

State News for NSPE Members

Interior Department Invests Over \$5.5 Million for Wildfire Resilience in Utah

The Department of the Interior announced that it has invested over \$5.5 million in fiscal year 2022 funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to advance wildfire resilience work and support fuels management projects in Utah on 24,490 acres of land across the state.

This is part of \$103 million allocated by the department earlier this year to reduce wildfire risk, mitigate impacts and rehabilitate burned areas, according to a [news release](#). The additional funding will help complete fuels treatments on nearly 2 million acres nationwide this fiscal year, a substantial increase over the prior year.

"As climate change drives harsher heat waves, more volatile weather, and record drought conditions, we are seeing wildfire seasons turn to wildfire years, threatening communities, businesses, wildlife and the environment," said Deputy Secretary Tommy Beaudreau. "Through President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we are investing in Utah communities, advancing wildfire resilience work across the country, improving resources for the heroic firefighting workforce, and reducing the risk of wildfire." [Read more.](#)

Salt Lake, Boise Leaders Consider Restoring Passenger Rail Line

Salt Lake City and Boise leaders are currently working on a plan to restore a large portion of an old passenger rail line, providing new service from Salt Lake City to an area just northwest of Boise in the near future, [ksltv.com reports](#).

The two cities submitted a statement of interest to the Federal Railroad Administration earlier this month, according to Bre Brush, the transportation advisor for the Boise Mayor's Office, in a presentation to the Boise City Council. But there are plenty of stops along the way before the idea comes to fruition.

"This is still very preliminary," Salt Lake City transportation director Jon Larsen stated. "It's exciting to be having these sorts of conversations and it's exciting that ... people are interested in knowing about these conversations, but we still have a long way to go before we're running passenger rail between Salt Lake and Boise." [Read more.](#)

USU Extension 4-H Sparks STEM Education Among Rural Youth

Young people in rural areas often do not have the same access to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education as youth in suburban areas of the country, according to the [Hechinger Report](#), a national educational newsroom.

With a population of around 7,000, Kane County, Utah, is undoubtedly rural, but the USU Extension 4-H youth development program has established a thriving STEM program, [Utah State Today reports](#). With only 1,300 students in grades K-12 and where all the elementary schools receive financial assistance as Title 1 schools, 80% of students in the district participate in computer science and coding education before they reach middle school. The 4-H program, in partnership with the Kane County School District, has accomplished this significant level of STEM education engagement in just six years.

Elizabeth Davis, extension professor over 4-H in Kane County, and Angie Reidhead, 4-H program coordinator, work together for the program's success. Their goal is to engage the future workforce early in life and provide opportunities for students to develop the necessary skills, including computer science and leadership, to prepare for the evolving work environment. [Read more.](#)

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

Moving the Society Closer to Our Vision

By Britt Smith, P.E., F.NSPE, President 2022-2023

What does NSPE mean to you? I'd like to try to tell you what it means to me. I began my career with a small civil engineering firm with a focus on municipal engineering. After a few years, I moved to the public works department in Jefferson City, Missouri. This is the same city where my wife and I have raised our three children. As a result, I've had the privilege of working for the community that I have called home most of my career.



Like many of you, I was approached by another engineer early in my career and asked to join NSPE. I have moved through various leadership and volunteer roles at the chapter, state, and national levels. I could not be more humbled to be the president of NSPE. I never dreamed that I would be in this position. As I got involved with NSPE, I met and built friendships with many wonderful engineers within my community, around the state, and across this great country. Each time I get involved and want to give back, I seem to receive so much more than I give. Our founder David Steinman probably had similar thoughts. Steinman understood that the technical problems of the various engineering disciplines are different, but the interests of the profession are shared. He founded NSPE to unite the profession around those common interests. NSPE was created, and continues today, to be the single national professional society, with solidarity of purpose and concentration of strength, to provide for the professional interests of the engineering profession.

NSPE has adopted as our vision: A world where the public can be confident that the engineering decisions affecting their lives are made by qualified and ethically accountable professionals. Our vision statement is a simple statement, but a very powerful message. I heard once that the average engineer holds the lives of more people in their hands than any doctor could see in a lifetime. As I considered that statement, I couldn't help but think about the awesome responsibility we carry. NSPE was created and continues today to help all members of our profession fulfill that responsibility.

[Read more.](#)

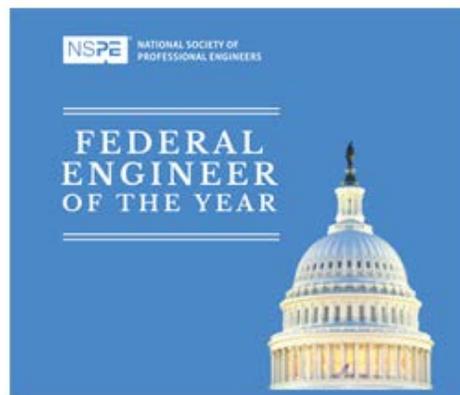
Nominations Open: Federal Engineer of the Year

Honoring the commitment of federal engineers to innovation and service is the hallmark of the [Federal Engineer of the Year Award](#).

Nominations for the award, which attracts

participation from more than a dozen federal agencies, are open until October 31.

The FEYA ceremony is scheduled for February 24, 2023, at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. Tickets will be available for sale in January. [Apply or nominate a worthy engineer.](#)



The 2022 Federal Engineer of the Year

Robert Zueck, Ph.D., P.E., was named NSPE's 2022 Federal Engineer of the Year for his discoveries and contributions in the engineering field during a [virtual awards event](#) in February.

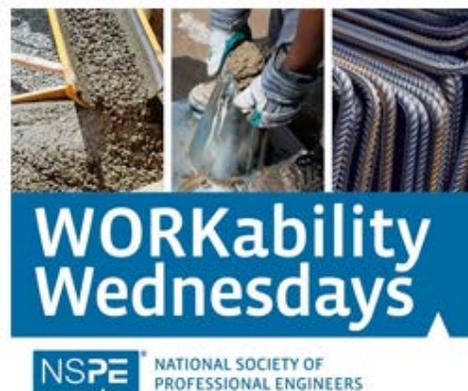


Prior to retirement, Zueck worked in the US Department of the Navy's Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC), Expeditionary Warfare Center at Port Hueneme, California. He is heralded for applying his vibration research to military defense projects for which engineers can now design beyond the speed, agility, and stealth limitations of many military sensors, weapons, and platforms. Find out more about Zueck in a [PE article](#).

Access Free WORKability Wednesdays Webinars

The reviews of the [Engineering: Addressing Unintended Consequences as a Professional](#) webinar are excellent. "Applicable to all engineering disciplines," says one attendee.

If you were busy this summer and missed it, there is time to watch this thought-provoking webinar at NSPE's PE Institute. All webinars in the [spring series](#) are available free to members. Watch for more information soon about what to expect in the fall series lineup!



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