



**ENGINEERS
FOUNDATION OF OHIO**

Advancing Engineering Education in Ohio

Speaker Biographies

Fall CPD Conference

Thursday & Friday, November 5 & 6, 2026

Thursday, November 5, 2026 @ 8:00 AM

“State of the Advanced Nuclear Technology Landscape”

— *Dillon Allen, MBA, PE, Chief Operating Officer, Eden Radioisotopes, Madison, MS*



Dillon Allen is the Chief Operating Officer of Eden Radioisotopes, delivering North America’s first purpose-built medical isotope reactor. Eden’s All-Target Reactor will provide the entire US demand of Molybdenum-99 used in 40,000 imaging procedures every day in the US and more than 3.5M doses of Lutetium-177 used in cutting-edge targeted radioligand cancer therapy. He hails from Mississippi and graduated from the Mississippi School for Math & Science in 1996. Dillon earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering and a Master of Business Administration from Mississippi State University (Starkville, MS) as well as a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering (thermal hydraulic focus) from the Naval Postgraduate School.

Prior to Eden, Dillon’s career began in the US Navy for 12 years, initially assigned to the Navy’s nuclear headquarters, Naval Reactors, in Washington DC where he oversaw the design and construction of the US’s latest generation of nuclear attack submarines and aircraft carriers. He continued his Naval service in the Reserves where he oversaw shipbuilding and maintenance in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Hawaii. In 2009, he was activated and deployed to Central America where he participated in joint interagency and multinational disaster relief and counter-narcotics efforts.

Dillon joined Entergy in 2008 as part of the New Nuclear organization to continue his professional efforts to bring clean and affordable nuclear energy to the US. After returning from Central America, he went on to complete implementation of the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station Extended Power Uprate, making Grand Gulf the single largest nuclear unit in the country and 7th largest in the world at the time. Following the uprate, he set up the program management office for Entergy’s response to the 2011 accident at the Japanese Fukushima Dai Ichi nuclear complex. From 2013 to 2024 he managed various aspects of major capital projects across the entire Entergy enterprise, including leading Entergy’s advanced nuclear efforts for his final three years with the company.

In 2024, Dillon joined Solestiss as the President of Advisory Services, providing comprehensive and innovative guidance to clients, helping them navigate the increasingly complex energy landscape and make informed strategy and business operational decisions that align with their goals and values.

Dillon serves on the board of the Mississippi School for Mathematics & Science Foundation and the Alzheimer’s Association Mississippi Advisory Board. Dillon, his wife Elizabeth, and three children currently reside in Madison, MS and are members of Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church.

Thursday, November 5, 2026 @ 9:15 AM

“US 33 Expansion: When Preparation Meets Opportunity”

— *Rich Oster, MBA, District 10 Deputy Director,
Ohio Department of Transportation, Marietta, OH*



Rich Oster has a bachelor's degree from Ohio State University in Landscape Architecture and an MBA from the University of Phoenix.

He worked nearly 30 years in the private sector before coming to ODOT District 10 in the facilities department in 2013.

After being promoted to Business and Human Resource Administrator for nearly 4 years, Rich has been the District Deputy Director for the last three years.

Thursday, November 5, 2026 @ 10:30 AM

“Accelerating Early Career Development & Performance”

— *Brian Hottel, PE, BSc Mechanical Engineering, MBA, Principal, Rockbound Energy Advisors, LLC, Hudson, OH*

Brian Hottel is a Principal at Rockbound Energy Advisors.

He has worked with companies including Chesapeake Energy, Encino Energy, and Ascent Resources on teams focused on troubleshooting operational issues, optimizing existing practices, and applying emerging technologies to drive value in the energy sector.

Hottel earned degrees from the United States Military Academy and Carnegie Mellon University and is a licensed Professional Engineer.



Before joining Chesapeake Energy, he led cross-functional, multi-national organizations during complex operations in Southwest Asia.

“I-70/I-71 Downtown Ramp Up: Traffic Maintenance, Incident Management & Team Continuity”

— *Anthony (Toni) Turowski, PE, ODOT District 6 Deputy Director, Delaware, OH*

— *Andrew Opsitnik, PE, ODOT District 6 Construction Engineer, Delaware, OH*



Anthony Turowski, PE, leads the district's strategic planning, performance management, and policy implementation efforts. He represents ODOT in coordination with local, state, and federal agencies; elected officials; industry partners; and the public. Based in Delaware, Ohio, he oversees major administrative areas including capital programs, highway management, business operations, and public information — relying on a multidisciplinary leadership team to manage planning, engineering, construction, maintenance, and communications across central Ohio. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Ohio University.



Andrew Opsitnik, PE, oversees construction operations across the Columbus metropolitan area. He has more than twenty years of experience with the Ohio Department of Transportation, including prior roles as Transportation Engineer 3 in District 6 and Transportation Engineer 2 in District 5. Opsitnik earned a Bachelor of Engineering in Civil Engineering from Youngstown State University and is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Ohio.

“Data & Ethics AI”

— *Vince DiPofi, PE, CEO, SSOE Group, Toledo, OH*

Vince DiPofi joined SSOE in 2000 and has more than 40 years of professional experience. Throughout his tenure, he has held various leadership roles, including Business Leader, Corporate Director of Business Development, and Chief Strategy Officer, before becoming Chief Executive Officer. Under his leadership, SSOE has embarked on a technology-driven strategic plan, positioning the firm as one of the fastest-growing AEC firms in the country and a leading-edge thought leader in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and design automation.



Vince's passion for AI and its transformative potential for the industry has been a driving force in SSOE's digital transformation journey. In late 2022, Vince introduced the idea of leveraging AI and the need for SSOE to adopt AI as a central business strategy, igniting a company-wide conversation. He and his executive team devoted six months to researching and understanding the impact of AI, leading to the development of a comprehensive strategy focused on integrating AI into project delivery workflows, improving data governance, and fostering a culture of innovation. Additionally, an AI governance team was developed to create guidelines and regulations for the ethical and responsible deployment of AI at SSOE—both initiatives in partnership with YegaTech. In 2023, Vince led an online webinar with YegaTech as part of an ACEC Webinar Series “AI for AEC”.

Vince earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Toledo where he was named a Distinguished Alumni in 2019. In 2024, he was named an Entrepreneur Of The Year® Michigan and Northwest Ohio Award Winner by EY.

Thursday, November 5, 2026 @ 3:00 PM

"Waste Re-engineered"

— *Daniel Shepherdson, CPA, Executive VP, CFO,
Corporate Secretary & Director, W2E Americas, Westlake, OH*

Dan Shepherdson brings more than 40 years of financial, corporate, and governance experience across public accounting, internal audit, corporate management, manufacturing, financial services, and entrepreneurial ventures.

He earned a Bachelor of Mathematics from the University of Waterloo and has served in senior executive roles including President and Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Director of Internal Audit, Corporate Secretary, and Chief Compliance Officer for both private and publicly listed companies.



Dan spent more than 35 years leading a private financial practice focused on C-suite performance contracts, financial reporting, taxation, systems development, and corporate consulting.

His work has included oversight of large-scale operational, regulatory, and financial systems — experience that informs his perspective on infrastructure, energy projects, and emerging technologies.

Dan has served on multiple boards in the not-for-profit, professional association, corporate, and public utility sectors, including roles as Board Chair, Audit and Finance Chair, and Governance Committee member.

He lives in Barrie, Ontario, with his wife, Monika, and enjoys outdoor activities, prospecting, and time at his northern Ontario cabin.

Thursday, November 5, 2026 @ 4:00 PM

“Engineering Rapid Biosensing Systems: Bridging Nanobiotechnology & Clinical Need”

— *Habeeb Salaudeen, PhD Candidate, MS, Doctoral Researcher,
Cleveland State University, and Research Affiliate,
University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center, Lakewood, OH*



Habeeb Salaudeen is a PhD Candidate and Doctoral Researcher specializing in nanobiotechnology, with a focus on electrochemical sensing and translational diagnostic technologies.

His research is dedicated to the engineering and validation of rapid biosensing systems for bacterial detection, with an emphasis on sensitivity, reliability, and analytical performance.

He also serves as a Research Affiliate at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center, where he contributes to diagnostic innovation at the intersection of engineering, clinical application, and public health systems.

Friday, November 6, 2026 @ 8:00 AM

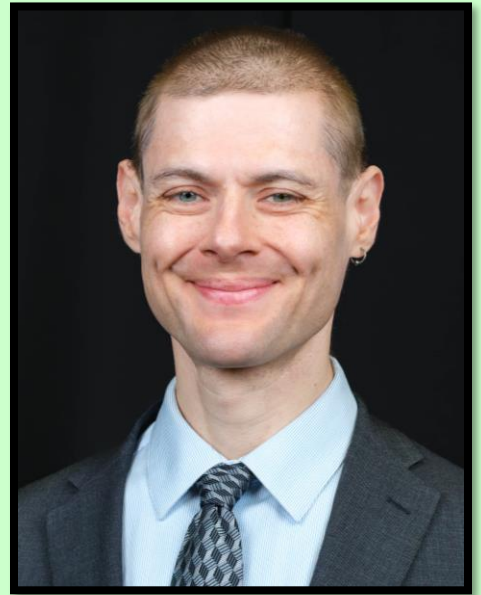
“From AI Resistance to Results: Leading Adoption on Engineering Teams”

— *Dr. Gleb Tsipursky, PhD, CEO, Disaster Avoidance Experts, LLC,
Columbus, OH*

Dr. Gleb Tsipursky, a behavioral scientist called the “Office Whisperer” by The New York Times, helps tech-forward leaders stop overpaying for AI while boosting engagement and innovation.

He serves as the CEO of the AI consultancy Disaster Avoidance Experts.

Dr. Gleb wrote seven best-selling books, and his newest book is *The Psychology of AI Adoption at Work: From Resistance to Results* (Georgetown University Press, 2026).



Prior to that, he wrote *ChatGPT for Leaders and Content Creators* (2023).

His cutting-edge thought leadership was featured in more than 650 articles in prominent venues such as Harvard Business Review, Fortune, and Fast Company.

His expertise comes from more than 20 years of consulting for Fortune 500 companies from Aflac to Xerox and more than 15 years in academia as a behavioral scientist at UNC-Chapel Hill and Ohio State.

A proud Ukrainian American, Dr. Gleb lives in Columbus, Ohio.

Friday, November 6, 2026 @ 9:15 AM

“The Flow of Medical Device Development”

— *Eric Kennedy, BS Biomedical Engineering, Principal Engineer,
Kaleidoscope Innovation, Wyoming, OH*

Eric Kennedy is a Principal Engineer at Kaleidoscope Innovation with nearly 20 years of experience bringing medical technologies from concept to commercialization.

He earned a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering from Purdue University.

Throughout his career, Eric has focused on transforming complex ideas into safe, manufacturable, and commercially viable medical devices through a balanced approach that integrates sound engineering, regulatory rigor, and strategic foresight.



He has led multidisciplinary teams and contributed across every phase of the product lifecycle—from early design and IP analysis through verification and validation, regulatory submissions, and successful 510(k) clearances for multiple implant and instrument systems.

His consultancy work spans orthopedic instrumentation, combination drug/device products, cardiovascular and microsurgical implantables, ophthalmic instruments, and surgical robotics platforms.

In addition to his engineering leadership, Eric has driven initiatives in AI integration, business development, and manufacturing strategy while mentoring emerging engineers and co-ops entering the field.

Friday, November 6, 2026 @ 10:30 AM

“Advancing Agricultural Systems Through AI & Machine Learning”

— *Dr. John Fulton, PhD, Professor, Department of Food, Agriculture and Biological Engineering, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH*

Dr. John Fulton, a professor in the Food, Agriculture and Biological Engineering department at the Ohio State University, is an experienced researcher whose work focuses on equipping farmers with modern practices and tools to manage nutrients and pesticides effectively, while promoting on-farm environmental stewardship.

Most recently, he has been exploring the integration of AI in agriculture to enhance productivity and streamline the food supply chain.



Friday, November 6, 2026 @ 12:00 PM

“Design Quality Management Lessons from Major Ohio Transportation & Bridge Programs”

— *David Rinehart, PE, Principal/Senior Engineering Manager,
The Mannik & Smith Group, Inc., Mansfield, OH*

David Rinehart is a Principal and Senior Engineering Manager with more than 30 years of civil and structural engineering experience, specializing in bridge inspection, analysis, and multidisciplinary project delivery.

He is a PE in Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kentucky, Virginia and Michigan.



“Ethics & Professional Conduct for Engineers”

— *Eric Pempus, FAIA, Attorney and Risk Manager,
DesignPro Insurance Group, Cuyahoga Falls, OH*

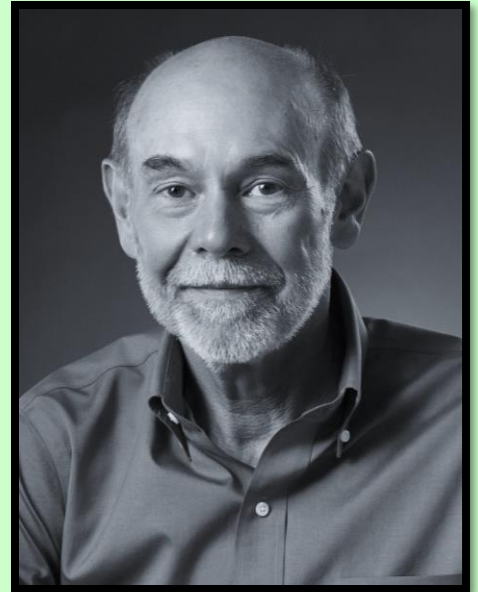
Eric Pempus has been a risk manager for more than 20 years, with experience in architecture, engineering, land use, law and professional liability insurance, and a unique and well-rounded background in the construction industry.

Prior to risk management, he has 25 years of experience in the practice of architecture and engineering, and as an adjunct professor teaching professional practice courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels for the last 37 years.

As a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and AIA National Ethics Council 2021 Chair, he has demonstrated his impact on architectural profession.

He has presented numerous loss prevention and continuing educational programs to design professionals in numerous venues across the United States and Canada.

He is a former member and chair of his city’s Board of Zoning & Building Appeals for 24 years, and a licensed architect, attorney and property & casualty insurance agent.



Friday, November 6, 2026 @ 3:00 PM

“Property Interests & Eminent Domain: Practical Guidance for Engineers”

— *John Albers, Attorney and Principal, Albers and Albers, Columbus, OH*

John Albers is a principal with the law firm of Albers and Albers located in Columbus, Ohio.

John has practiced in the area of local government law for more than 40 years with particular emphasis on representing local governments on their water and sewer projects and economic development incentives.

In that capacity, John has presented for the following organizations: The Ohio State Bar Association, the National Business Institute, the Ohio Sanitary Engineers Association of Ohio, the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, the Ohio Rural Water Association, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development, the Ohio Township Association, the Ohio Township Law Directors Group, the Operator Training Committee of Ohio, and many others.



Friday, November 6, 2026 @ 4:00 PM

“Licensed by Design: A Workforce Strategy for the AI-Ready Engineer”

— *Emily Monroe, PE, Lecturer, Thayer School of Engineering, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH*

Emily Monroe, PE, is a lecturer at the Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth College.

She serves as the director of the Cook Engineering Design Center at Dartmouth, which connects industry, government and nonprofit sponsors with Dartmouth Engineering students to collaborate on engineering capstone design projects.

Prior to joining Dartmouth, Emily was the lead engineer at Shark Tank-funded baby diaper startup Kudos, and she previously held roles in manufacturing and product development.

Emily is a licensed professional engineer, and she earned a BSME from MIT and a Master of Engineering Management from Duke University.



Engineers Foundation of Ohio

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