Ohio ENGINEER

Volume 85/Issue 4 | *The Official Publication of the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers* | 2025

Ohio engineering schools build career-ready talent

EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY

NSPE-OH OHIO SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

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

Voice (614) 223-1144
E-mail OSPE@OhioEngineer.com
Website www.OhioEngineer.com

The Ohio Engineer (ISSN 0194-9276) is published quarterly by the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE-Ohio). **Postmaster:** Send address changes to Ohio Engineer, 400 South Fifth Street, Suite 300, Columbus, OH 43215. Annual subscription rate $25 (included in NSPE-Ohio membership dues). NSPE-Ohio is not responsible for the authenticity or accuracy of information provided herein. Published opinions and statements do not necessarily reflect the opinion of NSPE-Ohio. Products and services advertised, other than those offered as NSPE-Ohio member benefits, do not carry the endorsement of NSPE-Ohio. Publisher reserves the right to decline any advertisement that is deemed inappropriate. The sales representative for Ohio Engineer does not have final authority to determine whether an advertisement may be placed in Ohio Engineer. The ultimate determination as to the appropriateness of any advertisement is subject to the discretion of the NSPE-Ohio Public Relations Committee and the publisher acting in accordance with the guidelines established by NSPE-Ohio.

LEADERSHIP VIEWS

by Joe Cherry, PE, F.NSPE, President, Engineers Foundation of Ohio

The future depends on us

I am Joe Cherry PE, F.NSPE, this year's EFO president. I am a retired controls and instrumentation engineer from SSOE Group after 42 and a half years. I have been a member of NSPE since 1996 and hail from the Toledo Regional Chapter. This is my second time serving as EFO president, and I am a past president of NSPE-Ohio.

You might ask, "Why do it again when you're retired?" I decided a year ago to serve as president-elect of EFO to be an overseer of this great nonprofit, tax-exempt organization.

We started the year off in August at the annual retreat for NSPE-Ohio board and chapters and EFO board members. As everyone introduced themselves, the common thread was apparent—most leaders were retired. Yes—retired! This brings important questions to mind: who will step up to replace our current leadership team when we also give up our professional licenses and retire from volunteer service? Where will our new leadership come from?

Who will step up to lead the next generation of Ohio engineers?

How do we get the younger professional engineers to step up and become leaders in NSPE-Ohio, chapters, and EFO? So, I asked AI—Microsoft Copilot—and it came up with the following ideas:

- Build and empower a strong team
- Cultivate essential leadership qualities
- Expand your professional network and skills
- Achieve personal fulfillment and leave a legacy

EFO offers NSPE-Ohio members a March professional training—the Engineers Leadership Institute. Back when I first obtained my professional license in the 1990s, an office manager suggested that I attend this program, and so I did. It was a great learning experience for my engineering career. It remains a great learning opportunity for new chapter members.

Perhaps it was the Engineers Leadership Institute that inspired me to give my time to EFO again in retirement.

"Achieve personal fulfillment and leave a legacy"—that might be my main reason to continue to be active with NSPE-Ohio and EFO. I have been on the Toledo Regional Chapter board since the 1990s and now serve as the chapter's representative to NSPE-Ohio and EFO. What a great way to give back to the profession! As for legacy, my name is known in Ohio and at the national level. As president, you have the opportunity to write for OhioENGINEER magazine and share your views with the membership.

Besides leaders, we also need donors to support EFO and its programs. So again, I asked Copilot and ChatGPT, "Why should I donate to a nonprofit?" They generated several suggestions:

See "The future," page 3

On the cover:

Miami University engineering students Nolan Londo and Abby McCammon collaborate with Kumar Singh, PhD, professor of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, in the Smart Factory Innovation and Technology Lab in Oxford, Ohio. *Photo Credit: Jeff Sabo, Miami University*

See " Ohio engineering schools," page 6.

by N.E. Nilsson, F.NSPE, Past President (1993), Ohio Society of Professional Engineers

Investing in Ohio's future engineers starts with us

Support tomorrow's engineers through scholarship funding

We may have great individual accomplishments, but who will be there to carry the torch when we have finished our professional journey? In a very real sense, Engineers Foundation of Ohio (EFO) scholarships help finance the engineers who will one day replace us.

I'm chair of EFO's Chacey Circle program. Created to advance the ideals and programs championed by former NSPE-Ohio leader and engineering advocate Lloyd A. Chacey, PE, Chacey Circle reflects EFO's long-standing commitment to supporting the next generation through scholarship funding.

To understand recent scholarship activity and why your support matters, I will examine EFO data from 2022 through 2025. The activity in this time frame shows a steady, respected program with more qualified applicants than available awards — a normal pattern for competitive scholarships and a clear sign of strong interest from Ohio's future engineers.

	Scholarships Awarded	Total Applicants	Applicants Not Selected
2022	5	34	29
2023	6	51	45
2024	7	69	62
2025	10	74	64

Table 1

Refer to Table 1. (The Chacey Scholarship is a special case and is not included in this snapshot.) The number of scholarships awarded varies modestly from year to year, and the number of applicants remains consistently higher than the number of available awards—a sign of healthy demand. Table 1 illustrates the pattern clearly. To better understand the relationship between applicants and awards, we can look at how many qualified applicants were not selected each year—simply the total applicants minus the number of scholarships awarded.

Figure 1 shows the number of applicants who were not selected as a function of the number of scholarships awarded. A linear regression highlights the general relationship between awards and demand, showing that interest remains strong even as the number of awards changes. While the data set is limited, the regression line provides a reasonable representation of the trend: a larger pool of qualified applicants continues to seek support. This is typical of respected scholarship programs with more interest than available funding.

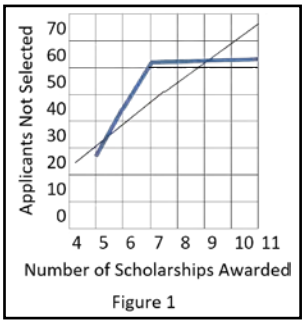


Figure 1

The number of applicants not selected underscores the strong demand for engineering scholarships across Ohio.

Figure 2 presents the data another way, showing the number of applicants not selected as a function of the year the scholarships were awarded. While the curve is less pronounced, the overall pattern remains steady, with more applicants than available awards each year. As interest in engineering careers continues, we can expect a similar level of demand in 2026 and beyond.

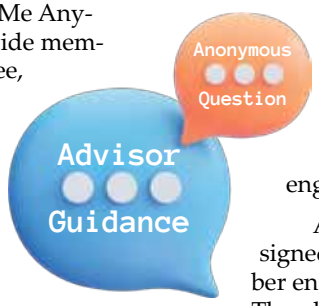
The data can be analyzed in many ways, but the conclusion is clear: the scholarship program is strong, respected, and consistently attracting aspiring engineers. The challenge—and the opportunity—is that demand continues to exceed available funding, giving us a clear path to expand our impact. Those of us who are members of NSPE-Ohio have an important role to play in expanding this momentum. By supporting the EFO with additional scholarship funding, we can help more deserving students pursue engineering careers and ensure a strong future for our profession.

Figure 2

Donate to EFO today. There is no better time to invest in tomorrow's engineers.

NSPE debuts "Ask Me Anything" platform for member support

NSPE has launched Ask Me Anything, a new resource to provide members with a safe, judgment-free, anonymous space to ask career-related questions and seek guidance they may not feel comfortable discussing with mentors, managers, or colleagues. The initiative offers thoughtful support on expanding pathways into the engineering profession, supporting engineers at every stage of their careers, creating opportunities for professional growth, strengthening the profession, and improving access to the engineering profession.



Ask Me Anything is designed to strengthen NSPE member engagement and connection. The platform is now available at: https://www.nspe.org/about/about-nspe/ask-me-anything-new-resource-nspe-members

NSPE-OH OHIO SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these new NSPE-Ohio members from December 9, 2025, through January 30, 2026:

Akron District Chapter
Hung Nguyen
Adam Spray

Dayton Chapter
William Ayoub
Walaaeldin Derbala
Kahlil Knick
Autumn Randall

Franklin County Chapter
Paige Anderson
Jacob Brofford
Thomas Foltz
Claire Jernigan
Mitchell Morrison
Ejikemeuwa Okafor
Zenna Stirling
Ripley Vichot
Robert Worrell

Mahoning Valley Chapter
Alexander Rotz-Shafer

Maumee Valley Chapter
Devin Dietrich

Southwest Ohio Chapter
Elijah Curtis
Michael Epstein
Matthew Fuller
Kelly Huston
Eleanor Sparks
Anthony Zatelli

Toledo Regional Chapter
Bibiyan Shrestha

Tuscarawas Valley Chapter
Stuart White

From "The future," page 1

- Make a tangible impact
- Advance causes you care about
- Inspire others and build community
- Benefit from practical advantages
- Impact on society
- Personal fulfillment
- Tax benefits

EFO offers many ways one can donate to benefit children, future engineers, and young professionals. One of the main ways is to donate through the Pass the Hat campaign, which supports EFO's general fund. One can make a designated gift in support of a specific EFO program like MATHCOUNTS, the Imagine Engineering program for second graders, or the scholarship funds that EFO has for Ohio engineering students. You might find a fund that supports engineering students at the college you attended.

Maybe you would prefer to leave a legacy donation by starting a scholarship fund in your own name or your company name for one of the engineering colleges in Ohio. EFO can help you get started with establishing a fund.

EFO needs leaders and donors. How will you give?

H2Ohio, ODNR announce removal of low-head Covington Dam in Miami County

As part of Ohio Governor Mike DeWine's H2Ohio initiative, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) funded the removal of a low-head dam on the State Scenic Stillwater River in Miami County. The project will improve water quality in the river, throughout the watershed, and downstream into the Great Miami River by restoring the stream gradient, floodplain connectivity, and fish passage.

The Stillwater River begins in western Darke County and flows southeast where it joins with Greenville Creek in Covington.

Removing the 130-foot-wide dam reconnects more than 55 linear miles of the Stillwater River, a major tributary of the Great Miami River watershed. Fish, mussels, and crayfish will benefit from the reconnected river and newly created riffle habitats. In addition, the dam removal will eliminate a former public safety hazard and create safer recreational conditions for paddling and fishing.

The Covington Dam removal project is a collaboration between the ODNR H2Ohio Rivers Program, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Village of Covington. H2Ohio Rivers supported the project with a $500,000 grant. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Village of Covington spearheaded early surveys and permit applications to start this project.

The dam removal is also supported by other local partners, including the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Miami County Soil and Water Conservation District. Monitoring work this summer will assess changes to the distribution and abundance of fish species at the project site and several upstream areas.

The Covington Dam removal project reconnects 55 linear miles of the Stillwater River which is part of the Great Miami River watershed. Photo credit: ODNR

Ohio launches $100 million Energy Opportunity Initiative for natural gas and SMR infrastructure

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and JobsOhio have announced the new Energy Opportunity Initiative, a $100 million fund for economic development opportunities over a five-year period. According to JobsOhio, these funds will provide assistance to qualifying companies in the form of grants and low-interest loans to help offset costs related to natural gas and nuclear power production in Ohio.

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine

"To continue Ohio's growth and to create jobs, we must focus on energy," said Governor DeWine. "Ohio must have an energy policy that ensures we have the supply we need for current and future demand, which will help keep costs reasonable."

State officials said that funds from the initiative will focus on: engineering, right-of-way, and construction costs for new and existing natural gas infrastructure; site preparation for small modular reactor (SMR) generation; advanced training for Ohio's workforce and the creation of a "nuclear energy center of excellence" around employment; and incentives for attracting supply-chain companies for SMR manufacturing and production.

States across the country are seeing an increase in energy demand. According to the announcement, Ohio has abundant natural gas, which is why investments in Ohio's shale-energy sector have soared past $111 billion since 2011. States that lack this natural resource are instead quickly pursuing newer technologies around nuclear power, including nuclear fission SMRs. Natural gas infrastructure and SMR development are expensive but essential for Ohio to continue as a U.S. energy leader.

"Ohio is powering America's energy story," said JobsOhio President and CEO J.P. Nauseef. "This initiative strengthens that momentum, fueling new projects, jobs, and America's growing energy needs."

Ohio Wesleyan launches $17M Conrades School of Engineering

Mechanical engineering program will pursue ABET accreditation

Ohio Wesleyan University has announced the creation of an endowed School of Engineering, powered by more than $17 million in alumni philanthropy. The school – the most ambitious academic expansion in OWU's 183-year history – will welcome its first mechanical engineering majors in fall 2027.

OWU's new Conrades School of Engineering positions the university as a national model for engineering education, said President Matt vandenBerg, one grounded in compassion, creativity, interdisciplinary thinking, and the power skills that prepare students to shape a rapidly changing world. The school is named in recognition of university alumni George Conrades, Class of 1961, and Patricia "Patsy" Belt Conrades, Class of 1963, who are supporting it with a lead gift of $13 million.

"The Conrades School of Engineering does more than create a stronger Ohio Wesleyan," said vandenBerg, EdD, "It creates a stronger world. … We are ensuring that future engineers combine deep technical ability with humanity, curiosity, and the confidence to lead."

Jason Hall, CEO of the Columbus Partnership, said manufacturing companies requiring highly skilled and engineering talent now make up about 60 percent of the region's economic development pipeline.

"That is what stands out about what is happening here at Ohio Wesleyan," Hall said. "A liberal arts university looking at the future of this economy and saying we are going to be part of shaping it."

In addition to the lead $13 million gift, the Conrades School of Engineering is supported by two additional $2 million gifts from alumni.

Ohio Wesleyan's engineering model blends technical ability with the human-centered strengths of the liberal arts. Students will experience mechanical engineering foundations taught through hands-on lab work and real problem-solving; internships that expand learning and build confidence; power skills; OWU Connection experiences; and a discovery-oriented environment. Two complementary minors will enhance flexibility and breadth.

Students who complete Ohio Wesleyan's four-year mechanical engineering major will earn a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering degree from a program pursuing accreditation from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology.

Learn more about the new school at https://owu.edu/engineering.

Ohio engineering schools build career-ready talent

Students gain practical skills and experiences that launch impactful careers.

Smart FIT Lab at Miami University brings real-world manufacturing to campus

Miami University's Smart Factory Innovation and Technology (Smart FIT) Lab provides students with hands-on experience using the tools and systems that drive modern manufacturing. Built in collaboration with Mitsubishi Electric Automation, Inc. (led by CEO and Miami University alumnus Scott Summerville '79) and Scadaware, the lab mirrors a real factory environment — complete with robotic arms, sensors, and data-driven production lines.

"There's nowhere else in the country that truly has a facility like this," said Miami University Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Management double major Scott Spear. "It really emulates what a manufacturing environment in the real world would actually look like."

Explore the lab at MiamiOH.edu/smart-fit

University of Akron's Zips Aero team earns record finish in international competition

The University of Akron's award-winning Zips Aero Design Team earned a record fourth-place finish at the international AIAA Design/Build/Fly Competition. Representing UA's College of Engineering and Polymer Science, the student-run team demonstrated the innovation, technical skill and teamwork that define Akron Engineering. From concept to flight, students led every stage of design, fabrication and testing, gaining real-world experience that sets UA graduates apart. Their success shows how hands-on learning and faculty mentorship at The University of Akron prepare engineers to compete — and excel — on a global stage. Visit https://www.uakron.edu/im/news/zips-aero-design-team-achieves-record-4th-place-at-international-aiaa-design-build-fly-competition.

Driven by energy. Defined by innovation. Zips Racing's all-electric car powers University of Akron students to the podium.

Air Force Institute of Technology Graduate School inspires 65 local students through Engineers Week

The Air Force Institute of Technology's Graduate School of Engineering and Management hosted their annual Engineers Week last spring for 65 students from six local high schools in the Dayton region. AFIT has participated in Engineers Week for more than a decade and seeks to inspire and educate high school students about the wide range of opportunities in STEM fields.

"By engaging students through hands-on demonstrations, real-world applications and direct interaction with AFIT faculty and graduate students, the event aimed to showcase how STEM plays a vital role in national defense and to encourage the next generation to pursue STEM careers," said Captain Megan Keene, event organizer and AFIT master's student.

AFIT's Graduate School of Engineering and Management offers in-residence and distance-learning graduate degrees in engineering, applied science, mathematics, and management at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, with defense-focused programs and research supporting the U.S. Air and Space Forces. AFIT:

Photo Credit: U.S. Air Force photos by R.J. Oriez

Visit the AFIT webpage at https://www.afit.edu/.

Drone team at Case Western Reserve wins national vertical flight competition

Case Western Reserve University's student-led drone design team, VTOL CWRU, advances Vertical Takeoff & Landing (VTOL) technology through unmanned aircraft. The team won first place in the 2025 Design-Build-Vertical Flight Competition. The team's mission was to build an aircraft for wildfire response. The two flight scenarios in the competition required precise autonomous waypoint tracking, high-altitude targeted payload dropping, and rapid vertical takeoff and landing capability.

Case Western Reserve engineering students celebrate their custom VTOL drone, the aircraft that earned first place in the 2025 Design-Build-Vertical Flight Competition.

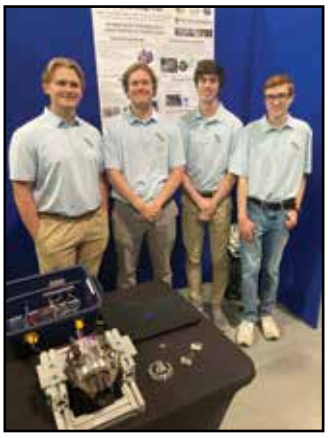
See "Ohio engineering schools," page 7

From "Ohio engineering schools," page 6

VTOL CWRU prioritizes members' hands-on experience, including learning to fly drones and developing technical skills, and competes by designing and manufacturing a custom, purpose-built VTOL drone. This is one of many exciting student clubs offered providing unique experiences.

Cedarville engineering students excel at national aerospace engineering event

Cedarville University mechanical engineering seniors excelled at the 2025 Aerospace Propulsion Outreach Program (APOP) with a high-performing variable nozzle design — a system that adjusts exhaust flow for optimal thrust. Competing alongside teams from 18 highly respected universities, Cedarville students built and tested their nozzle using a campus-developed jet engine test station. Their work culminated in a successful live demo at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, where AFRL engineers praised the design's repeatability and technical quality. The project showcased Cedarville's commitment to rigorous, hands-on engineering education and its students' ability to deliver practical, high-impact solutions in aerospace propulsion.



Cedarville University's APOP team showcases its actuated variable nozzle and research poster at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in Dayton, Ohio. From left: Grant Weise, Isaiah Hansen, Grant Goodrich and Chris Tooill.

Honda America Engineering Academy inspires future engineers at Central State

Central State University hosted the inaugural Honda America Engineering Academy in summer 2025, welcoming 15 high school juniors and seniors from across Ohio for a four-week program. Students explored engineering concepts through hands-on projects, mentorship from Honda engineers, and a culminating case study on the future of mobility. The academy included a visit to Honda's Heritage and Technical Development Centers in Marysville, giving participants a firsthand look at advanced manufacturing processes. The program reflects Central State's commitment to inspiring the next generation of innovators and expanding pathways into STEM careers.

University of Cincinnati engineering student sends science to the moon

For mechanical engineering student Ilyas Malik, the University of Cincinnati's cooperative education (co-op) program opened the door to a project that is truly out of this world. During his co-op position at Firefly Aerospace, Malik contributed to the company's successful bid to NASA to deliver six advanced experiments to their lunar surface initiative. His experience reflects how UC's top-five ranked co-op program gives students the chance to take on real engineering challenges with national impact — before they even graduate.

Cleveland State's Washkewicz College drives innovation through research partnerships

The Washkewicz College of Engineering at Cleveland State University has a long tradition of cutting-edge research, with strong ties to NASA Glenn Research Center, the Cleveland Clinic, and federal agencies such as NSF, NIH, and NASA. Faculty and students collaborate on projects that generate new knowledge and drive innovation in products and processes. Recent successes include multiple NSF CAREER awards, major instrumentation grants, and a threefold increase in external funding for graduate research. These partnerships and achievements highlight CSU's commitment to advancing engineering research and preparing students to lead in discovery and application.

University of Dayton: Engineering beyond the classroom opens world of possibilities

From co-ops at top companies to research that drives innovation, UD engineering students gain hands-on experience that matters. Undergraduate research tackles challenges in semiconductors, sustainability and more. ETHOS immerses students in service projects worldwide, while faculty-led study-abroad programs connect engineering to culture. Honors students take on advanced challenges that prepare them for leadership. These opportunities build confidence, skills and a global perspective — helping Flyers stand out in their careers. Ninety-seven percent of UD's most recent engineering graduates are employed with an average starting salary of $74,225 or in graduate school within six months. Read more at https://udayton.co/kwx.

University of Dayton engineering student Olivia Hooten celebrates her Disney internship at Cinderella Castle. At Disney, she was the lead intern on a project to create, develop and test an app to minimize maintenance impact on guests across Walt Disney World attractions.

Record enrollment drives new Aeronautics and Engineering schools at Kent State

Kent State's College of Aeronautics and Engineering marked a milestone in June 2025 with the creation of two distinct schools: the School of Aeronautics and the School of Engineering. The reorganization reflects record enrollment growth — more than 71 percent since 2018 — and rising demand for programs in aerospace, mechatronics, and cybersecurity. Interim leadership includes Rubén Del Rosario, EngD, former NASA Glenn director, who is guiding aeronautics, and John Sankovic, PhD, former NASA executive and president of Ohio Aerospace Institute, who is leading engineering. Their expertise positions Kent State to expand innovation, research, and student success across Ohio and beyond.

Marietta College petroleum engineering delivers global careers and top salaries

Marietta College offers the nation's only accredited liberal arts–based undergraduate petroleum engineering program, internationally accredited by

See "Ohio engineering schools," page 8

From "Ohio engineering schools," page 7

ABET. With state-of-the-art facilities, industry-experienced faculty, and abundant study-abroad opportunities, students gain expertise in reservoir, drilling, production, and completions engineering. The program produces highly sought-after graduates prepared for global careers. According to the College, the average starting salary for new petroleum engineering graduates in the U.S. is $101,000. Alumni satisfaction is strong, with 93 percent affirming they would choose Marietta again — a testament to the program's impact and value.

Mount Union engineering students earn national honors and innovation awards

Students in the University of Mount Union's Brenton School of Engineering had a successful year in earning several recognitions. The University's team won the Student Hardware Design Competition at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers' (IEEE) Electromagnetic Compatibility Society Symposium in late August. Stemming from that success and numerous campus activities, the IEEE's Microwave Theory and Technology Society (MTT-S) named Mount Union's student chapter as the best of its kind in the nation, and one of only five student chapters in the world to receive the honor. Additionally, three engineering majors at Mount Union won a $3,000 prize for their "Tilted Tic-Tac-Toe" prototype game at the Stark County Education Partnership's "Stark Tank" event.

The University of Mount Union Brenton School of Engineering team took home first place in the Student Hardware Design Competition at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers' (IEEE) Electromagnetic Compatibility Society Symposium in August 2025 in Charlotte, NC. Mount Union's Emily Borroni '25, Jack Davis '26 (not shown), Thomas Elliot '25, Glauco Filho Fontgalland '25, Dan Foltz '26 (not shown) and Logan Gunderman '25 designed and built a "4-element quasi-Yagi, designed specifically to balance portability and accuracy."

Mount Vernon Nazarene University engineering delivers career-ready graduates through labs and internships

Mount Vernon Nazarene University offers an ABET-accredited Bachelor of Science in Engineering with concentrations in Mechanical, Electrical, and Computer Engineering. Students gain hands-on experience in the Stephen W. Nease Center, a 10,824-square-foot facility with advanced laboratories, project spaces, and the HW Hub for cybersecurity, virtual reality, and embedded systems research. Required internships and co-ops begin sophomore year, with placements at Ariel Corporation, Owens Corning, AEP, Tremco, and more. With nearly 100 percent job placement and starting salaries above $70,000, graduates are prepared for careers defined by technical excellence, ethical leadership, and service through a holistic, Christ-centered education.

Muskingum engineering reimagined with new tracks and career-ready focus

In October 2025, Muskingum University restructured its engineering program into three tracks — Civil, Mechanical, and General Engineering — to better align with student interests and workforce needs. The redesigned major blends innovative coursework, real-world projects, and career-focused learning. Students gain hands-on experience in newly equipped labs, working with faculty mentors and industry partners on advanced design, manufacturing, systems analysis, and sustainability. Grant-funded equipment in robotics, automation, and simulation expands opportunities, while required internships and preparation for the Fundamentals of Engineering exam ensure career readiness. With a 100 percent job placement rate, Muskingum graduates are meeting labor market demand.

Ohio Northern introduces computer science degree that pairs with any major

Ohio Northern University has launched Computer Science + X (CS+X), a flexible bachelor of arts program through its College of Engineering that pairs computer science fundamentals with any additional major or minor. The curriculum covers programming, web development, databases, AI, and software development—offering a less intensive alternative to traditional computer science degrees. Faculty work individually with students to integrate coursework across disciplines, creating specialized career paths. Examples include history majors developing museum websites or sport management graduates managing ticketing platforms. The program's smaller class sizes enable

See "Ohio engineering schools," page 9

From "Ohio engineering schools," page 8

close faculty-student relationships, with the first cohort enrolling fall 2026.

Students at Ohio Northern University in an introductory programming class, as the College of Engineering readies its new Computer Science + X program for launch in fall 2026.

The Ohio State University: Engineering Ambassadors inspire future Buckeyes

For some students, engineering at The Ohio State University means more than earning a top-tier education. It's an opportunity to pay forward.

Engineering Ambassadors are current students who choose to give back by representing the College of Engineering to prospective students and their families. From participating in panel discussions, to leading engineering facility tours, to engaging one-on-one with families, ambassadors share their student journey and love of being a Buckeye. Open to every major and year of study, the all-volunteer organization currently has 75 active members and is advised by the Office of Community, Access, Retention & Empowerment (CARE).

Learn more: https://engineering.osu.edu/news/2025/06/engineering-ambassadors-inspire-future-buckeyes

Ohio State engineering ambassadors share their personal stories during a student panel at a Buckeye Bound event on campus. From left, Sam Golik, Julian Hooks, Jai Stratton and Cam Holmes.

Driving AI and quantum innovation at Ohio University

Ohio University's Russ College of Engineering and Technology is leading national advances in artificial intelligence and quantum research. Faculty organized the inaugural Workshop on AI in EECS (WISE), bringing together experts to explore machine learning, quantum computing, and their applications across engineering disciplines. This initiative positions Ohio University at the forefront of emerging technologies while offering students hands-on exposure to fields shaping the future economy. With faculty recognized for top quantum research and a commitment to innovation, the program bridges academic excellence and industry relevance, preparing graduates to thrive in high-demand, technology-driven careers.

University of Toledo bioengineers turn research into real-world impact

Faculty-led startups advance space science and sustainability

Dr. Eda Yildirim-Ayan of the University of Toledo inspects their recently developed prototype which is capable of simulating partial gravity, space-like, environments on earth for cellular-based studies.

Three University of Toledo bioengineering professors are transforming innovation into entrepreneurship. Drs. Eda Yildirim-Ayan and Halim Ayan co-founded Altered Gravity, LLC, creating a device that simulates partial gravity to make space-related experiments more accessible. Meanwhile, Dr. Sridhar Viamajala launched Avani Enterprizes/Plastinuva, LLC, pioneering a process to recycle polypropylene plastic using heated oil—a breakthrough for sustainability. Both startups recently earned $200,000 grants each from Ohio's Third Frontier Technology Validation and Startup Fund (TVSF) to assist in launching their companies. These ventures are just two examples which showcase UToledo's ongoing commitment to technology advancement and innovation.

Hands-on research at Wright State prepares graduates for global impact

Wright State University is nationally recognized for research excellence, with faculty and students engaged in projects supported by the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the Air Force Research Laboratory, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, and the Office of Naval Research.

The university offers undergraduates unique opportunities to participate in hands-on investigations across disciplines, from robotics and automation to materials testing and simulation.

Graduate students benefit from assistantships and collaborations, while seniors prepare for professional success through applied projects and career planning. Wright State empowers students to contribute to discoveries that matter locally and globally.

Innovation hub at Youngstown State drives manufacturing and aerospace solutions

Spearheaded by Dr. Bharat Yelamanchi, the Youngstown Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Center (YAMIC) at Youngstown State University is a catalyst for both local industry and the aerospace, defense, and energy sectors in addition to the Youngstown Innovation Hub for Aerospace and Defense.

YAMIC mobilizes student and faculty teams to solve real-world challenges in manufacturing, automation and materials development and processing.

This ecosystem bridges the gap between innovation and application, synchronizing advanced R&D with a future-ready talent pipeline. Partners gain scalable solutions while students acquire the specialized skills to power Ohio's manufacturing and drive the nation's manufacturing future.

Across Ohio, engineering students are gaining hands-on experience, global recognition, and career-ready skills through innovative programs and partnerships. Together, these achievements show how the state's universities are shaping leaders who will drive technology, industry, and society forward.

State Board takes action in 14 cases under Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4733

The Ohio State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors has accepted settlement agreements and issued final orders in multiple cases.

No Ohio CoA—Firms

In unrelated cases, firms in Vermillion, Ohio; San Diego, California; and Valley View, Ohio, were charged, according to the State Board, with offering and providing engineering or surveying services in Ohio at a time when the firms did not possess an Ohio certificate of authorization (CoA), in violation of Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Sections 4733.16 and 4733.22. In order to avoid further administrative action for violations of ORC Chapter 4733, the Vermillion and San Diego firms each entered into its own settlement agreement, with the Vermillion firm agreeing to a $2,000 fine and the San Diego firm agreeing to a $1,000 fine. In the case of the Valley View firm, the State Board conducted a hearing and, after reviewing all the evidence, voted to fine the firm $2,000. If the Valley View firm fails to pay the fine as ordered, the firm will be placed on suspension.

Failure to report discipline

In four unrelated cases, firms in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Madison, Alabama; Charlotte, North Carolina; and Irvine, California, were charged with failing to report prior disciplinary action on their CoA applications, according to the State Board. Failing to disclose prior or pending disciplinary actions on an application is a violation of ORC Sections 4733.20(A)(1) and 4733.22. In order to avoid further administrative action for violations of ORC Chapter 4733, the Pennsylvania and Alabama firms each entered into its own settlement agreement, which included a $1,000 fine, while the California firm's settlement agreement included a $3,000 fine. For the North Carolina firm, the State Board conducted a hearing and after reviewing all the evidence the Board voted to fine the firm $2,000. If the North Carolina firm fails to pay the fine as ordered, it will be immediately placed on suspension.

Aiding & abetting unlicensed practice

A professional engineer (PE) residing in Medina was charged, according to the State Board, with aiding and abetting a firm to offer and provide engineering services in Ohio at a time when the firm did not possess a CoA, in violation of ORC Sections 4733.16, 4733.20(A)(2), (3) and 4733.22. In order to avoid further administrative action for violations of ORC Chapter 4733, the registrant entered into a settlement agreement, which included a $1,000 fine.

A professional surveyor (PS) residing in Minster was charged, according to the State Board, with aiding and abetting a construction company to unlawfully offer and provide surveying services in Ohio, and failing to affix his Ohio PS seal and signature to surveying work product, in violation of ORC Sections 4733.14, 4733.20(A)(2), (3) and Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Section 4733-23-01. In order to avoid further administrative action for violations of the ORC Chapter 4733, the registrant entered into a settlement agreement admitting to the violations referenced above and agreed to voluntarily surrender his Ohio PS registration.

A PE residing in Chicago, Illinois, was charged, according to the State Board, with violations of ORC Sections 4733.20(A)(3) and OAC Sections 4733-35-04(C) and 4733-35-07(A). The State Board said the registrant aided and abetted a firm to offer and provide engineering services in Ohio at a time when the firm did not possess a CoA to provide engineering in Ohio. The State board said that the registrant was also found to have affixed his PE seal and signature to engineering work product not prepared under his direct supervision and control. The State Board conducted an adjudication hearing in April 2025 in accordance with ORC Section 119. The State Board voted to accept the Hearing Examiner's Report and Recommendation and issued a final order requiring the registrant to pay a $1,000 fine and to serve a three-month suspension.

A PE residing in Rancho Santa Margarita, California, was charged, according to the State Board, with violations of ORC Sections 4733.20(A)(2), (3) and OAC Sections 4733-35-04(C)(3) and 4733-35-07(A) for aiding and abetting the illegal practice of engineering in Ohio by an engineering firm. The State Board said that the registrant was also charged with violating the registration act by affixing his PE seal and signature to engineering work product that was not prepared under his direct super-

See "State Board," page 11

From "State Board," page 10

vision and control. The State Board conducted a hearing and after reviewing all the evidence the Board voted to find the registrant guilty of the charges referenced above and voted to suspend his Ohio PE registration for three months. The suspension was stayed provided the registrant pays a $2,000 fine within 45 days of receiving the State Board's order. If the registrant fails to pay the fine as ordered, his Ohio PE registration will be revoked.

Practicing without registration

A PS residing in Columbiana was charged, according to the State Board, with unlawfully offering and providing surveying services in Ohio at a time when he did not possess an active Ohio PS registration, a violation of ORC Sections 4733.02 and 4733.22. The State Board conducted a hearing and after reviewing all the evidence the Board voted to revoke the registrant's Ohio PS registration based on the charges referenced above. The revocation was stayed provided the registrant pays a $1,000 fine within 45 days of receiving the State Board's order. If the registrant fails to pay the fine as ordered, his Ohio PS registration will be revoked.

Offering services without a CoA—Individual registrant

A PS residing in Marion was charged, according to the State Board, with violations of ORC Sections 4733.16, 4733.20(A)(2), (3), and 4733.22 for unlawfully offering and providing surveying services in Ohio through a surveying firm at a time when the firm did not possess an Ohio surveying CoA. The State Board conducted a hearing and after reviewing all the evidence voted to find the registrant guilty of the charges referenced above and suspend his Ohio PS registration for two years. The suspension was stayed provided the registrant pays a $4,000 fine within 45 days of receiving the State Board's order. If the registrant fails to pay the fine as ordered, his Ohio PS registration will be revoked.

Failure to cooperate with the State Board

A dual PE and PS residing in London was charged, according to the State Board, with violations of ORC Sections 4733.20(A)(2) and OAC Section 4733-35-09 for failing to cooperate with the Board and provide information in its investigation of a complaint alleging that the registrant continued to offer and provide engineering and surveying services in Ohio through a firm at a time when the firm did not possess an Ohio CoA to provide engineering and surveying services. The registrant has previously been disciplined by the State Board for engaging in similar activities. The State Board conducted a hearing and after reviewing all the evidence the Board voted to suspend the registrant's Ohio PE and PS registrations for the charges referenced above for two years and ordered him to pay a $4,000 fine within 45 days of receiving the State Board's order. If the registrant fails to pay the fine as ordered, his Ohio PE and PS registrations will be revoked.

The Ohio State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors is the state agency that regulates and licenses the professions of engineering and surveying in Ohio. The State Board licenses approximately 30,000 registered professional engineers and professional surveyors, 3,700 registered engineering and surveying firms and evaluates more than 2,200 licensing applications yearly. The State Board's mission is to safeguard the health, safety, property, and welfare of the citizens of Ohio by providing effective licensure and regulation of professional engineers, professional surveyors and engineering and surveying firms.

AROUND OHIO

A decade of no-till and cover crops transforms soil health in Ohio

< This photo, submitted by EFO President-Elect **Randall Reeder, PE**, of The Ohio State University's Food, Agricultural, and Biological Engineering program, shows soil conservation specialist **Dave Libben** of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and farmer **Jay Brandt** examining soil cores. The duo attended a fall Ohio Soil Health Week field event hosted by the Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association. Their comparison of the 2011 and 2021 cores highlights how a decade of no-till and cover crops has deepened the farm's dark, organic-rich topsoil from a few inches to nearly two feet.

NSPE-Ohio members bring STEM to 2nd grade classrooms through Imagine Engineering

Melinda Chase, PE, a bridge engineer with Hammontree & Associates in North Canton visits a second-grade classroom to present the Imagine Engineering program, engaging students in hands-on STEM learning. Teacher Maria Zehr of Central Christian School shared her appreciation, saying, "Thanks for putting this program together."

These are the leaders entrusted with the future of professional engineering in Ohio

NSPE-OH® OHIO SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

ENGINEERS FOUNDATION OF OHIO
Advancing Engineering Education in Ohio

The NSPE-Ohio and EFO boards gather for a joint installation ceremony at the Embassy Suites in Dublin, reflecting the unified leadership that guides the profession through their respective legislative, educational, and service roles.

Left to right are **Joseph V. Warino, PE, PS, F.NSPE**, NSPE-Ohio director and EFO trustee; **L. Steve Day, PE, F.NSPE**, EFO trustee; **Jeff Kennedy, PE**, NSPE-Ohio director and EFO trustee; **Dennis Irwin, PhD, PE, F.NSPE**, EFO treasurer and trustee, and NSPE-Ohio director; **Scott Dilling, MSME, PE**, EFO immediate past president; **Tony Grgas, Jr., PE**, NSPE-Ohio treasurer; **Richard Springman, MSME, PE**, NSPE-Ohio president-elect; **Kevin Houser, MSME, PE**, NSPE-Ohio president; **Rodney Wilson, PE**, NSPE-Ohio past president; **David Dexter, PE, CPD, F.NSPE, F.ASPE**, NSPE-Ohio and EFO constitution and bylaws committee chair; **Randall Reeder, MS Ag, PE**, EFO president-elect; and installing officer NSPE President-Elect **Julia Harrod, PE, F.NSPE**.

2025 President **Rodney Wilson, PE**, passes the gavel to 2026 President **Kevin Houser, MSME, PE**, following a successful year shaped by Wilson's decades in civil and traffic engineering, his leadership of NSPE-Ohio's Professional Engineers in Government practice division, and his award-winning service to EFO. The CEO of St. Andrews Systems, Houser steps in with more than 30 years of medical-device and patent-related engineering experience—including leadership roles at Ethicon Endo-Surgery, the design of power ultrasonic technologies, and his service as chair of NSPE-Ohio's Professional Engineers in Industry practice division—bringing deep industry expertise to guide the Society forward.

EFO President Joe Cherry brings the on-the-ground PE leadership that makes the 2025 Fall CPD Conference a success

EFO President **Joe Cherry, PE, F.NSPE**, records the transitions for the 2025 Fall CPD Conference, delivering the speaker introductions, sponsor acknowledgments, and program guidance that shape the flow of the 15-hour event. Joe provides the leadership for a seamless, high-quality continuing education experience for Ohio's PEs.

While moderating Q&A for EFO's 2025 Fall CPD Conference, President **Joe Cherry, PE, F.NSPE**, fields a heavy volume of audience questions from a large, engaged crowd and directs them to the speakers to keep the discussion moving. He manages a clear, organized exchange throughout the two-day program.

Leaders gather at Blacklick Woods for a working retreat

Member value anchors the sessions for state & chapter leaders

NSPE-Ohio President **Kevin Houser, MSME, PE**, leads a session on "Outreach—Working with Other Local Groups & Getting Our Work Recognized" during the leadership retreat for state NSPE-Ohio and EFO leaders and NSPE-Ohio chapter officers. The retreat included a content-creation blitz to develop new member benefits.

EFO President **Joe Cherry, PE, F.NSPE**, discusses the Foundation's education programs during the leadership retreat, highlighting the role these initiatives play in supporting Ohio's future engineers.

Vice President of Membership **Chett Siefring, PE, F.NSPE**, leads a membership brainstorming exercise during the leadership retreat, guiding participants through ideas for strengthening engagement across NSPE-Ohio chapters. The session encouraged attendees to share practical approaches for supporting members and chapter leaders. >>>

Executive Director **Tim Schaffer** provides organizational insight during the leadership retreat, drawing on his deep knowledge of the administrative structure, programming, and operational responsibilities of both NSPE-Ohio and EFO.

Retreat participants visit the top of the Metro Parks Canopy Tower at Blacklick Woods Metro Park at the end of the day's program. The stop offered a chance to experience the award-winning structure together before wrapping up the retreat. Left to right are Franklin County Chapter leader **Rao Chitikela, PE, PhD, F.ASCE**, NSPE-Ohio President-Elect **Richard Springman, MSME, PE** and EFO President **Joe Cherry, PE, F.NSPE**.

Leaders explore the Metro Parks Canopy Walk & Tower at Blacklick Woods Metro Park, recipient of NSPE-Ohio's 2025 Outstanding Engineering Achievement Award. Left to right are Franklin County Chapter leader **Rao Chitikela, PE, PhD, F.ASCE**, EFO President **Joe Cherry, PE, F.NSPE**, and Southwest Ohio Chapter leaders **James Voegele, PE** and **Tony Grgas, Jr., PE**.

NSPECon: Ohio leaders advance the profession in Kansas City

The 2025 NSPE installation ceremony unfolds at the national convention in Kansas City, Missouri. Ohio leaders **Aurea Rivera, PE, F.NSPE, PMP, PMI-ACP** (seventh from left), and **Angela Newland, PE, F.NSPE** (seventh from right), are sworn in to the NSPE Board of Directors.

NSPE Central Region Director **Aurea Rivera, PE, F.NSPE, PMP, PMI-ACP**, recites the Engineers' Creed during the 2025 NSPE installation ceremony in Kansas City. Rivera is a member of NSPE-Ohio's Dayton Chapter. >>>

NSPE President **Brian Malm, PE, F.NSPE**, addresses attendees from the podium during the 2025 national convention in Kansas City, speaking before the assembled Society leaders and members.

Ohio's delegation to the 2025 NSPECon included **Angela Newland, PE, F.NSPE**; **Kevin Houser, MSME, PE**; **Aurea Rivera, PE, F.NSPE, PMP, PMI-ACP**; and **Chett Siefring, PE, F.NSPE**. Newland and Rivera serve on the NSPE Board of Directors. Houser attended as NSPE-Ohio president, and Siefring as vice president of membership.

NSPE-Ohio VP of Membership **Chett Siefring, PE, F.NSPE**, catches up with NSPE President-Elect **Julia Harrod, PE, F.NSPE**, during NSPECon.

At the 2025 NSPECon, Ohio leaders **Kevin Houser, MSME, PE** (center), and **Chett Siefring, PE, F.NSPE** (right), meet with NSPE Emerging Leader **Phillip Reid, EI** (left), of HEAPY in Dayton, Ohio. The annual conference brings together engineers from across the country to build professional skills, explore emerging industry trends, and celebrate the profession.

Northeast Chapter launches CPD Seminar Series
with county-level infrastructure briefing in January

NSPE-Ohio Northeast Chapter President **Chett Siefring, PE, F.NSPE**, opens the first program in the chapter's 2026 CPD Seminar Series at the Embassy Suites Cleveland–Independence. Offered as a complimentary public-service seminar for all Northeast Ohio PEs, the session brought engineers together for networking, hors d'oeuvres, and a timely update on county-level transportation priorities.

Andrew W. Haupt, PE, PS, Geauga County Engineer, presents during the January seminar, outlining current project priorities and transportation needs in his county. His session was part of a multi-county panel designed to give Northeast Ohio PEs a clear view of the infrastructure work ahead and the engineering challenges shaping local mobility.

Local engineering leaders **Andrew W. Haupt, PE, PS**, Geauga County Engineer; **Shaun J. Duffala, PE, PS**, Lorain County Deputy Engineer; and **Alan L. Exley, PE, PS**, Lake County Engineer, join NSPE-Ohio Northeast Chapter President **Chett Siefring, PE, F.NSPE**, following their CPD Series presentation. The January program offered attendees direct insight from county-level engineering leaders on upcoming construction seasons, funding trends, and regional infrastructure priorities.

The NSPE-Ohio Northeast Chapter continues its 2026 CPD Seminar Series with two upcoming programs: a March 20 economic update with **Matt Dolan**, Chief Executive Officer of Team NEO, and a May 15 bipartisan legislative briefing with **State Senator Nickie J. Antonio**, Democratic Leader and Ranking Member of the Senate Transportation Committee, and **State Senator Thomas F. Patton**, Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee.

State leaders present Engineers Week commendations across Ohio

During the 2025 National Engineers Week celebration, NSPE-Ohio President **Rodney Wilson, PE** (top) and NSPE-Ohio Vice President of Education **Scott Dilling, MSME, PE** (bottom) present commendations from Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, the Ohio Senate, and the Ohio House of Representatives at Engineers Week banquets around the state. NSPE-Ohio secures these commendations annually as part of its longstanding tradition of recognizing the profession. The tradition continues in 2026, when President Kevin Houser, MSME, PE, and Vice President of Education Joe Cherry, PE, present the new resolutions in Columbus, Canton, and Toledo.

by Travis L. Rhoades, PE, F.NSPE, Vice President, Legislative & Government Affairs, Chairman, Ethics Committee, Ohio Society of Professional Engineers

The future is now—young engineers must lead the profession

At 43, I am the youngest regularly active member of our NSPE-Ohio state board by nearly a decade. That fact should be encouraging. We have a seasoned board full of great leaders. Instead, it is alarming.

It means that for too long, our profession has struggled to engage the next generation of engineers in organizational leadership. It is not due to a lack of talent or passion. Ohio is full of sharp, tech-savvy, community-minded early-career engineers. The problem is a disconnect: a growing number of young professionals view the National Society of Professional Engineers as something to join, rather than something to lead.

That must change.

We are the stewards of our profession

Professional engineering is more than a career. It is a public trust. Our work underpins Ohio's roads, bridges, schools, power systems, and healthcare infrastructure. However, the standards, regulations, and public recognition that protect the integrity of our profession do not maintain themselves. They are defended and advanced by engineers who step up to serve in leadership roles within organizations like NSPE-Ohio and EFO.

These roles matter more than ever. In today's rapidly evolving world of artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, climate resilience, and autonomous systems, policy is often struggling to keep pace with technology. If engineers are not in the room when those policies are made, someone else will be, and that someone might not understand the ethical, technical, or safety implications of the decisions being made.

Education is not enough: advocacy must follow

STEM education is rightly a focus for educators and lawmakers. We invest time, money, and political capital to ensure that students have access to high-quality science and math instruction, modern laboratories, and early exposure to engineering. That pipeline is crucial.

But what happens once those students become working engineers?

Too often, the education-to-leadership pipeline breaks down. Once we are in the field, the pressure to "focus on the work" pulls us away from policy, advocacy, and service. Early-career engineers (those in their 20s and 30s) often feel like they have not "earned" a seat at the table. They are waiting until they are more experienced, more established, more something.

In the meantime, critical decisions are being made without them.

My story: what happens when you say yes

My own journey with NSPE-Ohio began when I turned 30. I was asked to join my local chapter board as a trustee. I will admit, I did not feel ready. But I said yes.

That single step opened doors I never expected. I met mentors, business partners, and colleagues I would not have encountered in my day-to-day work. I found a safe space to learn and develop as a leader. I was able to experiment, take risks, fail (yes, fail), and grow, all surrounded by people who were willing to guide me, support me, and share their wisdom.

To the young engineers: Step up. Lean in. Say yes.

Serving on that board not only made me a better engineer, but it also made me a better person. It made me a better leader. It built my confidence and sharpened skills that directly led to promotions at work and new opportunities in other areas of my life. It gave me visibility, credibility, and purpose in a way that technical performance alone did not always offer.

More than anything, it made me realize that being part of the profession means more than doing the job. It means helping shape the future of the job itself.

Younger engineers bring what we need

We need younger engineers in leadership, not someday, but now.

Why?

Because you bring energy, new perspectives, and native fluency with technology that is reshaping every sector of our profession, from AI-assisted design and digital twins to sustainability standards and remote collaboration platforms, younger engineers are already working differently. That insight is essential to modernizing how we advocate, educate, and organize.

You also understand how to reach and connect with new audiences. Whether it is mentoring through social media, launching outreach programs in underrepresented communities, or leading hybrid technical conferences, you have the digital fluency to help our profession evolve.

But know there is a place for you here. We need your voice and your leadership.

How to step up

If you are an early-career engineer, here are a few ways to get involved right away:

- **Join a committee.** NSPE-Ohio has opportunities in education, ethics, legislation, and more. You will meet great mentors and make meaningful contributions.
- **Attend Legislative Day or a public policy event.** Seeing how policy impacts your work will change how you see the profession.
- **Run for a chapter board seat.** Local leadership is often the best entry point, and the experience translates directly into career growth.
- **Mentor or be mentored.** Engagement is generational. Build connections across experience levels.
- **Bring your skills.** Are you skilled in social media, graphics, video, or virtual event management? Your tech talents are needed.

If you are already in leadership, no matter your age, look around the table and ask: *Who is missing?* Then go invite them in.

Your profession needs you, and it will be a rewarding ride

If you want to shape the future of engineering, you cannot just stand on the sidelines. Leadership is not something you wait for. It is something you grow into. And the earlier you start, the more impact you can make over your career.

We cannot afford to lose another decade of young voices in our profession's leadership. The challenges ahead, from infrastructure modernization to AI policy, from climate engineering to tech ethics, require the full strength of our profession across generations.

So, to the young engineers reading this: Step up. Lean in. Say yes.

The future of engineering is not in the future. It is now.

136th Ohio General Assembly: Bills monitored by NSPE-Ohio

ELECTRIC SERVICE LAW CHANGES, House Bill 15 (Klopfenstein)	To amend the competitive retail electric service law, modify taxation of certain public utility property, & repeal parts of House Bill 6 of the 133rd General Assembly.	Status: 5/15/2025 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. 8/18/25
CREATE WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS, House Bill 49 (Claggett)	To allow for the creation of water improvement districts.	Status: 4/9/2025 - House Natural Resources, (1st Hearing)
TRANSPORTATION BUDGET, House Bill 54 (Stewart)	To make appropriations for programs related to transportation for the biennium beginning 7/1/25 & ending 6/30/27 & to provide authorization & conditions for the operation of those programs.	Status: 3/31/2025 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. 3/31/25
REVISE, STREAMLINE OCCUPATIONAL REGULATIONS, House Bill 59 (Fowler, Hiner)	To revise & streamline the state's occupational regulations.	Status: 11/19/2025 - PASSED BY HOUSE; Vote 91-0
ODOT RESPONSIBILITIES-HIGHWAYS IN VILLAGES, CITIES, House Bill 83 (Ferguson, McClain)	To clarify & amend the laws related to the Director of Transportation's responsibilities for state highways located in villages & cities.	Status: 5/20/2025 - House Transportation, (3rd Hearing)
RESTORE CLEAN OHIO FUND, House Bill 93 (Hall, Sweeney)	To restore the Clean Ohio Fund to be administered by the Department of Development & the Clean Ohio Council.	Status: 5/20/2025 - House Finance (1st Hearing)
SURPLUS REVENUE ALLOCATION-ROADS, BRIDGES, House Bill 151 (Stephens)	To allocate a portion of any state revenue surplus to a program that funds certain road & bridge projects.	Status: 5/20/2025 - House Transportation, (1st Hearing)
CREATE MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE GRANTS, House Bill 159 (Santucci, Demetriou)	To create the manufacturing technologies assistance grant program & to make an appropriation.	Status: 11/18/2025 - House Finance, (1st Hearing)
ESTABLISH CARBON CAPTURE REGULATION PROCESS, House Bill 170 (Robb Blasdel, Peterson)	To establish a process to regulate carbon capture & storage technologies & the geologic sequestration of carbon dioxide for long-term storage.	Status: 10/15/2025 - Referred to Senate Energy
MAKE APPROPRIATIONS, SUPPORT STATE PROGRAMS, House Bill 184 (Stewart)	To make appropriations & to provide authorization & conditions for the operation of state programs.	Status: 12/19/2025 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. immediately
LAW MODIFICATIONS-EXCAVATION REQUIREMENTS, House Bill 227 (Robb Blasdel, Johnson)	To modify excavation requirements.	Status: 2/11/2026 - Senate Public Utilities, (3rd Hearing)
REQUIRE E-VERIFY USE-CONSTRUCTION, House Bill 246 (Swearingen, Fischer)	To enact the E-Verify Workforce Integrity Act requiring certain construction industry employers to use E-verify & to sanction specified hiring practices in the industry.	Status: 12/19/2025 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. 3/18/2026
STATE-FUNDED PROJECTS-AMERICAN IRON, STEEL, House Bill 284 (Hiner, White)	To require iron or steel that is produced in the United States be used on projects supported by state funds.	Status: 11/5/2025 - BILL AMENDED, House Development, (3rd Hearing)
ESTABLISH COMMUNITY ENERGY PROGRAM, House Bill 303 (Ray, Hoops)	To establish the community energy program & pilot program & to define electricity measurement in alternating current.	Status: 11/19/2025 - PASSED BY HOUSE, Vote 77-8
ESTABLISH LEAD LINE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM, House Bill 307 (Jarrells, Robb Blasdel)	To establish a program regarding lead service line replacement & to name this act the Lead Line Replacement Act.	Status: 10/8/2025 - House Development, (3rd Hearing)
COMPUTER REGULATION, AI RISK MANAGEMENT, House Bill 392 (Fischer, Demetriou)	To limit further regulation of certain computational systems, require risk management policies for AI-controlled critical infrastructure, & to name this act the Ohio Right to Compute Act.	Status: 2/3/2026 - BILL AMENDED, House Technology & Innovation, (4th Hearing)
AMUSEMENT RIDE CLASSIFICATION CHANGES, House Bill 433 (Klopfenstein)	To alter the current amusement ride classification structure for purposes of the annual inspection & reinspection fees.	Status: 11/18/2025 - Referred to Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources
PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS-LABOR AGREEMENTS, House Bill 512 (Claggett, Workman)	To modify the law regarding project labor agreements in public improvement contracts.	Status: 10/15/2025 - Referred to House Commerce & Labor
LIMIT RETAINAGE-PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION, House Bill 568 (Mathews, Santucci)	To limit retainage in certain private construction projects.	Status: 11/18/2025 - House Small Business, (2nd Hearing)
CODIFY SPEARIN DOCTRINE-PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION, House Bill 605 (Workman)	To codify the Spearin doctrine in public construction contracts.	Status: 2/4/2026 - Referred to House Commerce & Labor
LAW CHANGES-SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS, House Bill 640 (Pizzulli)	To make changes to the law governing household sewage treatment systems.	Status: 1/12/2026 - Introduced
CREATE AI STUDY COMMISSION, House Bill 663 (Cockley, Fischer)	To create the AI Study Commission to study & make recommendations regarding the use of AI in state & local government.	Status: 2/4/2026 - Referred to House Technology & Innovation
MAKE CHANGES-BUILDING INSPECTIONS, Senate Bill 6 (Roegner)	To make changes to the law relating to building inspections.	Status: 7/1/2025 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. 9/30/25
REGULATE CARBON CAPTURE, STORAGE TECHNOLOGY, Senate Bill 136 (Schaffer, Chavez)	To establish a process to regulate carbon capture & storage technologies & the geologic sequestration of carbon dioxide for long-term storage.	Status: 3/19/2025 - Referred to Senate Energy
CHANGE LAWS-OIL, GAS WELLS, Senate Bill 219 (Landis)	To make changes to the law governing oil & gas wells.	Status: 2/4/2026 - Referred to House Natural Resources

**** This is a partial list of the bills that NSPE-Ohio is tracking in the 136th Ohio General Assembly.***

NSPE-OH™ OHIO SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
400 South Fifth Street · Suite 300 · Columbus, Ohio 43215-5430