

Strengthen the Engineering Workforce Pipeline



Problem Statement

There is a shortage of qualified engineers driven by declining enrollment, rising retirements, competition for talent, and challenges in attracting and retaining workers. At the same time, increasing misunderstandings and challenges to professional licensure threaten public safety, workforce quality, and the long-term sustainability of the profession.

Goals

- 1 Grow the number of engineering graduates
- 2 Protect professional licensure (PE/PS) requirements

Education

Ongoing education of legislators on the value of professional licensure and need for talent in Ohio

Provide data-driven evidence demonstrating the engineering workforce shortage and the economic value of the business of engineering

Promote federal immigration-based talent solutions, including expansion of the H-1B visa program, alongside state-level incentive strategies to strengthen the in-state workforce

Legislation

Defend statutory licensure requirements against erosion

Advocate for student loan repayment or tuition assistance for engineering graduates who commit to working in Ohio

Explore inclusion of civil engineering and related disciplines in Ohio's STEM relocation tax credit program (up to \$15,000 per relocating employee in targeted industries)

Monitor legislative and regulatory proposals affecting licensure and workforce development

Ensure full funding of TechCred program in FY 27-28 Biennial Budget