

## State News for NSPE Members

### Wyoming to Make Historic Investment in High-Speed Internet

Governor Mark Gordon announced that Wyoming has recommended funding 32 applications totaling \$70.5 million in federal funds to expand broadband to more than 11,000 locations across the state that do not currently have access to high-speed internet.

"This is the single-largest broadband investment in Wyoming history," Governor Gordon said. "These federal funds will ensure Wyoming communities and businesses that currently lack access to high-quality internet will be equipped with the modern infrastructure they need to access critical services."

The US Treasury launched the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (CPF) in 2021, funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) which provides \$10 billion for eligible governments to carry out critical capital projects that directly enable work, education, and health monitoring, including remote options, in response to the COVID 19 public health emergency.

Gordon designated \$70 million of the ARPA/CPF funding for broadband infrastructure improvements across the state to ensure Wyomingites have the ability to telework, learn from home, and access telemedicine. The Wyoming Business Council Broadband Office is the administrator of the funds. [Read more.](#)

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### Science Initiative Roadshow Reaches Record Number of Wyoming Students

[According to the University of Wyoming](#), the school's Science Initiative Roadshow reached 4,209 K-12 students in six counties through 14 individual events this fall - the program's largest one-semester reach since it began in 2017.

Events included four STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics)

Days that included participation from the UW Wyrkshop Mobile Makerspace; the Wyoming NASA Space Grant Consortium Science Kitchen; the UW College of Engineering and Physical Sciences' K-14 STEM Education Outreach Office; the Wyoming Game and Fish Department; UW Extension offices; local conservation districts; CyberWyoming; Western Wyoming Community College; and Northwest College.

The Science Initiative Roadshow is a team of undergraduate and graduate students from UW, along with UW instructors, who travel throughout the state facilitating hands-on learning in a range of locations. The teams from UW work with K-12 students to increase excitement and education in the sciences.

“We specifically collaborate with K-12 teachers to integrate learning experiences into existing curricula to achieve assigned learning outcomes or link activities to specific state science standards,” says Erin Klauk, co-director of the Science Initiative Roadshow. “This collaborative approach exposes learners in Wyoming to innovative active-learning techniques and creates links between UW and schools/communities across the state to improve STEM interest statewide.” [Read more.](#)

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## **New Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Planned for Wyoming**

In an effort to create a more accessible network of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, Wyoming's federally funded program is seeking new ideas and investors to jumpstart its development, [MotorMouth reports](#). The program, known as the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program, was put on hold last spring due to concerns about potential costs and the adequacy of the allocated \$24 million.

“We never threw in the towel,” said Jordan Young, a spokesperson for the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT). “Really, we just paused it. We are not moving forward or backward.”

WYDOT is giving new investors until the end of January to come up with fresh proposals and measure interest from potential station owners. The program requires a 20% match from private businesses, which would both build and operate the stations. Federal funding would support the stations' operations for up to five years, without any requirement for state money. After five years, the businesses would be responsible for operating the charging stations independently.

NEVI approved Wyoming's five-year plan in September 2022, allowing for the allocation of \$3.9 million in 2022 and an expected \$5 million annually for the following four years to build the infrastructure. [Read more.](#)

## Help Guide the Future of NICET's SSI Program

The National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET), a division of the NSPE, is developing a certification program for the Systems Software Integrator (SSI) certification program. NICET invites you to [participate in the SSI Job Task Analysis survey](#) to provide vital feedback needed to develop the program.

The SSI certification program seeks to reduce risk, improve quality, and ensure public safety from new emerging technologies as software and information technology increasingly converges with the operation of physical processes and machinery affecting our lives.

We highly value the insight you can provide and would greatly appreciate you taking the time to complete the survey by February 5. After completing the survey, participants can enter into a drawing for a \$100 Amazon gift card.

[Take the Survey](#)

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## Nominations Open: 2024 Excellence Awards

Please consider nominating a colleague for an NSPE Excellence Award.

**NSPE Award** : The NSPE Award is the highest award given to an individual by the Society. It is presented to an engineer who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession, the public welfare, and humankind. The nomination deadline is March 1.

**New Professional Award** : This award recognizes a young NSPE member who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession and the community during the early years of one's career. The nomination deadline is March 1.

**Engineering Education Excellence Award** : This award recognizes engineering faculty who have demonstrated the ability to link engineering education with professional practice. The recipients must be licensed and have a faculty appointment in an ABET-accredited engineering program. The nomination deadline is March 31.

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## Call for NSPE Fellow Membership Nominees

Nominations for the **NSPE Fellow Membership Grade** are **due by March 1**. This prestigious national program aims to recognize dedicated professional engineers who have demonstrated outstanding and sustained service at the chapter, state, and national levels of NSPE. [Access more information about the nomination process](#) .

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