

State News for NSPE Members

WYDOT Could Use Fuel Tax to Fund Infrastructure Renewal

Meetings between the Wyoming Department of Transportation and the Greater Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce covered how the proposed fuel tax could improve the infrastructure of Wyoming and stabilize the future of our communities, [The Cheyenne Post reports](#).

Across the United States, funding for infrastructure is usually divided with 30% state burden and 70% federal burden. In Wyoming, the opposite is true, and the infrastructure is suffering as a result of the lack of federal funding.

With the proposed fuel tax, Wyoming would be able fulfill the required monetary match of federal grants and receive extensive federal funding to improve our infrastructure. This fuel tax is only 5 cents a year for three years, and would give the state access to federal funds that will repair, rebuild, and renew infrastructure to better serve communities across the state of Wyoming.

Wyoming Gets Almost \$10 Million for Abandoned Mine Cleanup

The Department of the Interior announced that it would give nearly \$725 million to states this year for reclamation of abandoned mine lands. Wyoming will receive \$9.7 million, according to [a Billings Gazette report](#).

Another \$725 million, authorized by the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act in November, will be distributed among coal states annually over the next 15 years.

“This program is a shot in the arm for coal country and the energy communities that have long been forgotten and left behind,” Mitch Landrieu, White House infrastructure coordinator and senior advisor to the president, said during a call with

reporters.

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the [NSPE Advocacy Center](#).

Virtual Federal Engineer of the Year Award Ceremony



The 2022 Federal Engineer of the Year Award winner will be announced on February 24 (noon) during a virtual awards event on NSPE's website and [YouTube](#) channel. The Society recently announced the [top 10 finalists](#) who have made extensive contributions to their organizations and also to the public that PEs ultimately serve.

The Federal Engineer of the Year Award, sponsored by the Professional Engineers in Government, honors engineers employed by a federal agency with at least 50 engineers worldwide.

Education Foundation Gifted \$30,000 for Diversity Scholarship

The [NSPE Education Foundation](#) is honored to announce a \$30,000 donation from NSPE member Om P. Popli, P.E., PLS, the president and founder of Popli Design Group in Penfield, New York. This generous donation will establish a new scholarship to promote diversity in the profession by encouraging and supporting minority female students pursuing an engineering degree.

The *Swadesh and Om P. Popli, P.E., P.L.S. Scholarship* will be a multi-year scholarship, providing \$5,000 each year for the recipient's four-year education. Applicants must be a female high school senior from an ethnic minority pursuing a degree in engineering at an ABET-accredited program.

The scholarship recipient will be required to reconfirm eligibility at the beginning of each year of study via a minimum GPA and proof of enrollment. This requirement not only establishes eligibility each year, but also serves as a continual "touch point" for the Education Foundation and the student, allowing for additional support and relationship-building throughout the student's academic career.

Supporting the Future of the Profession

The NSPE Education Foundation is dedicated to fostering the next generation of engineering talent through its scholarship program. This new scholarship is a generous addition to other Education Foundation scholarships focused on creating a diverse profession. It also reaffirms the commitment of NSPE, the Education Foundation, and NSPE members to promoting diversity and tomorrow's engineer.

A new [online submission platform](#) for the 2022 scholarships is now live. All applications must go through this platform for consideration. Students can apply for the following scholarships by **April 1**:

The *Maureen L. and Howard N. Blitman, P.E., Scholarship to Promote Diversity in Engineering* is awarded annually to a high school senior from an ethnic minority who has been accepted into an ABET-accredited engineering program at a four-year college or university.

The *Auxiliary Legacy Scholarship* is awarded annually to a female undergraduate entering or continuing their junior year of a four-year ABET-accredited engineering program.

The *Steinman Scholarship* is awarded annually to undergraduates entering or continuing their junior year in a four-year ABET-accredited engineering program.

The *George B. Hightower, P.E. Fellowship* is awarded annually to a current engineering undergraduate or graduate student who is enrolled in, or graduated from, an ABET-accredited engineering program.



EDUCATION FOUNDATION
NATIONAL SOCIETY OF
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

Congratulations to the 2021 Scholarship Winners!



Markie Ash
Auxiliary Legacy
Scholarship
George B.
Hightower, P.E.
Fellowship



**Michael
Kadus**
Steinman
Scholarship



**Robert
Schneider**
Steinman
Scholarship



**Annabel
Sharnowski**
Steinman
Scholarship



**Noah
Struck**
Steinman
Scholarship



**Jacob
Witlin**
Steinman
Scholarship

Congratulations also to Blitman Scholarship Recipient: Justin Sivasothy

Reimagining the Possible During EWeek

As a member of the DiscoverE coalition, NSPE's mission includes outreach to young students and a call to engage, educate, and inspire more children and young adults to consider a career in engineering.

Visit NSPE's Engineers Week [web page](#) for information and links to all of the various programs happening for this year's celebration. This page also provides access to downloadable resources for individuals, state societies, and chapters to assist in planning and promoting events. Some of these items include program logos, ads, printable posters, and an Engineers Week Zoom background featuring the NSPE and DiscoverE logos.

NSPE will also be featuring women members/engineers on its social media channels to celebrate Girl Day ([Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day](#)) on February 24. This event is an excellent way to highlight the work and voices of female PEs to highlight them as role models for girls interested in engineering as a career. If you know of any women engineers who would be good to feature, please contact [Stacey Ober](#) or [Sean Woods](#).

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