

Idaho Society of Professional Engineers Update – November, 2017

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

November is a great time to reflect on what a great opportunity we all have, to be professional engineers. I'm grateful to have a chance to influence the built world around us. This month we're highlighting George A. Murgel, P.E. Ph.D. who won the Idaho Excellence in Engineering Educator Award in 2014.

Born and raised in East Helena Montana, I have lived and traveled throughout much of the United States during my career as a practitioner and as an academic. I moved to Kuna in the summer of 1996 to help start the Civil Engineering program at Boise State University (BSU). I am a retired Associate Professor of Civil Engineering from BSU where I worked from 1996 to February 2016 to educate new engineers in preparation for their professional roles. I taught a variety of courses in environmental engineering and process chemistry, water and wastewater treatment system design, hydraulics, hydrology, and introductory surveying along with periodically other service courses in statics and strength of materials.

I earned BS and MS degrees in Civil Engineering and Environmental and Water Resources Engineering, respectively, from Montana State University in 1976 and 1978. I completed my Environmental Engineering Ph.D. at Cornell University after an 8-year stint in private practice in order to obtain my initial PE license in the State of Montana in 1982 by examination in the civil engineering and water resources area. I acquired a PE license in Idaho in 2005 and additional comity licenses in Nevada, Arizona and Washington in 2017 in conjunction with my new position back in private practice with HECO Engineers in Payette, Idaho. My experience has ranged from water and wastewater system design and construction and water quality studies for projects ranging from individual onsite septic systems and small subdivision systems to multi-million-dollar treatment system expansions and more recently involves water and wastewater system assessments through design and construction of new or replacement systems for the US National Park Service in the Pacific Region States.

I became involved in 2002 with the Environmental FE examination development as a participant of the Environmental Engineering Cut Score panel. The following fall I was invited to participate as an item writer for this exam and have continued to this date. Along the way I was selected to be a module chair for the environmental exam development and vice-chair and chair of the entire FE exam development process. My term as chair occurred right during the transition to the computer based testing of the FE exam. Simultaneously, I was selected to participate on the PE exam oversight board for NCEES (EPE Committee) and have moved into the vice-chair and currently chair of this committee overseeing the continuing transition of the PE exams to computer based testing.

I recently completed my first 5-year term on the Idaho Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyor in service to the engineering and surveying profession in Idaho and was just reappointed in June to the second 5-year term on the Board. I owe many thanks to ISPE and its members for considering me worthy enough to serve on this board and I continually strive to fulfill the trust the profession as placed in my judgement as a member of this board.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

November 7, 2017 - [ISPE Southwest Chapter Noon Meeting](#) - 12:00 Noon - Harvesting Solar Power...100 kW at a Time - CH2M Hill, 322 E Front Street, Suite 200, Boise

December 5, 2017 - [ISPE Northern Chapter November/December Meeting](#) - 2:00 PM - StanCraft Boat Tour, 2936 W Dakota Ave., Hayden

May 17-18, 2018 - [ISPE 2018 Annual Meeting](#) - Boise State University, Boise

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS:

Northern Chapter:

The Northern Chapter has planned a tour of StanCraft Wooden Boat. The tour will take you behind the scenes and provide detailed insight into how the African Mahogany beauties are handcrafted. You'll tour the 42,000 square foot facility located in Hayden, Idaho and will be able to view all stages of the building process. From the original sketched ideas to the framing bay, Upholstery to Metalwork; all customized to the individual clients! See the [website](#) for more details.

Southwest Chapter:

The SW chapter has committed to participate in a Joint Holiday Social, including a canned food drive. Details will be available soon. They continue having monthly chapter meetings and are currently seeking volunteers for 2 vacant Board positions.

SPOTLIGHT ON:

Engineers Week - Inspiring the Future

Engineers, with their abilities to solve problems and build innovative solutions, can help inspire younger generations to pursue STEM-related fields. That's part of the motivation behind the next Engineers Week theme, "Engineers: Inspiring Wonder." The theme was announced at a planning webinar on September 27.

The 2018 Engineers Week will take place February 18–24, and Girl Day (Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day) will be on February 22.

DiscoverE will provide 2018 volunteer kits for Engineers Week and Girl Day with helpful resources to promote the events. The kits will include newly designed posters, bookmarks, and an activity guide with over 125 activities and lesson plans organized by grade, topic, engineering discipline, time, and language. You can order a print copy or download the copyright-free artwork at DiscoverE.org.

A customizable career presentation and online training for educators are also available on DiscoverE.org. The presentation "Inspire Innovation: Discover Engineering Careers" is aimed at 8th- to 11th-graders and is anchored by six videos featuring engineering undergrads. The online trainings include tips on how to incorporate engineering into the classroom, lead kids through a successful engineering experience, talk to kids about engineering, and create large-scale engineering events.

Social media will be used before, during, and after the event to help further promote the Engineers Week message. The hashtags will be #Eweek2018 and #GirlDay2018. Be sure to follow and interact with DiscoverE's various social media accounts as well:

- Facebook: www.facebook.com/DiscoverE.org
- Twitter: [@DiscoverEorg](https://twitter.com/DiscoverEorg)
- Instagram: [DiscoverEorg](https://www.instagram.com/DiscoverEorg)

If you missed the live planning webinar, you can [watch the recording online](#).



NSPE NEWS:

[NSPE Executive Director, Board of Directors' update for October 15 – 31, 2017](#)

Among the highlights in this report are the following:

- Latest Membership Model news
- NSPE calls for investigation by NRC
- Bill requires PE seal
- Member nominated to federal post
- EWeek planning ramps up
- Associations take position on tax reform

[NSPE Executive Director, Board of Directors' update for October 1 – 15, 2017](#)

Included in this report are the following:

- Membership model update
- Engineering education bill emphasizes licensure
- Report: Failed nuclear project ignored state licensure requirements
- Future City honored for mentoring
- Communities, @NSPEPrez, Webinars, Honor Awards, and more

[NSPE Calendar of Events](#)

Look for ISPE on

