

# The Missouri Engineer

*The official publication of the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers, whose mission is to promote the ethical and competent practice of engineering.*

## *A Message From Your 2019-2020 MSPE President*

*Bob Becnel, P.E., F.NSPE*



While much of the country is self-isolated or quarantined, engineers are still working at areas that are defined as an essential business in supporting this country's critical infrastructure and defense. The important steps of keeping this country moving forward will continue long after isolation orders are lifted and the engineers of the country will be doing their part.

Some of our largest employers of engineers in the state, have been given direction to continue as an essential business and that work been occurring without a hiccup. Working on the important systems needed to maintain critical infrastructure and the defense of our country as outlined by the Department

of Homeland Security. However many others in our profession continue to work from home and leveraging the virtual office. Even engineering teachers and instructors deliver lectures and class work to students via Webex and Skype across the world in lieu of brick and mortar classrooms.

Much of the infrastructure being used to permit the American workforce to work in seclusion has been designed, developed, installed, and maintained with the help of engineers leading the efforts in this country. From the telecommunications and electrical systems to the displays and computers used to work virtually could not operate without Professional Engineers.

While the real heroes remain in the hospital caring for the health of our fellow citizens, our profession continues to be a critical piece as we deliver essential services to those around our state, country and the world. Stay safe and healthy.

While the March Board of Directors Meeting was held virtually, several key items did get completed on the both the Society and Foundation's agenda. First, the annual budgets for the Society and Foundation were approved. A lot of credit goes to our Treasurer Kelsie Clark and BHL's Jennifer Matzek (JJ) for preparing the budget for the Executive Committee and Board to approve in March rather than June. This change alleviates a major distraction at the Annual Meeting and gives President-Elect John Riediger more visibility into planning for the 2020-2021 year for MSPE.

Another big completion from the Foundation Board of Directors meeting was a restructuring of the Educational Foundation to select the Board and officers from a more broad representation of the Foundation stakeholders. This will replace using the standard MSPE Board of Directors and officers from the Foundation leadership. This restructuring will align the Foundation with a new  
*Continued on page 3...*

*"Like many Professional Engineers, my early career required a PE for advancement and that was the guiding principal. However, I was fortunate to have gotten involved with NSPE prior to becoming a PE which allowed me to gain a better appreciation for the importance of licensure and what it represents."*

*-Bob Becnel, P.E., F.NSPE, MSPE President, 2019-2020*

# Inside the Issue

## State News

MSPE Annual Partner Sponsors	4
Welcome New Members!	5
Executive Director Messge	6
MSPE EF to Form New BOD	7
MSPE Member Satisfaction Survey	8
MSPE 2020 Capitol Day	9
MSPE 2020 PE Day	10
MSPE 2020 State MATHCOUNTS Competition	10
MSPE 2020 Conference Becomes Virtual	11
PEG Kansas City Seminar	12
Mark Your Calendar	13
MSPE State Events	14

## Chapter News

Jefferson City Chapter News	15
St. Louis Chapter News	16

## Advertisements

Professional Card Listings	18
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## Professional Engineers in Government

### Kansas City Seminar



Editor's Message: Please enjoy the 2020 Spring Issue of the Missouri Engineer. If you have any engineering-related photos from your work that you may like to see featured in future editions of the ME, please send them to [rnincehelser@mspe.org](mailto:rnincehelser@mspe.org). Thank you, and enjoy your read!  
-Rachel Nincehelser, Editor, Director of Communications

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**NSPE-MO**  
MISSOURI SOCIETY OF  
PROFESSIONAL  
ENGINEERS

# A Message From Your 2019-2020 MSPE President (Continued)

Bob Becnel, P.E., F.NSPE

set of leaders who will be passionate and focused on making the Foundation Great Again. Both the Bylaws Chair Ross Kasmann and Executive Director Travis Lowe provided much of the effort on making this happen.

The Annual Meeting and Convention have traditionally concluded the term of President and it leads to reflection on those accomplishments from our members during the past year. One of the old adages that I have felt this year is that it is better to be lucky than good. I believe it summarizes the past year. The luck that I have had is having so many passionate members *Be Engaged* this past year throughout our Society.

Some noteworthy accomplishments for the past year include:  
PE Ceremony – Blake Murray led two very successful

PE ceremonies at the State Capitol to further promote our profession.

Government Relations Committee – Ron Black chaired a very amazing and active Committee this year utilizing Lobbyist Mark Rhoads’s talent more efficiently.

Young Engineer Committee – Charles Loughman and Mitch Gibbler’s dedication to rejuvenate the Young Engineers in MSPE really provided a starting point to mentoring and onboarding our newest members into the Society. This is an area that can really begin to set us apart from other professional organizations.

St. Louis Chapter – A big thanks to Michael Buechter for stepping in and serving a second year as Chapter President when the President-Elect abruptly stepped down. Michael

provided unselfish leadership by stepping in to keep the St. Louis Chapter moving in the right direction.

Sustaining Sponsors Program – Both Travis Lowe and Rachel Goeke repackaged our Annual Convention sponsorship and other sponsorships into a consolidated effort to deliver year-round promotional opportunities for our sponsors.

In closing, please check the website for changes to the Annual Convention, as we have now moved to a virtual platform. The Annual Convention Planning Committee has been hard at work on a great convention planned for us. Thank you for a memorable year and for all that you do for the Society.

-Bob Becnel, P.E., F.NSPE  
MSPE President

## MISSOURI SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS Annual Sponsorship Program - 2020 Calendar Year



BENEFITS	Platinum \$2,500	Gold \$2,000	Silver \$1,500	Bronze \$1,000	Friend \$500
Recognition on MSPE Website Business Name, Logo and Link	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Complimentary Job Postings on MSPE Website	✓	✓			
MSPE Annual Convention- Recognized as a Sponsor on Convention Programming and Signage	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MSPE Annual Convention- PDH Sponsor (12 Spots Available)	✓	✓	✓		
MSPE Annual Convention- Banquet Sponsor (5 Spots Available)	✓				
MSPE Fall PDH Days - Recognition and Signage	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MSPE Fall PDH Days - PDH Sponsor (12 Spots Available)	✓	✓			
Recognition at P.E. Licensure Ceremony (two per year)	✓	✓	✓	✓	

MSPE’s New Annual Partner Sponsorship Program will commence in the 2020 Calendar Year. The new Program combines and streamlines the historic Sustaining Organization and Annual Convention Sponsorship Programs.

Member Firms who register as a sponsor on or before January 15, 2020 will be showcased at all of MSPE’s 2020 Events, including P.E. Licensure Ceremonies tentatively scheduled for February and August, the Annual Convention scheduled June 15 to 17, 2019 at the Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center in Columbia, Missouri, and Fall PDH Days in October.

# THANK YOU MSPE ANNUAL PARTNER SPONSORS!

## PLATINUM



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## GOLD



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## FRIEND

MSPE Professional Engineers in Government (PEG)  
MSPE Professional Engineers in Private Practice (PEPP)



# Welcome New Members!



**CENTRAL CHAPTER**  
MISSOURI SOCIETY OF  
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

*Jacob Novak, P.E.*  
Engineering Surveys & Services  
Columbia, MO



**JEFFERSON CITY CHAPTER**  
MISSOURI SOCIETY OF  
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

*Blake Wilbers, E.I.T.*  
Barlett & West, Inc.  
Jefferson City, MO

*Shane Corlman, P.E.*  
California, MO



**NORTHWEST CHAPTER**  
MISSOURI SOCIETY OF  
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

*Stephen Wingo, Student*  
Rockhurst University  
De Soto, MO



**OZARK CHAPTER**  
MISSOURI SOCIETY OF  
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

*Matthew Bowie, Student*  
Missouri University of  
Science & Technology  
Strafford, MO



**SOUTHEAST CHAPTER**  
MISSOURI SOCIETY OF  
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

*Dawson Compas, Student*  
Southern Illinois  
University  
Cape Girardeau, MO

*Landon Bodenschatz, P.E.*  
Missouri Department of  
Transportation  
Cape Girardeau, MO



**ST. LOUIS CHAPTER**  
MISSOURI SOCIETY OF  
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

*Amy Morris, Student*  
Saint Louis University  
St. Louis, MO

*Matthew Gilliam, Student*  
Washington University  
O'Fallon, MO

*Laura Rojas, Student*  
Ballwin, MO

*Rachel Sample, Student*  
Washington University  
Clayton, MO



**WESTERN CHAPTER**  
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*Anthony Dalton, Student*  
Rockhurst University  
Kansas City, MO

*Brian Glenn, P.E.*  
Phoenix Engineering &  
Surveying, LLC  
Lees Summit, MO

*Johnna Herron, Student*  
Rockhurst University  
Decatur, MO

*Bryan Lightfoot, P.E.*  
Lees Summit, MO

*Francis Miguel Franco,*  
*Student*  
Rockhurst University  
Kansas City, MO

*Philip Snider, P.E.*  
Honeywell  
Clinton, MO

*Kurt Mester, P.E.*  
Anderson Engineering, Inc.  
Springfield, MO



# *Executive Director Message*

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*By Travis Lowe*

MSPE Members,

We hope this publication finds you well during this unprecedented time. The new year continues to offer countless opportunities for MSPE yet challenges due to COVID's impact. We have many updates to share, but first we want to thank you for your continued support of MSPE that enables us to provide and operate efficiently for you.

In light of the COVID-19 limitations, MSPE's 2020 Annual Convention will be a virtual event on June 15-17. The format will be very similar as business meetings will take place on Monday while PDH sessions offered on Tuesday. There is a modest registration fee to attend the event to help pay for the programming costs. Registration is now open on our website. This is a great opportunity for members to attend the virtual PDH sessions and practice division meetings who might not be able to attend in person. Thank you in advance for the support in this endeavor.

In addition to the upcoming convention, MSPE is working on multiple fronts. The 2020 Legislative Session has kept us very busy as legislators work to consider and debate bills with the session end ahead on May 15. Licensure issues have dominated MSPE advocacy efforts, fueled by stakeholders questioning the role of licensure and asserting the

claim it provides barriers to employment. Our office sends out weekly legislative updates on Fridays. We hope you take a few minutes to look them over. Our Government Relations Committee, led by Ron Black, P.E., meets monthly to review the status of the legislative session. MSPE contract lobbyist Mark Rhoads and I are in regular contact as MSPE testifies in committee hearings and we meet with legislators asserting our position.

Our Capitol Day event built on last year's event with almost two dozen members in attendance. Thanks to all who took time off from work to represent the profession under the dome. MSPE plans to continue to build its advocacy presence across the state. Stay tuned for more news.

The Society has several important events on the horizon. Our Fall PDH Days Conference will be in Jefferson City on October 27-28 and there is a PEG (Professional Engineers in Government) Session in Kansas City on September 16. We hope to see you there!

In January we unveiled MSPE's new Annual Partner Sponsorship Program. The new program combines and streamlines the historic Sustaining Organization and Annual Convention Sponsorship Program. Thank you to all the firms and groups that have already signed up for the



sponsorship program! These funds go directly to our bottom line. Please visit our MSPE website's sponsor tab for more information on how to become a Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze or Friend Partner of MSPE for calendar year 2020.

This publication contains a lot of news from the MSPE Educational Foundation. MSPE Educational Foundation (EF) is in the process of forming its own separate Board of Directors, instead of featuring the same members of the MSPE Board of Directors. The EF Board of Directors will have its own eleven-member Board populated by stakeholders solely focused on the Foundation mission. If you are interested in serving on this new Board, please contact staff or Nominating & Tellers Committee Chairman Michael Purol. We have an aggressive year planned for the Foundation with many ways to advance our mission.

If you have any ideas, questions or constructive feedback, do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Take care and thank you for your support,

-Travis Lowe  
MSPE Executive Director

# ***MSPE Educational Foundation to Form New Board of Directors***

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The Board of Directors governing the MSPE's Educational Foundation (EF) will have a new look this summer. The EF Board of Directors, which has historically featured the same members of the MSPE Board of Directors, will have its own eleven-member Board populated by stakeholders solely focused on the Foundation mission.

MSPE EF is a 501(c)(3) Foundation charged with seven objectives centered on engineering education and research. It is linked to the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers, a 501(c)(6) organization that serves as a professional society representing the state's Licensed Professional Engineers. For decades, the EF and MSPE have been governed by the same Board of Directors, handling their respective business in separate but usually consecutive meetings.

Over the last several months, the EF Board of Directors considered amending its bylaws to allow the EF to have its own directors who specifically cater to the needs of the foundation. In March, the Board voted to amend the bylaws to form an eleven-member Board of Directors to take place this summer with the inaugural meeting held in June during the MSPE Convention in Columbia.

Once formed and activated, the new EF Board will meet throughout the year. EF Executive Director Travis Lowe and the team at Braden Heidner Lowe & Associates will continue to serve MSPE EF.

The new EF Board of Directors will feature representatives from functions that support the Foundation's mission and business, such as representatives from MATHCOUNTS, the Kimel Endowment, Building Committee, university representatives, a former MSPE president, a MSPE Board representative, along with at-large positions from the membership. The MSPE Treasurer will also serve as the EF Treasurer, mimicking NSPE's Treasurer with the national Educational Foundation.

The Nominating & Tellers Committee, chaired by Michael Purol, P.E., will provide dual roles for both the MSPE and EF Boards, and seek candidates for the new EF Board this spring.

## ***MSPE Educational Foundation Methods of Contributing***

What are you doing to support the profession that helped you take care of everyone else, including yourself? The time is now to "pay it forward" and say "thank you" to the engineering profession that helped make it possible to take care of all of these.

The MSPE Educational Foundation needs your help to increase our funding for future engineering student scholarships and for supporting current valuable programs such as MATHCOUNTS and Future Cities. Consider contributing by filling out a donation form here:

<https://mspe.org/resources/Documents/MSPE%20EF%20Donation%20Form.pdf>

For more information, Contact Greg Braden ([gbraden@mspe.org](mailto:gbraden@mspe.org)) or go to <https://mspe.org/resources/Documents/MSPE%20EF%20Contribution%20Flyer.pdf>

Also, consider contributing to the MSPE Educational Foundation by using your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA. To reference a sample letter for RMDs go to [mspe.org/Educational-Foundation](https://mspe.org/Educational-Foundation)










# MSPE Member Satisfaction Survey

By the Moving Missouri Forward Committee

In early January of this year MSPE President Becnel tasked the Moving MSPE Forward Committee (MMFC) with the creation of a MSPE Member Satisfaction Survey. It was envisioned by MMFC that this would become an annual survey distributed to all Members to solicit feedback on how the Society measures up. Constructive results from the survey would be used to assist with the development of our budget, plan our events, operate the organization, and assist in making decisions regarding the contracting out of services such as association management and lobbying. President Becnel stated "This will give our Members the opportunity to express what they would like from the Society."

The survey was conducted in April and the results are in. They indicate that we have a healthy organization. The survey was completed by 42 Members representing all ten (10) Chapters and all five (5) practice areas. Comments and suggestions from Members taking the survey will now be used and considered when looking for ways to strengthen and grow MSPE. Thank you to all that participated.

## 2020 MSPE Member Satisfaction Survey Results

<b>Executive Director Accessibility and Responsiveness</b>	<b>4.3</b>	
<b>Office Services</b>	<b>4.3</b>	
<b>Membership Processing and Records</b>	<b>4.1</b>	
<b>Member Communications and Publications</b>	<b>4.0</b>	
<b>Website and Social Media</b>	<b>4.0</b>	
<b>Meeting and Conference Planning</b>	<b>4.2</b>	
<b>Government Relations and Political Advocacy</b>	<b>4.2</b>	
<b>MSPE Committees, Task Forces and Initiatives</b>	<b>3.8</b>	
<b>Chapter Business</b>	<b>4.1</b>	

Legend: Scale of 1 – 5 with 1 being unsatisfactory and 5 being very satisfied.



## *MSPE 2020 Capitol Day*

MSPE held another successful Capitol Day on February 11, learning about the importance of advocacy for our profession and meeting with legislators.



Above: MSPE members meet with House Speaker Elijah Haahr.



Above: MSPE members meet with Senator Hegeman.



Above: MSPE members meet with Senate Transportation Committee Chair Doug Libla.



Left: MSPE teamed up with ACEC Missouri and the Missourians for Transportation Investment to discuss key issues affecting the engineering profession. The group held an overview to start the day with contract lobbyist Mark Rhoads and Executive Director Travis Lowe.

## ***MSPE 2020 PE Day***

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On February 7, MSPE held PE Day at the Missouri State Capitol. Congratulations to all of the newly licensed Professional Engineers!



## ***MSPE State MATHCOUNTS Competition***

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The MSPE State MATHCOUNTS Competition was held March 7 at the University of Missouri - Columbia Campus in Middlebush Hall. Thank you to all of our volunteers who helped and everyone who attended!



# MSPE 2020 Conference Becomes Virtual Event

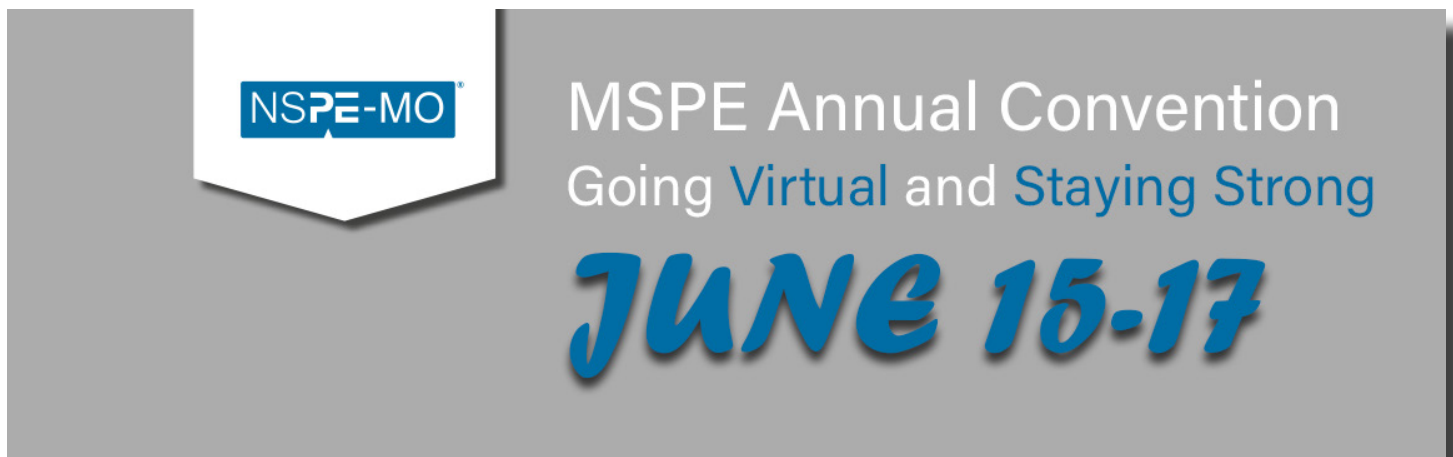
In light of COVID-19 meeting limitations and consideration of safety precautions for our members, MSPE's 2020 Annual Convention scheduled for June 15-17 will be converted to a virtual event. The virtual event will still allow governance business to be conducted while also offering several PDH opportunities for members.

The revised Convention agenda features the opportunity to attend six PDH seminars broadcasted via live webinars to members who register for the event. Practice divisions and committees that traditionally hold meetings at the Convention will still meet by Zoom video, providing an opportunity for members to participate who may not have been able to travel to the event.

There is a modest registration fee to attend the live PDH webinar section of the event. Registration opened on May 1. However, there is no charge to participate in the business meetings or the awards presentation.

The revised convention agenda is available online at [mspe.org/events](https://mspe.org/events).

Thank you for your understanding. We look forward to everyone staying engaged with MSPE through the summer months.



*Mark Your Calendar*

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# Professional Engineers in Government

## *Kansas City Seminar*

September 16  
2020

Kansas City, MO



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# Mark Your Calendar



JOIN US FOR #PECON20 IN



# Philadelphia

AUGUST 12-16, 2020



# September 11

# 2020

9:30 AM - 3 PM

 MSPE Office  
Jefferson City, MO

## President's Workshop



Offering 15 hours of PDH credit!

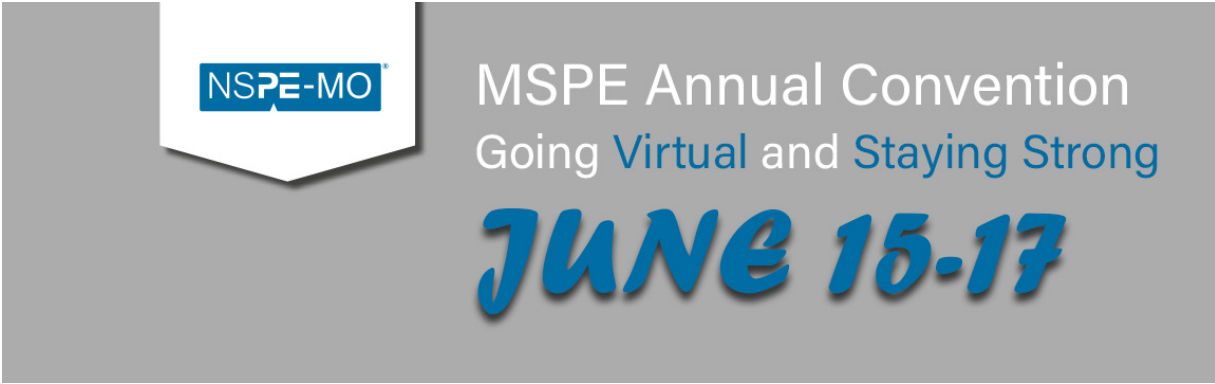
MISSOURI SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS  
NSPE-MO

# MSPE 17TH ANNUAL FALL PDH DAYS OCTOBER 27-28

# 2020

Capitol Plaza Hotel - Jefferson City, MO

# MSPE State Events



NSPE-MO  
MSPE Annual Convention  
Going Virtual and Staying Strong  
**JUNE 15-17**

## Professional Engineers in Government

### *Kansas City Seminar*



September 16 Kansas City, MO  
**2020**  
Hosted by  
**BURNS  
MCDONNELL**



NSPE-MO  
be engaged  
September 11  
**2020**  
9:30 AM - 3 PM  
MSPE Office  
Jefferson City, MO  
**President's Workshop**



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MSPE 17TH ANNUAL  
**FALL PDH DAYS**  
**OCTOBER 27-28**  
**2020**  
Offering 15 hours of PDH credit!  
Capitol Plaza Hotel - Jefferson City, MO

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Professional Engineers**  
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## *Jefferson City Chapter News*

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The Jefferson City Chapter hosted Eric Barron with the City of Jefferson and Chris Yarnell with Engineering Surveys and Services representing the S.A.V.E Coalition as presenters on the response and recovery of the May 23, 2019 tornado that impacted Jefferson City and the surrounding area at the Chapter's annual "Bring Your Own Engineer" luncheon meeting. The Chapter has also organized and hosted several local events for the Jefferson City community including a Mathcounts competition for local middle school students on February 8, 2020. The event was a success with 18 students participating from four schools. In addition, a model bridge competition was planned for middle school and high school students on March 18, 2020 at Helias High School. Unfortunately, due to the current health concerns that faced our nation, the public testing competition was canceled. However, the model bridges were still tested and the winners notified. To comply with the State of Missouri's stay-at-home order, the Chapter has canceled Chapter meetings for April and May and postponed the semiannual trash pickup along US Highway 54 and the Annual Spring Barbecue. Future dates for these events are yet to be determined.



Pictured: On February 18, the Jefferson City Chapter celebrated National Engineers Week with a Bring Your Own Engineer (BYOE) Free Fried Chicken Lunch event at the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

## *St. Louis Chapter News*

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### *MATHCOUNTS St. Louis Chapter Competition*

On February 15, MSPE St. Louis Chapter hosted the annual MATHCOUNTS St. Louis Chapter Competition at St. Louis Community College in Florissant Valley. As always this event was well staffed and well attended. Nearly 20 schools attended the competition with over 100 students coming to compete. There were around 20 volunteers to help grade nearly 10,000 questions (every question must be graded twice). Thank you to all who volunteered as clearly there is no way to do it without you. During the Countdown Round this year, the average time to answer a question we could barely read was roughly three seconds. If you have never seen these students complete such complicated questions in such a short amount of time, we highly recommend you volunteer at this event in the future. Our local middle school students truly are amazing.



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### *69th National Engineers Week Reception and Awards Program*

On February 7 the St. Louis Chapter of MSPE gathered together at the Engineers' Club of St. Louis to honor six deserving members of the engineering profession and award a scholarship graduating high school senior Wesley Caprio. A big "thank you" to everyone who work to make the evening an enjoyable time to gather for a meal and celebrate National Engineers Week. ([Click here to view the full article and all of the winners!](#))



Left to right: Mike Buechter, P.E. (President, St. Louis Chapter of MSPE), Edward Gerding, P.E. (Outstanding PE in Industry), Eric Hollman, P.E. (Young Engineer of the Year), Terri Fessler accepting for Denis Fessler, P.E. (MSPE Hall of Fame), Nicole Young, P.E. (Outstanding PE in Private Practice), Thomas Ratzki, P.E. (PE of the Year), Daniel Giammar, P.E., Ph.D. (Outstanding PE in Education), and Wesley Caprio (Scholarship).



## *St. Louis Chapter News (Continued)*

### *2020 National Engineers Week Celebration at the Saint Louis Science Center*

The Missouri Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE) St. Louis Chapter cohosted the SciFest Engineering Expo held Saturday, February 22, 2020 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Saint Louis Science Center in celebration of National Engineers Week (EWeek). A variety of engineering fields were represented by organizations, government agencies, companies, and colleges.

Engineering societies present during the EWeek event in addition to MSPE included the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) with their pipe cleaner structures and cable-stayed bridge. Gateway Biomedical Society (GBS) had medical equipment and a hands-on squash dissection using a surgical scope. National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) had snap circuit demonstrations. The Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Saint Louis & Scott Field Post demonstrated a catapult and guided robots.

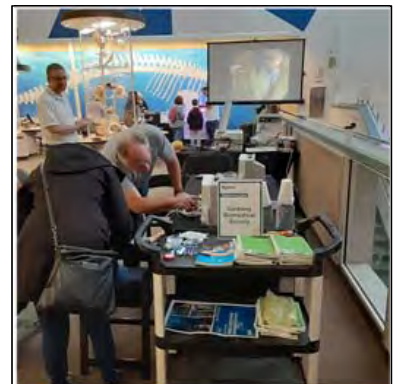
Boeing brought a variety of hands-on activities including a miniature flight simulator, completing the circuit, and cup bowling robot. Geotechnology displayed their interactive ground penetrating radar. IMEG showcased an Oculus Quest VR head set for visitors to use to explore the International Space Station and the United States Army Corps of Engineers brought several hands-on models including their water sediment transport model and levee protection model in addition to making life preservers.

[\(Click here to view the full article and pictures!\)](#)

**ASCE:**



**GBS:**



**NSBE:**



**SAME:**



## *Upcoming St. Louis Chapter Events*

### *May*

**21** [MSPE/ASCE St. Louis Chapter May Luncheon](#)  
Venue: Engineering Center of St. Louis  
4359 Lindell  
St. Louis, MO 63018  
Time: 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

### *June*

**18** [MSPE St. Louis Chapter June Luncheon](#)  
Venue: Engineering Center of St. Louis  
4359 Lindell  
St. Louis, MO 63018  
Time: 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

# Professional Card Listings



**E. Matt Bedinghaus, P.E.**  
CEO & Chief Engineer

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