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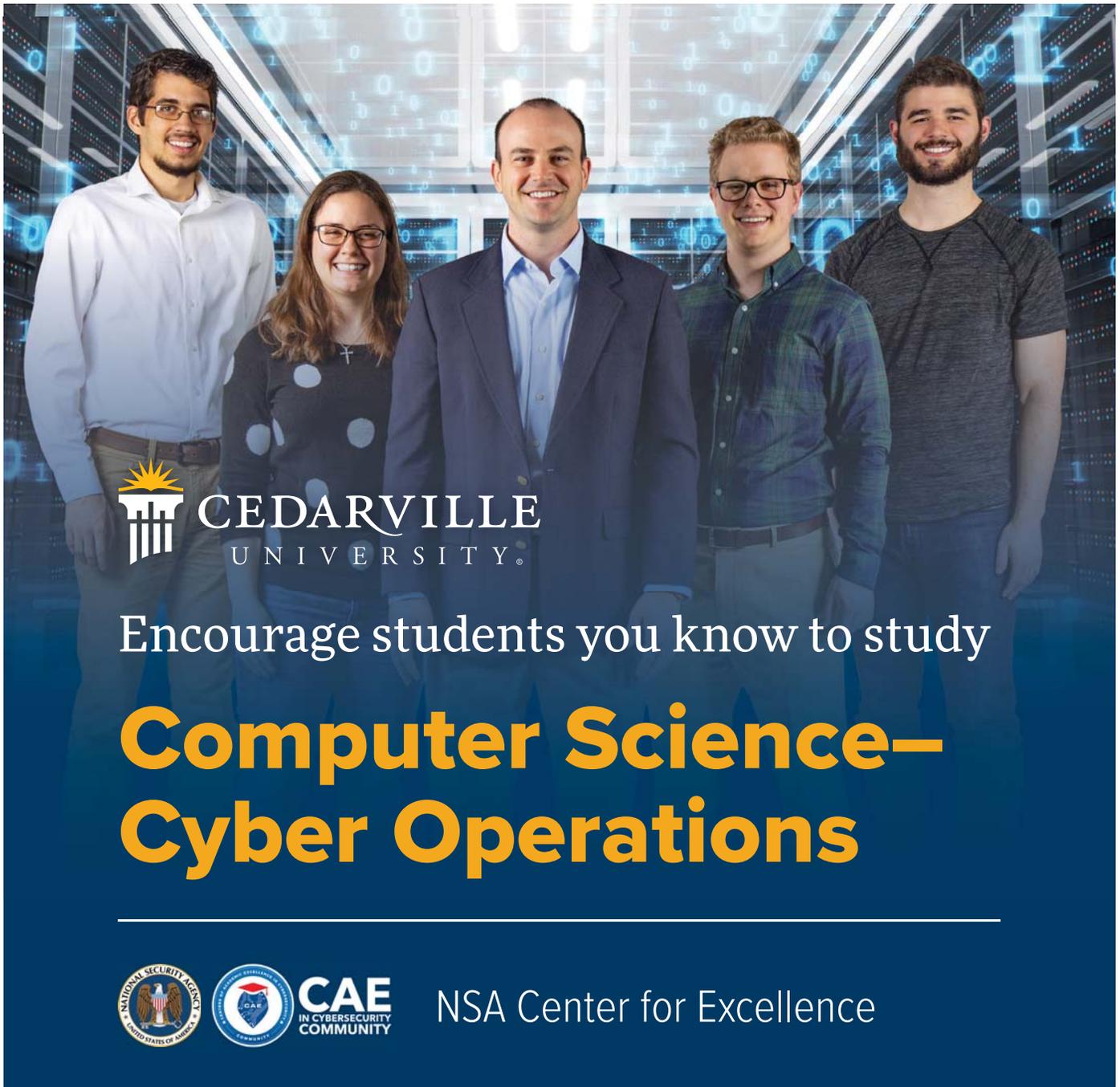
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2020

## Augmented reality is not just for gaming



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**For more information, contact us at:**  
Ohio Society of Professional Engineers  
400 South Fifth Street, Suite 300  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Voice (614) 223-1144  
Members Toll Free (800) 654-9481  
E-mail [OSPE@OhioEngineer.com](mailto:OSPE@OhioEngineer.com)  
Website [www.OhioEngineer.com](http://www.OhioEngineer.com)

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**LEADERSHIP VIEWS**

*by Chett Sieftring, P.E., President,  
Engineers Foundation of Ohio*



**Education with a virtual twist**

*Wow.* How our daily lives have changed in the past few months! And there's still uncertainty as to how the next several months will play out as related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

With many folks working remotely, the Engineers Foundation of Ohio (EFO) and the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) recognize the challenges that the current conditions present in allowing you to meet Ohio's continuing professional development (CPD) requirements. As always, our organizations remain committed to meeting the demand for quality CPD, and now we are also working to decrease your potential for exposure at the same time.



In my last column I discussed the importance of attending in-person conferences. Now, here I sit a few months later to tell you that OSPE and EFO are expanding their *virtual* education opportunities so that you may earn CPD hours for your PE license right from your home or office. *Rest assured our virtual CPD hours are being presented in a manner designed to meet Ohio's CPD requirements.*

When COVID-19 first made a major impact on our daily lives in late March, OSPE quickly transformed the 2020 All-Ohio Engineering Conference from an in-person program in the Dayton area to a highly successful virtual format enjoyed across Ohio and beyond.

Over mere weeks, OSPE's planning committee worked with speakers and sponsors alike to effectively transition Conference seminars and sponsor recognition into a new, attractive and stimulating virtual presentation package. Modern

conveniences and technology – much of it developed by engineers – kept our team moving forward on Conference plans, all from the comfort and safety of our remote locations.

Thanks to the presenters and sponsors who adapted and accommodated the necessary changes, in June, OSPE streamed 12.5 quality CPD hours, including two hours of professional ethics training, and the best sponsor recognition program we have ever offered, which is really saying something!

The response from participants was immediate and gratifying. Here are just a few quotes from the overwhelmingly positive feedback leadership has received from hundreds of participants:

- "You did a great job pulling everything together and I really appreciate all the hard work that went in to producing a polished product in a very short amount of time."
- "I was impressed with the professional quality of the speakers and especially the ethics session. This worked well for me."
- "Congratulations on a really well run event. This was the first time I've joined the OH PE Conference after being an Ohio PE for 24 years. I'm looking forward to next year."

**In fact, OSPE's virtual All-Ohio Engineering Conference went so well that EFO is now offering its Fall CPD Conference, November 5-6, online!** Visit [www.ohioengineer.com](http://www.ohioengineer.com) for details on 15 CPD hours.

See "Education," page 2

**On the cover:**

Augmented reality is a cost-effective way to showcase real-world projects of all types long before the shovel hits the ground.

**See feature, page 6.**

*Image (woman with VR headset): Freepik.com  
Graphic: ms consultants, inc.*



## LEADERSHIP VIEWS

by Tim Schaffer, Executive Director, Ohio Society of Professional Engineers



# Nothing – not wind, rain or COVID-19 – can keep us from achieving our mission

Like many Ohioans and Ohio organizations, when the COVID-19 impacted our nation, OSPE and EFO hunkered down and developed contingency plans to assure that we could still work, perform our services for our members, and protect the profession – without missing a beat.

We have a mission, and we will achieve that mission!

I have been impressed . . . no, *very impressed* . . . with the contributions of everyone who has had a role in this effort. From OSPE Past President Devon Seal, PE, MBA, and EFO Past President Chett Sieftring, PE, to staff members Pam McClure and Holly Ross, Professional Education Chairman Randall Reeder, PE, to our vendors and EFO contributors . . . you all have played a major role in helping us protect what is so dear to our collective

hearts: Ohio's professional engineers and the practice of engineering.

It's our mission!

Nearly all of our continuing professional development, events and meetings have become online functions.

Only the Benefit Golf Outing, EFO's second largest fundraiser for scholarships, Imagine Engineering elementary school programs and MATHCOUNTS in Ohio, was not held. It was not for a lack of trying: COVID-19 complicated plans for our April event, so we postponed out of an abundance of caution. Then the rescheduled August date was rained out!

Now we look forward to our "record-breaking low golf scores" next spring. Aside from the accounting mess of not having the revenue in the desired fiscal year,

we will prevail and we will have fun at the Benefit Golf Outing. And we will raise the money for these awesome programs!

It's our mission!

Thank you, members and donors, for keeping your faith in OSPE and EFO. Through your dedication we are surviving and doing well. That's not the case for many other organizations. COVID-19 has brought a lot of great, well-managed organizations to their knees; I have heard some tragic stories throughout the nonprofit association sector. But that has not been the fate of OSPE and EFO and our programs. And for that, I say, "Thank you!"

*From "Education," page 1*

## In memoriam: Clark E. Beck, Sr., PE, FNSPE

Clark Eugene Beck, Sr., MS, Hon ScD, PE, FNSPE, of Dayton, Ohio, passed away on June 14, 2020. Beck was born in Marion, Indiana, to Frederick Douglas Beck and Mildred (Pettiford) Beck. He was a past president of both the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) and the Engineers Foundation of Ohio. He won OSPE's Uncommon Man Award in 1990 and the Citation Award, the Society's highest honor, in 1992.



Clark E. Beck, Sr., MS, Hon ScD, PE, FNSPE

Beck earned a BS in mathematics from Virginia Union University. He also earned a mechanical engineering degree and a master of science in aerospace engineering from the University of Cincinnati, which also awarded Beck an honorary doctor of science degree in 2003.

Beck served 33 years as a civilian research engineer manager at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. He was the creator of one of NASA's most prolific spinoffs – radiant barrier technology.

After retirement, Beck became assistant dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science at Wright State

University. There he designed and implemented Wright STEPP, a precollege preparation program for area minority and female students interested in STEM. President George H.W. Bush gave Beck the Presidential Award and Wright STEPP won the Thousand Points of Light Award.

Beck was the first African-American president of the Engineers Club of Dayton and president of both the Engineering and Science Foundation of Dayton and the City of Dayton's Environmental Advisory Board. He was a member of the Order of the Engineer among other groups.

Beck received a kidney transplant in 1972; he was always grateful for this amazing gift of life. He was a member of Stillwater SDA Church in Dayton and a community volunteer. Beck also carried the Olympic torch in Dayton.

Predeceased by his parents and siblings, Beck is survived by his wife Gwendolyn, children Clark, Jr. and Angela, three grandchildren and extended family and friends.

In addition, EFO is planning a virtual December seminar and is working with OSPE to prepare for the future of another online CPD program that has been well received over the last three years. A series of one-hour webinars presented in conjunction with Ohio University have offered instruction on diverse topics ranging from engineering leadership to diesel vehicle emissions, GPS, water quality sampling, humanitarian logistics and ripped-from-the-headlines ethics cases. We have had hundreds of takers! Special thanks to Dennis Irwin, PhD, PE, FNSPE, dean emeritus of the Russ College of Engineering and Technology, for helping us establish this wonderful program.

Now that our program with Ohio University has drawn to its successful conclusion, we are developing plans for the next phase of our on-demand webinars. *Watch for details in the coming months.*

EFO and OSPE leaders know it is critical that we continue to adapt to the ever-changing environment in which we work. We will continue to provide meaningful CPD hours that meet Ohio's continuing education requirements for professional engineers. This will be through virtual Conferences, webinars and, eventually, in-person programs again, as we are able. Until we meet again, stay safe, everyone.

# Thank you, team Engineers Foundation of Ohio!

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## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

The Ohio Society of Professional Engineers welcomes 25 new members from March 5 through July 31, 2020:

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	<b><u>Toledo Chapter</u></b> Shafkat Ahmed Austin L. Sargent Alvy Vollmer, PE Ian Michael Wenner, PE

# In the midst of COVID-19 chaos, OSPE creates the All-Ohio Engineering Conference anew



Starting at the onset of the major societal changes associated with COVID-19, OSPE converted the planned, in-person June Conference to its new virtual format in mere weeks. Pictured, President Devon Seal, PE, MBA, films in studio as she introduces sponsors and speakers.



During the OSPE Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 11, President Devon Seal, PE, MBA, leads members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.



During the EFO Annual Meeting, President Chett Siefring, PE, thanks his board members and committee chairs for their year of service.



Retiring Executive Director Mark Golden, CAE, FASAE, joins OSPE and EFO remotely from Virginia to install the two organizations' officers.



Retha Niedecken joins EFO remotely from Louisiana to congratulate the four inaugural recipients of the **Joe Niedecken, PE – "Pay It Forward"** – University of Cincinnati – Memorial Scholarship.



EFO President Chett Siefring, PE, announces the Foundation's 2019-2020 awards winners during a special Conference presentation.



< OSPE & EFO Executive Director Tim Schaffer provides an update on programs during each organization's annual meeting.

# Environmental Engineering Directory

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by Kari Mackenbach, CFM, BCES, ENV SP, Director of Sustainability, ms consultants, and Dominic Rosselli, LEED AP BD+C, GGP, Leader of Virtual Design, ms consultants

# Augmented reality: It's not just for video games

Green infrastructure reduces and treats stormwater directly at its source while providing environmental, social and economic benefits. It is a cost-effective and resilient approach to managing wet weather impacts that also provide many community impacts. While there are many benefits to its use, green infrastructure is not always well received.

*Why?* Like any change, green infrastructure has its challenges when being presented to stakeholders and the general public. Fortunately, with the use of technology, there are ways to engage stakeholders, gather feedback and get buy-in early in the process.

With ms consultants' in-depth experience in the implementation, design and installation of green infrastructure practices, we have a strong understanding of how the public reacts to green infrastructure initiatives. After hearing concerns and understanding the hurdles, we saw the need for a better solution for public engagement. That is when we turned to augmented reality to showcase what a project could look like in the future, engage and educate stakeholders and enhance overall public outreach efforts.

### An overview on technology

Before we dig into how ms consultants uses technology, let us review a few technology applications themselves. The term extended reality is used to describe the spectrum of experiences that blurs the line between the real world and the simulated world.

On the "completely digital" side of that scale sits virtual reality or VR. Virtual reality provides a completely artificial environment where someone would experience a fully enclosed synthetic experience that is completely removed from the real world.

At the opposite end of the extended reality spectrum is augmented reality, or AR. Augmented reality takes a real world environment and enhances it

with computer generated images and elements. The real world remains the central focus but is supplemented with perceptual information.

Mixed reality, shortened as MR, is the remaining space on the extended reality spectrum between virtual reality and augmented reality. Mixed reality merges the real and virtual worlds to produce new environments and visualizations. Physical and virtual environments and elements can be manipulated and interact with each other.

The virtual reality evolution started with the video game industry, but has since taken a strong foothold in the architecture, engineering and construction industry. Architects and engineers are able to take clients to their projects before a shovel ever hits the ground. This enables them to experience a design early in the process and provides a 1:1 scale where they are able to navigate the space freely. This level of experience requires high-end equipment and setup.



However, augmented reality has become commonplace with mobile applications. Everything from games to furniture layout apps are utilizing augmented reality to provide unique user experiences. Utilizing augmented reality technology, we are able to take design assets and embed them within real-world environments.

We are able to illustrate design and facilitate feedback from multiple sources quickly and effectively. Publicly web-hosting the content allows everyone to access and visualize the content, even on a mobile device. This allows our design

teams to present content to people leveraging the technology they carry with them everywhere.

When it comes to green infrastructure projects, ms uses augmented reality for successful public outreach and communication.

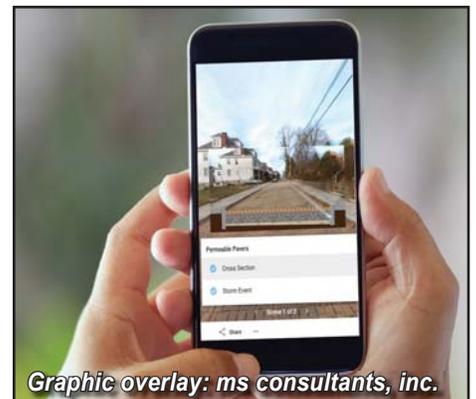


**Graphic and photo: ms consultants, inc.**

### Why is this technology needed?

There are a number of benefits to using augmented reality for public outreach, green infrastructure projects and beyond. Benefits include the ability to:

- reach many stakeholders at different touchpoints with ease as various design decisions need to be made;
- produce experiences that allow the public to better see the impact of green infrastructure in their neighborhoods;
- provide interactive elements through displays and QR (or Quick Response) codes;
- show real-world examples and scenarios;



**Graphic overlay: ms consultants, inc.**

- encourage engagement and lively discussions through examples of changes;
- provide a more adaptable and customizable to each community and/or audience; and
- refine for future engagements.

These are just some of the reasons using augmented reality can benefit public outreach initiatives. This technology is more adaptable and interactive than traditional engagement methods.

Since the design and the presentation are both digital as design changes are made, updating the presentation materials is quick and easy. This allows the public to stay engaged and up-to-date without the need to attend every meeting.

In addition, instead of *explaining* how green infrastructure will change the landscape, you can use augmented reality to *show* firsthand changes.

### Traditional vs. modern engagement

Traditional public engagement includes a public announcement, often in a newspaper or posted online. A public room full of people with some large format printed boards that show diagrams and plans of what a project may look like. The facilitators talk with the audience, get their feedback and answer questions, many of which are asking more details about the project itself and how it will impact the community.



**Photo credit: ms consultants, inc.**

There is still a time and a place for traditional methods of engagement, however, with the use of technology, we are modernizing this decades old practice. While the general outreach and getting people to the meeting is the

same, the interaction has changed. With augmented reality, the public can view what the actual project may look like right in their own neighborhood. There are no more “what ifs” or explaining what may happen—they can see it right then and there.

What if someone cannot make the public meeting? Fortunately, this technology also allows for engagement outside of the traditional meeting space. Because it does not rely on printed information, with the proper planning, augmented reality displays can be shared outside of the meeting and with the public in their own homes.

### Using augmented reality in practice

We have mostly highlighted green infrastructure and public engagement, as we identify this as a prime opportunity for augmented reality. However, there are many more uses for this technology! Rain gardens, permeable pavers, traffic lights, new road lanes, redesigned interior spaces and completely new buildings—all of these projects benefit from using augmented reality.



**Photos & graphics: ms consultants, inc.**

It is used not just for public outreach efforts, but also for:

- education,
- stakeholder buy-in,
- interagency coordination,
- informational meetings,
- developer and investor presentations,
- customer journey mapping, and
- project ideation.

### The future of technology and the industry

Augmented reality, virtual reality and other technologies will continue to be critical as we work with the public

and our clients. Technologies like these provide an accessible, contextual approach that is available to all stakeholders and interested parties—any place, any time. It is viewable on multiple platforms and devices, including smartphones, tablets, desktops, etc., thereby making it adaptable to many needs.

The use of augmented reality also provides interactive learning experiences for all ages. Whether it is a QR code at a display garden or additional details for public meetings, we can leverage technology to further educate the public on how the engineers and architects make projects a reality.

Augmented reality also provides great benefits to clients. Using this cost-effective technology, clients can see real-world project changes, evaluate whether the project will work, identify any barriers and provide invaluable feedback, thereby mitigating risks.

### About the Authors

**Kari Mackenbach, CFM, BCES, ENV SP, is the director of sustainability for ms consultants. She has more than 25 years of project management experience in many facets of public outreach, inter-agency coordination, sustainability, stormwater and floodplain management across the Country. Mackenbach's background as a Board Certified Environmental Scientist (BCES), Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) and an Envision Sustainability Professional (ENV SP) provides her with unique capabilities to work with communities professionals on multiple levels as it relates to sustainability and integrated planning efforts.**

**Dominic Rosselli, LEED AP BD+C, GGP, is leader of virtual design for ms consultants. Rosselli supports the company-wide design and production technology needs and leads ongoing innovations and technical expertise at ms consultants. He provides a tactical focus on managing complex programs with stringent BIM and virtual design requirements with an emphasis on supporting innovation and process transformation. Rosselli leads technology activities and initiatives and has implemented virtual and augmented reality practices at ms.**

# Virtual victory: OSPE Conference attracts wide participation & wins vast praise

The first *online All-Ohio Engineering Conference* in June was a tremendous victory for the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) earning great participation and many compliments for the education hours and format alike.

The 2020 Conference – originally planned as an in-person program in Fairborn – was all but "put to bed" when COVID-19 changed our collective lives in late March. Subsequently, over mere



Research Network innovations. AIDA America engineers converted their technical tour into a dynamic virtual presentation about large stamping presses. The 2020 program also featured two hours of ethics education to help PEs meet Ohio's CPD requirement. This year's ethics speakers focused on professional engineering ethics and lessons learned from the Boeing 737 MAX tragedies.



In addition to CPD hours, the 2020 virtual Conference included the OSPE Annual Meeting, the Engineers Foundation of Ohio (EFO) Annual Meeting, the OSPE-EFO installation ceremony and the traditional past presidents meeting. EFO leaders were thrilled that **Retha Niedecken** joined remotely for a special awards program to congratulate the four recipients of the inaugural **Joe Niedecken, PE, "Pay It Forward" – University of Cincinnati – Memorial Scholarship**.

The 2020 All-Ohio Engineering Conference also provided an expanded showcase for sponsors, which were recognized 29-48 times (depending on their sponsorship) during streaming. Sponsor benefits also included pre-Conference and post-Conference recognition, weblinks, QR codes and recognition in the program book.

In the end, the logistics challenges of converting the 2020 All-Ohio Engineering Conference to a virtual format were far outweighed by the Society's ultimate triumph in providing 12.5 worthwhile CPD hours to PEs despite a global pandemic.

OSPE extends special thanks to its 16 fantastic speakers, 27 generous sponsors and advertisers and the ever-faithful Dayton Chapter host committee – **DSPE President Aurea Rivera, PE, PMP, PMI-ACP, Jon Wheeler, PE, CHPP, CFM, Winn Holcombe, PE, and DSPE's Board of Directors** – for planning the seminars and securing sponsors. Thank you also to **DSPE President Rivera, OSPE President Seal, EFO President Chett Sieftring, PE, EFO Professional Education Committee Chair Randall Reeder, PE**, for working fast to convert the Conference to its virtual format.

weeks, the Dayton Society of Professional Engineers (DSPE) host committee and OSPE leaders quickly pivoted to meet various, unexpected challenges. Our team discussed how major societal changes dictated by the pandemic, the government and the economy would impact professional engineers seeking CPD hours or otherwise hoping to attend OSPE's annual Conference.

Society leaders determined that a virtual meeting would function best. Team members worked expediently to convert the traditional face-to-face meeting to its new online format thereby eliminating the risk of contagion and mitigating the financial impact on participants. Their hard work produced a successful three-day online event that included 12.5 CPD hours and accommodated PEs from around the United States.

"We took the lemons we were handed and, with fantastic support, we made some delicious lemonade," said OSPE President Devon Seal, PE, MBA, who emceed the Conference.

In fact, OSPE has enjoyed a flood of positive reactions to this year's virtual Conference. Participants gave glowing evaluations for the seminars and praised the professionally-polished appearance of the streamed content, which looked and felt like an educational television show, complete with sponsor commercials.

Perhaps most impressively, engineers actually *saved money* while earning CPD hours. After all, there were no expenses for travel, overnight rooms or hotel meals. And OSPE was able to offer the 2020 Conference with a one-time price cut; registrants saved 49 percent from the 2019 program.

The theme was "**Innovation: 20/20 Vision for the Future**," and PE participants were impressed with the technical seminars. On Friday, June 12, registrants learned about natural innovation, wetlands conservation, NASA's return to the moon via the Artemis program and geohazards. The following day, Saturday, June 13, they were educated about battery room regulations, virtual reality as a training tool, progressive collapse, cyber deterrence and Ohio Federal



Ohio Aerospace Institute President John Sankovic, PhD, PE, kicked off the Conference with a seminar on "Natural Innovation." Engineers learned how to increase their design options based on natural systems.



Joe DiMisa, PWS, LEEDAP BD+C, REM, an instructor at The Civil Engineer School (Air Force Institute of Technology) taught engineer participants methods to avoid, minimize and mitigate wetland impacts from land improvement projects.



In a joint presentation titled "Geotechnics & Geophysics for Geohazards," Terracon Senior Project Manager Rajan Viswanathan, PE, and Terracon Senior Staff Geologist Kyle Shalek, PhD, discussed techniques for characterizing and mitigating select geohazards.



NSPE Executive Director and CEO Mark Golden, CAE, FASAE, taught engineers about professional ethics: the engineer's duty to the public, competency, objectivity, truthfulness, confidentiality, conflicts of interests and emerging challenges.



## PROGRAMS

OSPE President Devon Seal, PE, MBA, hosts the premier, two-and-a-half-day, virtual All-Ohio Engineering Conference. While speakers presented their seminars remotely, President Seal conducted the Conference from a Central Ohio filming studio. From there, she ran the OSPE Annual Meeting, recognized sponsors, introduced speakers and facilitated Q+A for the seminars. >>>



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In a presentation sponsored by Ohio University's Russ College of Engineering & Technology, NASA Lunar Surface Systems Lead John Connolly, PE, told registrants about the engineering involved in returning U.S. astronauts to the lunar surface by the middle of this decade. Connolly discussed high-tech elements that are in design, in production or preparing for flight.



EnviroGuard's Jeff Donato presented "Changing Regulations for the Battery Room." Engineers learned about stationary battery regulatory requirements from federal, state and local governments, and various authorities having jurisdiction.



Timothy Fuller, MS, (left) and Rick Kappel, MS, (right) led an interactive presentation in which they discussed how to integrate virtual reality (VR) – an inexpensive and easy-to-incorporate tool – into effective and engaging education and work-force training. Participants were able to visit a VR site online to test the tools first hand. Fuller is director of the Department of Engineering Applications at The Civil Engineer School (AFIT). Kappel is an AFIT instructor of environmental management.



< Timothy Tuinstra, PhD, of Cedarville University presented "The Boeing 737 Max Tragedy: Lessons Learned." Referencing market pressures, design issues and software, Dr. Tuinstra discussed the alleged

ethical failures that led to the deadly crashes of October 2018 and March 2019.



< Ohio State University Professor Halil Sezen, PhD, explained how the robustness of buildings can be demonstrated with progressive collapse experiments and computational modeling. Dr. Sezen

also showed engineers how adding structural components can impact collapse resistance.



< KBR Wiley Certified Information Security Manager John Bommer, Jr., Juris Doctor, taught engineers how leveraging existing law can improve cyber detection so the U.S. can enable active cyberspace deterrence. This topic has applications for industrial control systems and autonomous vehicles.



< Wright State Research Institute Executive Director Dennis Andersh, MSEE, highlighted the Ohio Federal Research Network's latest innovations, including human cognition in the design and evaluation of machine learning algorithms, UAS advancements to support R&D for personal air vehicles and logistics delivery air vehicles, and additive manufacturing methods leveraged for the aerospace industry's manufacturing, repair and supply chain challenges.

## PROGRAMS

# OSPE & EFO presidents pass the gavel to the 2020-2021 leaders



< Ohio Society of Professional Engineers President-Elect Kevin Ernst, PE, thanks outgoing President Devon Seal, PE, MBA, for her year of service leading the Society. He presents her with the past president's pin and gavel plaque.



< Ohio Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) President-Elect Kevin Ernst, PE, MBA, receives the gavel from outgoing President Devon Seal, PE. Ernst will serve as OSPE's president for 2020-2021.



< Engineers Foundation of Ohio President-Elect Rich Miller, PE, presents outgoing President Chett Siefring, PE, with a commemorative gavel plaque as he congratulates him on a great year.



< Engineers Foundation of Ohio (EFO) President-Elect Rich Miller, PE, accepts the gavel from outgoing President Chett Siefring, PE. Miller will be the 2020-2021 president for EFO.

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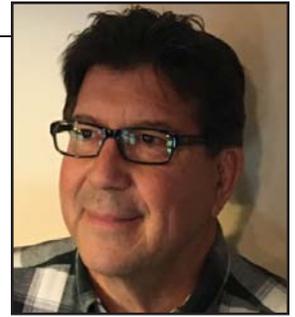
# OSPE bill tracking summary

REDUCE REGULATORY RESTRICTIONS, House Bill 115 (Riedel, Roemer) & Senate Bill 1 (McColley, Roegner)	To require certain agencies to reduce the number of regulatory restrictions.	<u>Status:</u> HB 115: 4/10/2019 - House State & Local Government (2nd Hearing). SB 1: 6/4/2020 - House appoints managers, names conferees
MILITARY-TEMPORARY LICENSURE, House Bill 133 (Perales, Weinstein), Senate Bill 7 (Lehner, Hackett)	To require state occupational licensing agencies, under certain circumstances, to issue temporary licenses or certificates to members of the military & spouses who are licensed in another jurisdiction & have moved to Ohio for military duty.	<u>Status:</u> HB 133: 10/2/2019 - Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce (1st Hearing). SB 7: 1/27/2020 - Signed by Governor, effective in 90 days
INDEMNITY PROVISIONS, House Bill 159 (Blessing)	To regulate the use of indemnity provisions in professional design contracts related to public improvements.	<u>Status:</u> 6/2/2020 - House Civil Justice (3rd Hearing), substitute bill accepted <u>Position:</u> Support
AMUSEMENT RIDE SAFETY, House Bill 189 (Patterson, Blessing)	To revise the laws governing amusement ride operation & safety, to designate this act as "Tyler's Law," & to declare an emergency.	<u>Status:</u> 11/6/2019 - Signed by Governor; effective immediately <u>Position:</u> Support
OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE-APPRENTICESHIP, House Bill 258 (Powell)	To require a licensing authority to issue an occupational license to an applicant who completes a registered apprenticeship program & meets other requirements for licensure.	<u>Status:</u> 6/11/2020 - House Economic & Workforce Development (2nd Hearing), bill amended <u>Position:</u> Neutral (removed opposition)
OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING-CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS, House Bill 263 (Koehler)	To revise the initial occupational licensing restrictions applicable to individuals convicted of criminal offenses.	<u>Status:</u> 6/24/2020 - Referred to Senate Transport, Comm & Workforce <u>Position:</u> Oppose
DRAINAGE LAW, House Bill 340 (Cupp)	To revise the state's drainage laws.	<u>Status:</u> 6/30/2020 - Referred to Senate Agriculture & Nat'l Resources
CONTRACTOR PAYMENT DEADLINE (Cross, Sweeney), House Bill 380	To require owners of construction projects to pay a contractor within 35 days of receiving a request for payment.	<u>Status:</u> 5/20/2020 - House Commerce & Labor (4th Hearing)
INTERIOR DESIGN EXAMINERS BOARD, House Bill 402 (Lang, Sweeney)	To create the Ohio Interior Design Examiners Board to certify & regulate interior designers.	<u>Status:</u> 2/12/2020 - House State & Local Government (1st hearing)
OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE RECIPROCITY (Powell, Lang), House Bill 432 & Senate Bill 246 (Roegner, McColley)	To require an occupational licensing authority to issue a license or government certification to an applicant who holds a license, government certification, or private certification or has satisfactory work experience in another state under certain circumstances.	<u>Status:</u> HB 432: 1/29/2020 - House State & Local Government (2nd hearing). SB 246: 2/19/2020 - Senate Government & Agency Review (5th hearing) <u>Position:</u> Interested Party with Concerns
OCCUPATIONAL REGULATIONS (Wilkins, Stephens), House Bill 452	To revise & streamline the state's occupational regulations.	<u>Status:</u> 1/28/2020 - Referred to House State & Local Government
REPEAL PREVAILING WAGE LAW (Hood, Dean), House Bill 663	To repeal the Prevailing Wage Law.	<u>Status:</u> 5/27/2020 - Referred to House Commerce & Labor
AGRICULTURAL ISSUES (Jones), House Bill 665	To modify the laws governing agricultural societies, to recodify the law governing amusement ride safety, to address funding & other issues related to county & independent agricultural societies & the Ohio Expositions Commission & to declare an emergency.	<u>Status:</u> 6/30/2020 - Referred to Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources
STATEWIDE WATERSHED PLANNING, Senate Bill 2 (Peterson, Dolan)	To create a statewide watershed planning structure for watershed programs to be implemented by local soil & water conservation districts.	<u>Status:</u> 2/19/2020 - Bill amended in House Energy & Natural Resources (5th Hearing)

See "Bill tracking," page 12

## LEGISLATIVE & GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

by Joseph V. Warino, P.E., P.S., F.NSPE, Vice President, Legislative & Government Affairs, Ohio Society of Professional Engineers



# OSPE works to mitigate threats to licensure

As I reflect on this fiscal year (July 2019-June 2020), I recall several new and renewed legislative attacks against licensure.

OSPE's significant efforts to combat these attacks have been highlighted in multiple issues of PE Magazine and in local news broadcasts and publications.

Collectively, our members have invested time and energy engaged in

various campaigns to protect licensure and, by extension, the public's health, safety and welfare. From meeting with legislators and interested parties to providing testimony and working with a coalition to protect licensure, we have remained quite busy.

Much remains to be seen as there are still several months before the 133rd Ohio General Assembly closes at the end of 2020, but I believe we are doing good work towards averting some threats.

However, a disturbing and overarching trend remains: Several "think tanks" – based in states around the country – are hard at work initiating measures that denigrate and fragment licensure. This trend is evidenced by the volume of active bills that continue to take pot shots at Ohio's licensure laws and, for that matter, at licensure

laws around the U.S.

As we head into fiscal year 2020-2021, OSPE will continue to focus on combating legislation that threatens professional engineering practice.

Finally, I extend my personal gratitude to OSPE's members, many of whom go "over and above" in their efforts to protect PE licensure. I also offer the same sincere "thanks" to OSPE's Executive Committee, OSPE's Legislative & Government Affairs Committee and Governmental Policy Group for their mutual support in protecting and advancing the engineering profession.

Thank you also to OSPE's staff for their stellar work throughout the fiscal year. It is imperative that I publicly recognize that their work facilitated the betterment of OSPE. It was noticed and appreciated.

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From "Bill tracking," page 11

SCHOOL FACILITIES ASSISTANCE, Senate Bill 4 (Rulli)	To make a capital appropriation for school facilities assistance.	Status: 6/24/2020 - Consideration of House Amendments; Senate Concurr, Vote 21-10
PUNITIVE / EXEMPLARY DAMAGES LIMITATION EXEMPTIONS, Senate Bill 46 (Eklund)	To expand the exemption from punitive or exemplary damages limitations in tort law that is related to certain felony convictions.	Status: 3/19/2019 - Senate Government Oversight & Reform (2nd Hearing)
REGISTERED DESIGN PROFESSIONALS, Senate Bill 136 (Hottinger, Sykes)	To establish a payment assurance program for registered design professionals.	Status: 2/25/2020 - Senate Government Oversight & Reform (3rd Hearing)
LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANIES (Roegner), Senate Bill 276	To enact the Ohio Revised LLC Act.	Status: 6/30/2020 - Reported out as amended, Senate Judiciary (3rd hearing)
BUSINESS RELOCATIONS (Brenner), Senate Bill 314	To prohibit state agencies from charging a fee to professional license holders in relation to a business relocation during the COVID-19 declared state of emergency and to declare an emergency.	Status: 5/20/2020 - Referred to Senate General Government & Agency Review
BUILDING INSPECTION LAW CHANGES (Roegner), Senate Bill 325	To make changes to the law relating to building inspections.	Status: 6/24/2020 - Referred to Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce
UNITED STATES SPACE COMMAND (Hackett), Senate Conference Resolution 15	To urge the United States government to select Ohio to host the permanent headquarters of the United States Space Command.	Status: 6/24/2020 - Adopted by Senate; Vote 31-0

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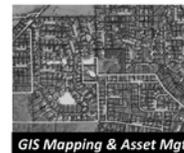
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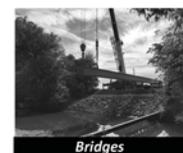
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