



Columbus Engineer

Franklin County Chapter

A chapter chartered by the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers.

P.O. Box 69
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-0069

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President's Message

Mehrdad Rowhani, P.E.
– FCC President

The 2024 regional MATHCOUNTS competition will take place on February 10 at Columbus State Community College. The Imagine Engineering second grade coloring competition is underway, and Science Day will happen in March. Our main goal is to help young students learn more about our profession. We always need more volunteers to help with our programs and events.



We observe the "Engineer's Week" between February 18 and 24 this year to acknowledge engineers for their contribution to the community and promote the engineering culture and education. OSPE-FCC will participate in the Central Ohio E Week luncheon on February 22 at Villa Milano in Columbus.

FCC-OSPE is now accepting nomination of officer and trustee candidates for our upcoming elections. The elected officers for the next administrative year will begin serving on July 1, 2024. Please contact us if you would like to learn about the open positions, join the FCC-OSPE board, or to find out how you can nominate someone.

In addition, FCC-OSPE continuing professional development (CPD) program will be presented on

March 7, by Ashlee Balcerzak on the topic "Post-construction Best Management Practices". We encourage all of you to join our CPD programs.

Once again, I appreciate all our members and sponsors for supporting our chapter and programs.

Mehrdad Rowhani, PE, PMP
OSPE-FCC President

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Engineer's Week 2024

- By C.R. Weaver, P.E.

Every February, one week is set aside to acknowledge engineers for their contributions to the community and emphasize the importance of science, math, and technology in education. This week is commonly known as "Engineer's Week". Engineer's Week was founded by the National Society of Professional Engineers in 1951. In central Ohio, several outreach programs are promoted by FCC-OSPE. These include the Imagine Engineering program, Engineer-for-a-day program, and the Central Ohio Engineer's Week Luncheon.

The Engineer's Week Luncheon is a formal coalition of 11 Professional Engineering Organizations promoting engineering education and engineering cultural societies. The Luncheon is dedicated to raising public awareness of engineers' positive contributions to quality of life, the recognition of Engineers, and promotion of the importance of a technical education and a high level of math, science, technology, and associated promotion to teachers, and students.

For some trivia, Engineer's week begins on the Sunday of or preceding President George Washington's birthday (February 22nd). Why do we celebrate Engineer's Week to coincide with George Washington's birthday instead of the President's

Day, because George Washington was "the first Engineer"! Also, since Engineer's week began in 1951, which preceded the 1968 formalization of President's Day occurring on the third Monday of February, Engineer's week is not necessarily celebrated on President's Day. Therefore, Engineer's week typically coincides with President's Day, the third Monday of the month. Although when February 22, on a Sunday, Engineer's week and President's Day won't align. When is the next time this event will happen? February 2026. So, make sure you double check your schedule then!

This year Engineer's Week is February 18–24, 2024 and the Central Ohio Engineer's Week Luncheon is February 22, 2024. The 2024 theme, Welcome to the Future, is about celebrating today's achievements and paving the way for a brighter and more diverse future in engineering. To celebrate today's achievements and pave the way for brighter future, come join us and students of Central Ohio at the Engineer's Week Luncheon with Guest Speaker, Astronaut Don Thomas, of the "The All-Ohio Space Shuttle Mission" relay experience of space and the future of space and engineering.

Please go to <https://www.fccospe.org/eweek> to register for this event. See you there!





DISCOVER ENGINEERS WEEK
[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](https://www.fccospe.org/eweek)
<https://www.fccospe.org/eweek>

2024 CENTRAL OHIO ENGINEER'S WEEK LUNCHEON
 GUEST SPEAKER
ASTRONAUT DON THOMAS
 CREW MEMBER OF THE
 "THE ALL-OHIO SPACE SHUTTLE MISSION"

FEB 22, 2024

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 11:00 AM

VILLA MILANO BANQUET & CONFERENCE CENTER
 1630 Schrock Rd,
 Columbus, OH 43229

Select from Entrée Options via Online Registration

1. LASAGNA
2. MANICOTTI (Vegetarian)
3. CHICKEN PICCATA (Gluten Free)

COST: \$40.00

[To Become a Sponsor for the Central Ohio Engineer's Week Luncheon go to: https://www.fccospe.org/eweeksponsor](https://www.fccospe.org/eweeksponsor)

Central Ohio Engineer's Week Luncheon now accepting registrations

The Central Ohio Engineer's Week luncheon registration portal is open. To register for this event, go to: <https://www.fccospe.org/eweek>

The theme of the event is "Welcome to the Future". The guest speaker is Astronaut Don Thomas, Crew Member of "THE ALL-OHIO SPACE SHUTTLE MISSION".

The event will take place on February 22, 2024, at the Villa Milano Banquet & Conference Center (1630 Schrock Rd, Columbus, OH 43229).

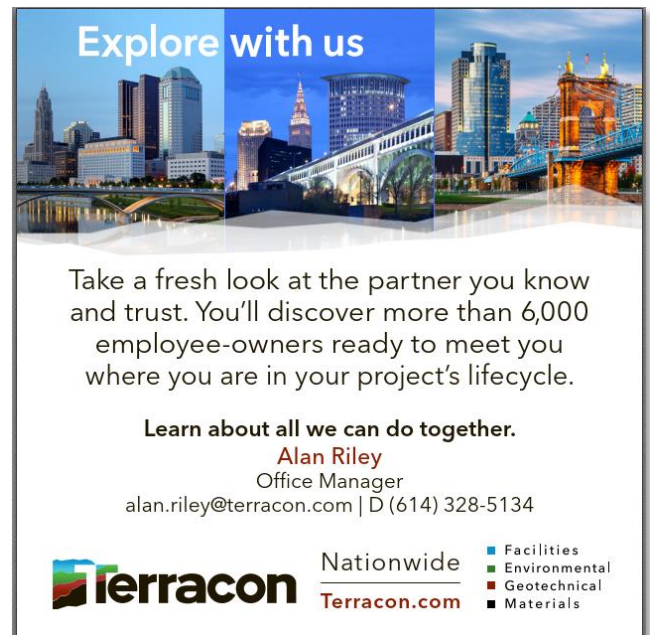
Registration begins at 11:00 AM and Lunch will be served at 11:50 AM.

When you register, you will be required to select from three meal options:

1. Lasagna
2. Manicotti (Vegetarian)
3. CHICKEN PICCATA (Gluten Free)

The cost of the event is \$40.00 and is due at the time of registration.

The Engineer's Week Luncheon event is still accepting sponsors. To Become a sponsor for the Central Ohio Engineer's Week Luncheon, go to: <https://www.fccospe.org/eweeksponsor>



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Earn 10 CPD hours at The Engineer As Leader, March 14-15 virtual training

Register by March 7

ENGINEERS FOUNDATION OF OHIO
Engineers Leadership Institute

The Engineer As Leader

Virtual Training, March 14-15, 2024
9AM-3PM daily



David Bayless, PhD, PE
— past director of the Robe Leadership Institute at Ohio University — will teach you to influence others, to improve engineering team performance & cohesion, and situational leadership.

Tuition: \$154 for members of NSPE/OSPE; \$220 for nonmembers

[Get Details & Register Here](#)

ONLINE 10 CPD HOURS

Engineering organizations invest leadership training in upwardly-mobile engineers. Tailored for engineers, this interactive leadership training program will teach you how to motivate others and develop your range of leadership strategies. Dr. Bayless is the Chair and a Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Missouri University of Science and Technology. Previously, he was the Gerald Loehr Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Ohio University and the Director of the OU Russ College’s Robe Leadership Institute.

You will learn:

- How you make decisions & what drives your personal leadership style
- Multiple ways to influence others at every level of your organization
- Skills for improving team performance & cohesion
- Reflection skills to link new leadership concepts to your own experiences
- The art of applying your skills to specific leadership situations (e.g., leading peers, handling difficult conversations, fuzzy ethical situations)

Tuition: \$154 for members of NSPE/OSPE; \$220 for nonmembers.

REGISTER HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/ELI-2024>



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Labor Dept. rule restores requirements to classify workers as independent contractors

Lyft and Uber brand logos show up on the dashboard of a car near LaGuardia Airport on February 26, 2023, in New York City. The Labor Department tightened a new rule on how independent contractors can be identified, like the drivers used by the two companies. File Photo by John Angelillo/UPI | License Photo



Jan. 9 (UPI) -- The Labor Department issued a final rule on Tuesday that tightens the way businesses can classify employees as independent contractors, wiping out a Trump-era rule that loosened those rules for companies.

The department said the changes are meant to protect workers from wage theft, prevent some businesses to using the designation as an advantage over businesses that fully hire workers, and extend federal employee protections.

"Misclassifying employees as independent contractors is a serious issue that deprives workers of basic rights and protections," Acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su said in a statement.

"This rule will help protect workers, especially those facing the greatest risk of exploitation, by making sure they are classified properly and that they receive the wages they've earned."

The so-called "independent contractor" rule returns the six-factor review that was once in use to determine a worker's status.

According to the Labor Department, those factors include a worker's relationship with the employer, the financial stake and nature of any resources a

worker has invested in the work, the degree of permanence of the working relationship, the degree of control an employer has over the person's work, whether the work the person does is essential to the employee's business, and a factor regarding the worker's skill and initiative.

The Labor Department said the rule, initially proposed in 2022, rescinds the 2021 rule that it believes did not square with judicial precedent. That rule gave the workers a level of control over their work and the ability to profit from their position with personal investment as the primary factor in determining if they were independent contractors.

Uber said in a statement that the new rule did not change the way it operates and will not impact the current classification of its employees.

"Drivers across the country have made it overwhelmingly clear -- in their comments on this rule and in survey after survey -- that they do not want to lose the unique independence they enjoy," Uber said.

Uber's rival Lyft said they are still reviewing the new rule but it appears to be guidelines similar to that of the Obama administration and did not believe it presented a material change in operations as well.

DoorDash, one of the country's top online food delivery services, reacted the same way, saying it does not appear the new rule will affect the independence of their drivers.

"We will continue to engage with the Department of Labor, Congress and other stakeholders to find solutions that ensure Dashers maintain their flexibility while gaining access to new benefits and protections," DoorDash said.

(Excerpted from NSPE Daily Designs January 18, 2024 with hyperlinks removed. Written by Clyde Hughes)





2024 CALENDAR

DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION
Jan. 4	12:00 p.m.	CPD Program: Title: No Program
Jan. 5	5:00 p.m.	Deadline for January Columbus Engineer
Jan. 9	5:45 p.m.	FCC Board Meeting @ CEC, Inc. and Virtual
Jan. 12	5:00 p.m.	Deadline for February Columbus Engineer
Feb. 1	12:00 p.m.	CPD Program: No Program
Feb. 9	5:00 p.m.	Deadline for March Columbus Engineer
Feb. 10	8:00 a.m.	Regional MathCounts Competition @ CSCC
Feb. 13	5:45 p.m.	FCC Board Meeting @ CEC, Inc. and Virtual
Feb. 18 – 24		National Engineer's Week
Feb. 22	11:30 a.m.	Program: E-Week Luncheon – Location: TBD – Theme: TBD
Mar. 7	12:00 p.m.	CPD Program: Title: Post-Construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) Presenter: Ashlee Balcerzak
Mar. 14-15		Engineer's Leadership Institute - Virtual
Mar. 8	5:00 p.m.	Deadline for April Columbus Engineer
Mar. 16	8:15 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Ohio MathCounts Competition @ Columbus State (OSPE, see www.ohioengineer.com)
Mar. 12	5:45 p.m.	FCC Board Meeting @ CEC, Inc. and Virtual
Mar. 22	12:00 p.m.	OSPE Lunchtime Legislative Briefing, Zoom meeting
Mar. TBD		District Science Day @ CSCC
Apr. 4	12:00 p.m.	CPD Program: Title: Integrity Management for Oil and Gas Pipeline Systems Presenter: Michiel P. Brongers, PE
Apr. 9	5:45 p.m.	FCC Board Meeting @ CEC, Inc. and Virtual
Apr. 12	5:00 p.m.	Deadline for May Columbus Engineer
Apr. TBD		Legislative Day
May 2	12:00 p.m.	CPD Program: Title – Presenter:
May 10	12:00 p.m.	Deadline for June Columbus Engineer
May 14	5:45 p.m.	FCC Board Meeting @ CEC, Inc. and Virtual
May 22	6:30 p.m.	Chapter Officer Installation & Awards Dinner
June 6	12:00 p.m.	CPD Program: Title – Presenter:
June 11	5:45 p.m.	FCC Board Meeting @ CEC, Inc. and Virtual
June 14	5:00 p.m.	Deadline for July Columbus Engineer
June 28	12:00 p.m.	OSPE Lunchtime Legislative Briefing, Zoom meeting
July TBD	(TBA)	FCC Budget Meeting - Location to be announced

Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.
Address: 250 Old Wilson Bridge Road, Suite 250, Worthington, Ohio 43085

WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

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FCC-OSPE WEBSITE:	www.fccospe.org	
OSPE WEBSITE:	www.ohioengineer.com	
NSPE WEBSITE:	www.nspe.org	
To volunteer to help with MATHCOUNTS:	benjamin_brown68@yahoo.com	(614) 519-8978
To volunteer to help with Science Day:	baba.yahaya@terracon.com	(614) 328-5209
To volunteer to help with OSU Student Chapter:	TBD	
To volunteer to help with Imagine Engineering:	TBD	
FCC Luncheons / Programs:	ddoherty@cecinc.com	(614) 359-6321
New Members / Membership Application	www.nspe.org or www.ohioengineer.com	(614) 223-1144

**2023-2024 OFFICERS,
TRUSTEES & COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

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	Holly Ross	614-223-1177 (w-EFO)		pr@ohioengineer.com
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	Engineer For A Day	TBD		
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