

September 8, 2026



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President's Message

As lovely and joy-filled the long summer days have been, there is something about the crisp morning air and golden light through the changing sugar maples that always reenergizes me. Maybe that back-to-school feeling is just deeply ingrained in all of us! Even when I get stuck behind school buses on my morning commute, I try to take it as a great reminder of the future generation we're building for.

Both UVM and Norwich have kicked off their fall semesters, and I am excited to connect with our student leaders to support their goals for the year. The Vermont Section Board of Directors also met this week to launch our 2026–2027 session with a fantastic blend of fresh graduates, seasoned professionals, and everyone in between. I'm looking forward to leading (and leaning on) this team as we work to bring our statewide engineering community closer together.

Fall favorites like the Geo-Institute Meeting and Younger Member Apple Picking are already in the works, but we're also trying out some fresh ideas this year. Keep an eye out for a new Winter Webinar Series, designed to deliver local engineering content and earn you a PDH right over your lunch hour. (If you have a project you'd like to present, please reach out—we'd love to feature you!) In fact, don't hesitate to email us if you have an idea for a meeting or want to lend a hand with an upcoming

event. You don't need to commit to a full board position to get involved—we always appreciate an extra pair of hands to help plan or execute our activities!

To support our big ambitions this year, we're taking a close look at our board roles and updating our section bylaws to better serve our membership. We are also doubling down on giving back to future engineers. Whether we're showing 5th graders hydraulic principles, teaching 5-year-olds the basics of erosion, or reviewing resumes with undergraduates, there are so many ways to help lift up the next generation. I'm always proud of how quickly our board steps up to volunteer, and I encourage all of you to get involved—you just might inspire a future Section President.

Please take a moment to get to know your 2026–2027 Board members featured in this issue. We hope to see you at an event soon!

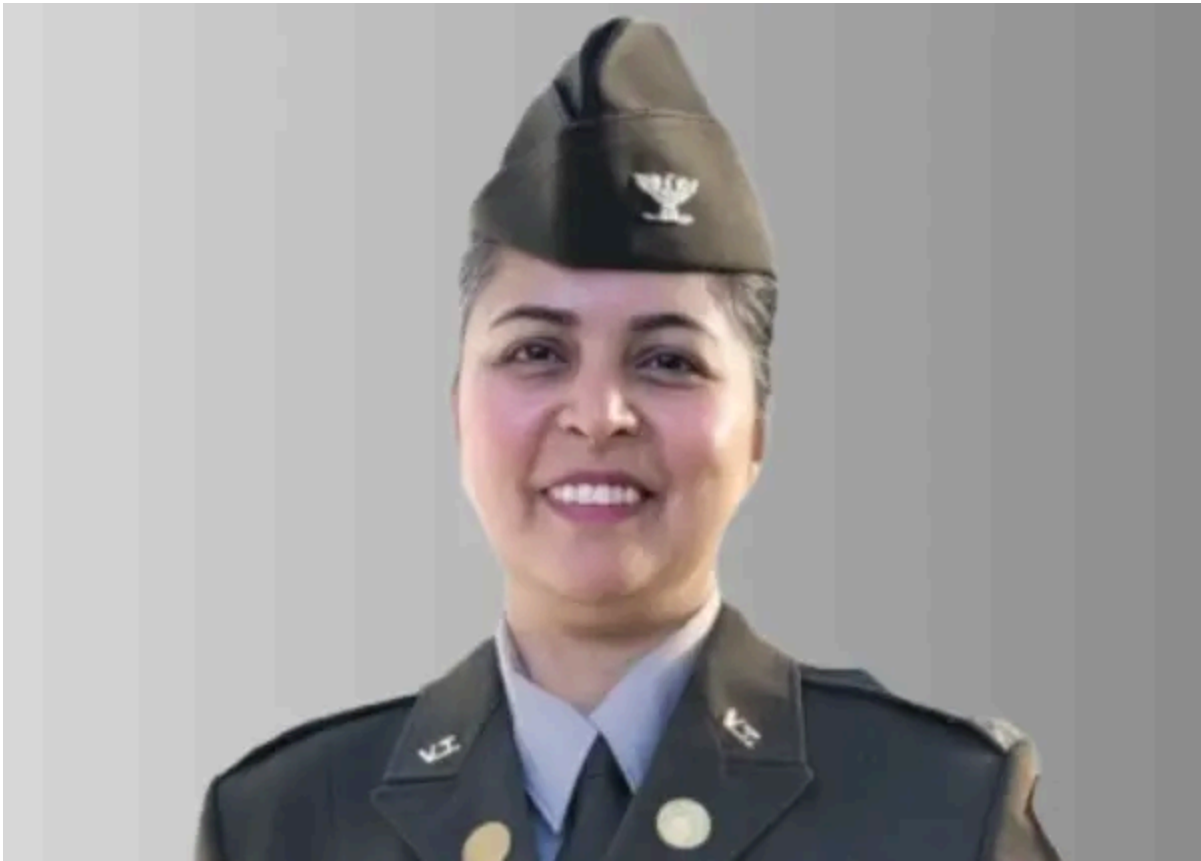
Member Spotlight: Congratulating Professor Tara Kulkarni, New ASCE Fellow!

The ASCE Vermont Section is thrilled to extend our warmest congratulations to Professor Tara Kulkarni on being elected a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)!

Being named an ASCE Fellow is one of the highest honors in our profession, recognizing years of outstanding leadership, service, and significant contributions to engineering education and research. At Norwich University, Professor Kulkarni serves as a Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering, as well as the Vice Provost for Research and Chief Research Officer, where she continues to make a lasting impact on students and the broader engineering community.

In addition to this incredible national milestone, Tara continues to be an invaluable asset right here at home—she is currently volunteering her expertise as a co-author for two sections of our upcoming Vermont Infrastructure Report Card.

Please join us in celebrating Tara for this well-deserved recognition and thanking her for her ongoing dedication to our section and the profession!



Remembering Andre J. Rouleau

Andre J. Rouleau left a permanent mark on Vermont's public infrastructure over a long, dedicated career with the State of Vermont. A proud civil engineering graduate from the University of Vermont—and the first in his family to attend college—Andre went on to become a devoted, longtime member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). As shared by his daughter, Terri Weinstein, Andre was deeply proud of his profession and loved his home state. His technical contributions helped build, protect, and modernize Vermont's core infrastructure. He helped design and permit Interstate 89, assisted with critical emergency flood recovery in the 1970s to restore bridges, roads, and dams, and pioneered solid waste protections through landfill liners before retiring in 1993. He also played an active role in supporting Vermont's landmark Bottle Bill—a deposit law originally enacted in 1972 to reduce roadside litter and promote recycling of beverage containers across the state.

Beyond his engineering work, Andre was defined by his faith, community involvement, and deep devotion to his wife Arlene of 63 years, their five children, 12 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, his family asks for

simple acts of kindness—a request that calls on Vermont’s civil engineering community to honor his legacy not only through public service and environmental stewardship, but by serving others with the same integrity and compassion he showed every day.

Read his full obituary [here](#):



Hands On Hydrology

Mountain School at Winhall students from kindergarten through fifth grade recently stepped into the shoes of water resource engineers to explore how rain, soil, and vegetation shape our landscape.

Working in small groups with trays, watering cans, sediment cups, and rulers, the students modeled rainstorms across different surfaces to see earth science in action. The younger grades built miniature dirt mounds and compared bare soil to rooted grass to see how roots protect the land, while the older students conducted controlled incline experiments to measure water clarity and sediment depth—mastering advanced concepts like runoff, erosion, and deposition along the way. Connecting the dots between a muddy cup of water and the health of our local rivers, these bright young minds are already thinking like future stewards of Vermont's natural environment!



Meet the Board

Voting Members:



Andrea Ameden, PE | President

Andrea Ameden, PE, is a Project Engineer II at Enman Kesselring Consulting Engineers. She specializes in site design, stormwater management, hydraulic and hydrologic analyses, and land use and environmental permit compliance across Vermont and New York. She is a UVM graduate (2018) and former Student Chapter leader. Dre has previously served in many roles for the ASCE Vermont Section including as Newsletter Editor, Membership Chair, Treasurer, and President-Elect. She is thrilled to serve as Section President this year, focusing on bringing Vermont's engineering community closer together. Dre spends her free time hiking, hunting, and foraging in the Green Mountains.



Jordan Duffy, PE | President Elect

Jordan is a water resources engineer at Fitzgerald Environmental Associates, focusing on stream restoration, geomorphology, hydrologic and hydraulic analysis, and stormwater design. Jordan has been involved in ASCE since his time at UVM, where he served as the Student Chapter's Vice President in 2015. Since graduation, Jordan has been an active board member for the Vermont Chapter where he has served in various positions helping to foster a more connected engineering community in Vermont. Currently, Jordan is the President Elect. In his downtime, Jordan enjoys adventuring in the mountains and rivers of Vermont with his wife, son, and two dogs.



Erin Robinson, EIT | Treasurer

Erin is a Water Engineer II at Arcadis working remotely in Vermont- where she focuses on stormwater design and resiliency planning. She graduated from Georgia Tech in 2022 with a B.S. in Civil Engineering and worked for several years in the Arcadis Atlanta Office. Within ASCE, Erin is involved with the Committee on Younger Members (CYM), VT Report Card, and VT Section Board. She was also named a 2025 ASCE New Face of Engineering Professional Edition. You can commonly find her running through corn mazes and blueberry patches or chasing squirrels out of her garden.



Joe Airolti, PE | Secretary

Joe Airolti is a 2018 graduate from the University of Vermont and is a licensed professional engineer in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. He is currently a water resources engineer at VHB in Winooski, Vermont with expertise in hydrology and hydraulics, stream geomorphology, aquatic organism passage, and dam safety engineering. Previously, he worked in Washington State supporting the Federal Culvert Injunction, which aims to correct hundreds of culvert barriers to anadromous fish passage in western Washington. In his free time, you can find him with a fly fishing rod on the Winooski River or riding local mountain bike trails. Joe is excited to re-engage with the Vermont Section of ASCE and to serve as the section Secretary this year.



Matt Estabrooks, PE | New England Delegate

Matt received his BS in Civil Engineering from the University of Vermont in 2007 and is a licensed professional engineer in Vermont and New Hampshire. He is a Senior Project Manager at Sanborn Head in Burlington, Vermont with expertise in environmental engineering, permitting, and compliance. He lives in the Mad River Valley with his wife, three children, dog, and cat. In his free time, he loves participating in all manner of outdoor activities with his family including skiing and snowboarding in the winter and camping, hiking, and riding bikes in the summer. Matt has been actively involved in ASCE since 2013 including contributing to the Vermont infrastructure report card and serving as President, Treasurer, and Younger Member Committee Chair for the Vermont Section.



Sean Wines, EIT | New England Delegate

Sean Wines is a Structural Engineer in Stantec's South Burlington office, focusing on highway and railroad bridges. Sean has been involved in ASCE since his freshman year at UVM where he participated in the steel bridge club all 4 years taking the bridge captain position his final year. He lives in Fletcher with his wife, daughter, and two cats. In his free time you can find him working in the yard, on his boat or playing a round of golf. Sean has been active on the board since 2019 holding the positions of social media, younger member chair, president elect, president, and past president.



Zelda Dively, PE | Past President

Zelda Dively, PE, is a Civil Engineer at VHB specializing in environmental permitting, site design, and water resources, with a focus on ski resort and mountain development projects across northern New England. She earned her B.S. in Environmental Engineering (2019) and M.S. in Civil/Environmental Engineering (2020) from the University of Vermont and joined VHB full-time in 2020 after interning with their Land Development and Water Resources teams. Zelda has expertise in construction stormwater permitting, multi-permit coordination for complex projects, and geospatial analyses that support permitting and water resources work. She is an active leader within VHB and the profession, having served as a Vermont office lead and New England Co-Chair for VHB's Emerging Professionals Group, and in multiple leadership roles within ASCE's Vermont Section. Outside of work, she enjoys being outdoors, practicing yoga, and spending time with family and friends.



Billy Devers, EIT | Younger Member Chair

William (Billy) Devers, E.I. is a staff engineer in the Structures Division at DuBois & King, Inc. Billy has two years of experience in dam engineering, including inspections of dams and penstocks, hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, and other design & construction work. Billy graduated from Norwich University in 2024, where he developed strong partnerships in VTASCE through the student chapter. Billy was a member and vice president of the NUASCE chapter and member of

VTASCE. He served as the Norwich Practitioner in 2025-6 and is excited to expand his responsibilities by accepting the role of Younger Member Chair for 2026-7. His free time is often spent outdoors with friends and family. Whether it be camping, hiking, gardening, or on a lake, Billy can be found outside when able.

Non-Voting Members



Jessica Louisos, PE | Government Relations

Jessica is a Principal Water Resources Engineer with SLR Consulting, specializing in flood resiliency, aquatic organism passage, stormwater planning and design, flood mitigation, and restoration of rivers, floodplains, and habitat. Jessica's water resource work helps communities be more resilient to hazards and our river systems function more naturally. She completes project work and teaches courses on reducing our river – road conflicts.

Amanda Svensson | Social Media Chair



I graduated in 2025 with a degree in Civil Engineering after being part of the UVM Student ASCE Chapter for 3 years. Outside of work, I have a lifelong love of animals and enjoy spending my free time reading, snowboarding, and playing video games.

Alan Baribault, PE | Norwich Practitioner



Alan is a senior project engineer at GEODesign, beginning as a co-op student in 2006 and returning to work full-time in 2011. He has been involved with geotechnical design and construction projects including explorations, instrumentation, slope repairs, and foundations across Vermont and some in New England and New York. He graduated with a BS and MS from Case Western Reserve University and worked briefly in Cleveland before returning to Vermont. Outside of work, he enjoys backcountry skiing, riding bikes, running (sometimes), gardening, and has a hobby maple sugaring operation. Alan has been an ASCE member since returning to work at GEODesign, and often attends ASCE events. He is excited to assist with the Vermont Section of ASCE this year and serve as the Norwich University Practitioner advisor.



Emma McDonald, EIT | UVM Practitioner

Emma McDonald graduated from the University of Vermont with a degree in Civil Engineering in Spring 2026. During her time at UVM she was actively involved in the student chapter of ASCE starting as secretary her first year, acting as Vice President her second, and serving as president her final two years. She is currently a Structural Engineer at Hoyle, Tanner & Associates, Inc. In her free time, she loves crocheting, doing puzzles, and making baked goods.

James Cilwik, EI | Newsletter Editor

James is a Structural Designer at Stantec, with experience in the design and plan development of



highway, railway, and culvert structures. Besides work, he enjoys adventuring into the outdoors.



Jacob Wimett, PE | Geo-Institute Chair

Jacob (“Jake”) is one of three Principals at GEODesign and has over 20 years of experience with the company. Jake has the unique distinction of having worked his way up through every level of the firm since joining GEODesign shortly out of college and is currently the Principal-In-Charge of geotechnical projects in New England in upstate New York. His significant engineering and project management experience includes projects performed across the northeast, covering a wide range of geotechnical services including subsurface explorations; geotechnical instrumentation; design of shallow and deep foundations; embankment and retaining wall design; ground improvement; slope stabilization; dam engineering, forensic engineering, peer review, and construction services.



Peter Merfeld, PE | Region 1 Governor

Peter Merfeld is a Licensed Professional Engineer in Maine with 36 years of experience, including 29 years with MTA. Peter had served as Chief Operations Officer for 25 years up until his retirement in June 2026. He oversaw 165 employees in the Maintenance,

Engineering, Construction, Public Safety, and Service Plaza Operations for the 110-mile toll road. He also served as Interim Executive Director from September of 2024 through March of 2025. Peter has been active with the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), serving in local leadership positions, including President in 2006, and for the past 19 years as Chair of the Maine Section ASCE Report Card committee. He served on ASCE's Committee for America's Infrastructure from 2009 to 2017 and on ASCE's Construction Institute Claims Avoidance and Resolution Committee from 2005 to 2010. In October 2024, he began a three-year term as a Region 1 Governor for ASCE supporting the Sections and Chapters in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

Student Chapter Updates

University of Vermont

The Vermont Section of ASCE is thrilled to The University of Vermont ASCE Student Chapter is gearing up for an ambitious academic year. As kickoff approaches, Student Chapter president Robert Gibson presented their key priorities for the academic year; including driving student retention, expanding local sponsorships, and designing official UVM ASCE merchandise—starting with chapter stickers. On the technical and professional front, the chapter is actively preparing to support its steel bridge team in qualifying at the regional competition at UMass Lowell, while laying the groundwork to send a student cohort to the ASCE 2027 Annual Conference in Philadelphia.

Norwich University

The Norwich University ASCE Student Chapter is setting a strong trajectory for the upcoming academic year with several key initiatives focused on professional development and community involvement. Student Chapter president Aiden Lund aims to maintain high engagement with a target of 20 or more members at every

monthly meeting and plans to host at least three guest speakers per semester to share industry insights with students. Additionally, the chapter is building active relationships with local volunteer groups in the Northfield area and working to rally strong interest among younger members to launch a Concrete Canoe team for competition this spring.

Stay Connected with the Student Chapters

Our student chapters have been active on Instagram sharing what they've been up to. Follow them to stay up to date!

[UVM Instagram Page](#)

[Norwich University Instagram Page](#)

ASCE Student Resources

- [Student Member Resources](#)
- [Student Resources Flier](#)

Save the Date: Annual Geo-Institute Meeting

Date: Tuesday, October 20, 2026

Location: Wise Campus Center - Partridge Pub at Norwich University

Topic: Advances in Vermont Landslide Hazard Mapping and Debris Flow Research

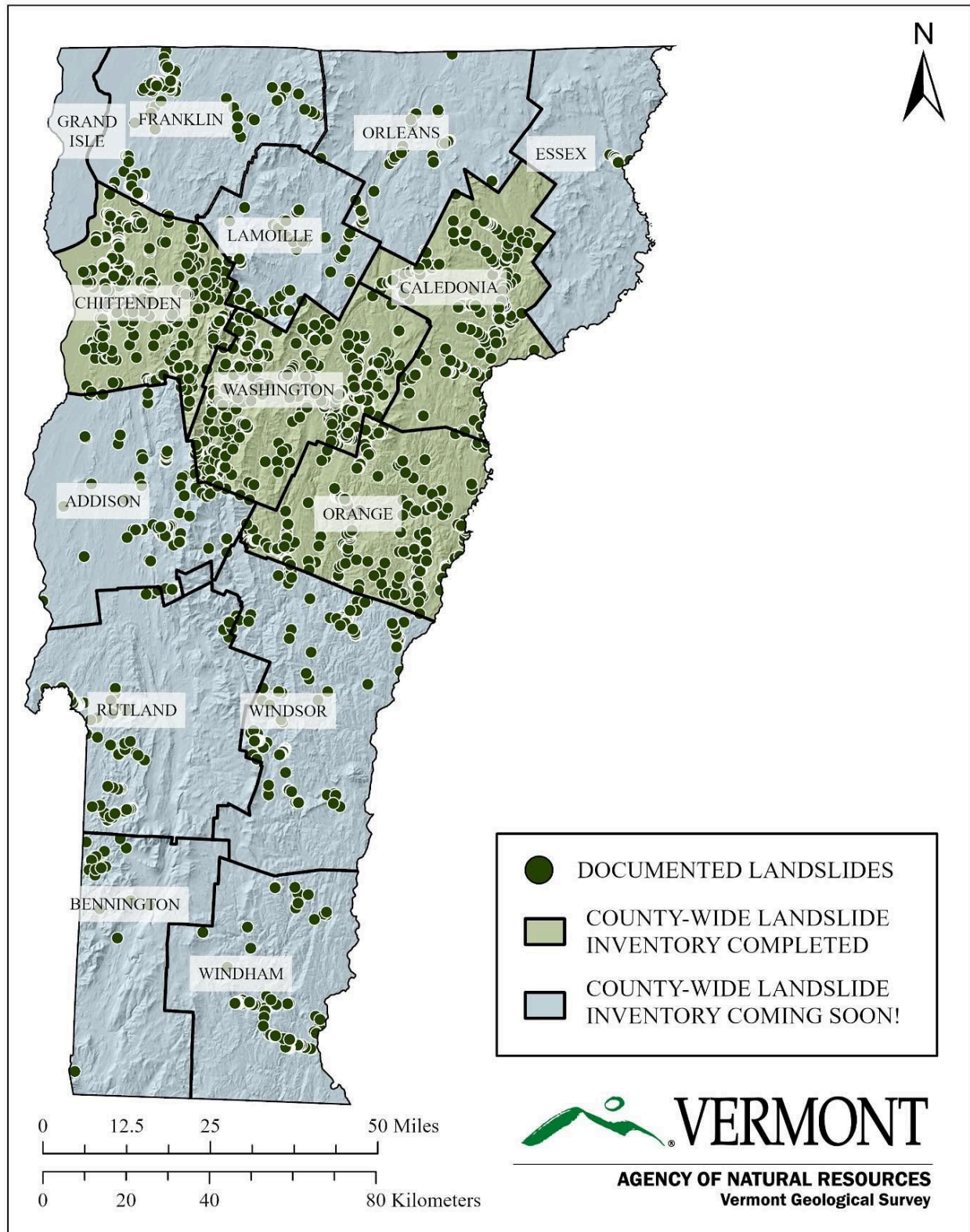
We have a great lineup planned featuring two presentations:

- Statewide Public-Facing Landslide Mapping Project: An overview of the recent joint initiative by the Vermont Geological Survey (VGS) and the Vermont Center for Geographic Information (VCGI). Presenters include: Ben

DeJong PG, PhD, Emma Myrick VGS Director, and John VanHoesen from VCGI

- Vermont Landslide & Debris Flow Project: An update on joint research undertaken by VTrans and UVM, presented by Dr. Ehsan Ghazanfari (UVM) and Callie Ewald, PE (VTrans).

Formal registration and final details are coming soon! Mark your calendars—we look forward to seeing you there.



Stay Connected With Us!



Follow our LinkedIn and Instagram accounts for reminders of upcoming events, member spotlights, and relevant ASCE

news! Reach out if you ever have news that should be featured on our socials! Use the button below to provide feedback on past events, upcoming events, or just anything you'd like to see moving forward!



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Share Your Thoughts

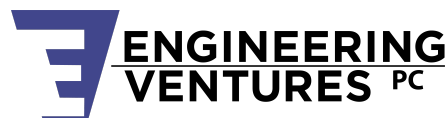
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