Ending licensure exemptions
The NTSB’s investigation into the Merrimack Valley natural gas pipeline explosion highlighted the need for PEs to be in responsible charge and it helped shed light on the harmful effects that licensing exemptions can have on the public. In the past year, we have seen states take actions to end licensing exemptions across multiple industries. Virginia ended their licensing exemption on natural gas pipelines. Also, we’ve seen states such as Ohio and Florida taking actions aimed at ending exemptions on amusement park rides. In partnership with state societies, NSPE ran successful advocacy campaigns in support of these bills.

Support During COVID; Resources for NICET
In addition to supporting NSPE members and the professional engineering community during the pandemic, our team worked with NICET to determine which states had deemed NICET certificants as “essential workers.” This enable Pearson VUE to resume offering exams for NICET engineering technicians and technologists. Because of these efforts, NICET has continued certifying qualified technology professionals who reliably apply engineering principles and practices for the benefit and safety of the public.

New and Improved Advocacy Resources
Even as much of the year focused on COVID-related advocacy/legislative issues, NSPE was able to provide new and updated advocacy resources to members of the engineering profession. Of the new resources, NSPE published an emerging technology policy guide, which will be useful as legislatures, both on the state and federal level, begin creating policies dealing with emerging technologies. Additionally, NSPE continues to update our state-by-state assessments on state licensing laws, the most recent update being our report on continuing education requirements in each individual state. The final improved resource is the NSPE Advocacy Center, which serves as the advocacy hub for NSPE from our live advocacy campaigns to tutorial videos to information on each of our key legislative issues. Access these resources at nspe.org/advocacy as we prepare for new legislative sessions.