

## 2021 Annual Meeting Highlights

For the second year in a row, the [NAE annual meeting](#), October 2–3, 2021, was held virtually. The theme was *Engineering Adaptations to Climate Change*. Although we missed the opportunity to reconnect in person, the virtual format facilitated the participation of 817 members, family, and guests spanning national and international time zones.

NAE chair **Donald C. Winter** opened the public session by explaining the decision to conduct the event virtually, which was a result of the emerging coronavirus Delta variant. Acknowledging disappointment about another deferral of the induction ceremony for new members—a traditional highlight of the annual meeting—he reassured members of the classes of 2020 and 2021 that they will be properly recognized when it is safe to do so. He also called on members to join him in advocating for the engineering profession in order to overcome a pervasive lack of understanding of the role that engineering plays in today's society.

NAE president **John L. Anderson** echoed Dr. Winter's sentiments and thanked everyone for pivoting to an online platform out of an abundance of caution and concern for everyone's health and safety. He then shared a bit of the NAE's history, illustrating the strong role of engineering in serving the country in times of war—and, as the current pandemic demonstrates, he stressed that engineers address critical matters in times of peace as well. He also reminded the members that service is both a responsibility of NAE membership and a direct measure of the health and vitality of the National Academy of Engineering. He promised members that they should expect to be put to work!

With that, NAE executive officer **Alton D. Romig Jr.** introduced the class of 2021—104 new members and 24 international members.

During the awards portion of the program, the **Simon Ramo Founders Award** was presented to **William A. Wulf**, AT&T Professor of Computer Science and University Professor Emeritus, Department of Computer Science at the University of Virginia, “for outstanding accomplishments in academia, government, and industry and reinvention of the NAE to serve the nation and engineering profession after a period of organizational turmoil.” The **Arthur M. Bueche Award** was presented to **John P. Holdren**, assistant to the US president for science and technology and director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, “for national and international leadership in policymaking for arms control, nuclear weapons security, energy resources for sustainable development, and efforts to address climate change.”

On Sunday, October 3, **Kate Crawford**, research professor at USC Annenberg and senior principal researcher at Microsoft Research Lab–New York City, presented the Special Lecture in Engineering and Society. The title of her talk was “Atlas of AI: Mapping the World of Artificial Intelligence.”

Romig introduced the **Forum on Engineering Responses to Climate Change** and presenters. **Leslie Shoemaker**, president of Tetra Tech, opened with a discussion of “Climate Equity and Blue-Green Innovations.” **Timothy C. Lieuwen**, Regents' Professor, David S. Lewis Jr. Chair, and executive director of the Strategic Energy Institute, Georgia Institute of Technology, spoke about “Infrastructure Implications of Decarbonization.” **Kenneth E. Washington**, vice president, Software Engineering, Amazon, considered “Technologies for a More Sustainable Future.” **Mohammad Shahidehpour**, Robert W. Galvin Center for Electricity Innovation at the Illinois Institute of Technology, talked about the “Role of Distributed Power Systems in a Quest for Climate Change.” And **Catherine A. Peters**, George J. Magee Professor of Geosciences and Geological Engineering and chair of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Princeton University, discussed possibilities for “Offsetting Greenhouse Gas Emissions with Carbon Mineralization, Capture, Utilization, and Sequestration.” Deanne Bell, TV host and

founder/CEO of Future Engineers, moderated the panel discussion and the many questions from the audience.

Monday was dedicated to the section meetings. Recording of the meetings can be found on your [Section page](#) (username/password required.)

The next annual meeting will take place October 2–3, 2022, in Washington. Mark your calendars!