholarship is awarded annually to a female undergraduate entering or continuing their junior year of a four-year ABET-accredited engineering program.

[George B. Hightower, P.E., Fellowship](#)

The \$3,000 award is designated for a current engineering undergraduate or graduate student who is enrolled in, or graduated from, an ABET-accredited engineering program.

[Submit Your Application](#)

NCEES Seeks the Expertise of Control Systems Engineers

NCEES is currently seeking licensed control systems engineers to participate in a professional activities and knowledge study, or PAKS, for the PE Control Systems exam. The results of this online survey will be used to update specifications for the exam, which is used throughout the US for licensing purposes.

NCEES requires a cross section of licensed professional engineers practicing control systems engineering—including those working in industry, consulting, the public sector, and academia—to complete an online survey about the tasks and knowledge required of a licensed control systems engineer with four to six years of experience to practice in a manner that safeguards the health, safety, and welfare of the public. The survey can be completed in approximately 30–40 minutes.

“These studies help NCEES ensure its licensing exams remain relevant to current professional practice,” explained Chief Officer of Examinations J. Lehmon Dekle, P.E. “The value of this PAKS

depends on the number of people who participate, so NCEES is eager to get a large response from professional engineers across all areas of control systems engineering.”

Access the online survey [here](#). The survey is open until May 22.

You received this e-mail because you are subscribed to *PE Matters* e-newsletter.

To update your e-mail address, visit www.nspe.org and login to manage your account.

If you do not wish to receive any more issues of *PE Matters*, click here to unsubscribe .

Share with your network

National Society of Professional Engineers | 1420 King Street | Alexandria, VA 22314

[Unsubscribe](#) from these messages.

