

## State News for NSPE Members

### Utah's Bid for Federal Hydrogen Hub Comes Up Short

The US Department of Energy has passed over Utah's bid with four other states to become a billion-dollar federal hydrogen hub in favor of seven other bids from around the country, [The Salt Lake Tribune reports](#).

DOE received 79 bids for the \$7 billion hydrogen hub program, and the Western Interstate Hydrogen Hub (WISHH) from Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, and New Mexico was one of 33 bidders that were encouraged to submit more detailed applications.

But DOE ultimately chose seven others, including two in the West. The California hub and the Pacific Northwest hub (which included Washington, Oregon, and Montana) made the cut. The seven qualified for varying amounts between \$750 million and \$1.2 billion.

Utah's effort was coordinated by the Utah Office of Energy Development. The WISHH bid included two Utah projects seeking federal funding. One was an effort to make "renewable natural gas" from the wood waste created when forests are thinned. A company called Juniper Fuels heats the waste without burning it, capturing the methane that is produced. That methane is then used to produce hydrogen. [Read more](#).

---

### UVU Breaks Ground on \$88M Engineering and Technology Building

Much like Utah County itself, Utah Valley University is experiencing rapid growth. While this is a welcome sign for any university, it also presents some issues. For UVU, one such issue is the fact that the increasing number of students has led to some buildings not being able to keep pace with the growth trajectory, [ksl.com reports](#).

This is certainly so for the College of Engineering and Technology — UVU led the state in terms of the total increase in engineering majors between 2018 and 2020 — and recently, the university took the first step in remedying this issue by breaking ground on the Scott M. Smith College of Engineering and Technology Building, named after Qualtrics co-founder Scott Smith. Smith and his wife, Karen Smith, gave UVU \$25 million to help fund the building.

During the 2022-23 academic year, over 100 UVU students earned a degree in engineering. Now, the Scott M. Smith College of Engineering and Technology is home to 6,119 students, according to UVU President Astrid Tuminez.

"For the past five years, engineering programs have been borrowing space across campus," said Keith Mulberry, associate dean for academic affairs within the Smith College of Engineering and Technology. "Our faculty have been innovative in delivering high-quality education with limited resources, equipment and space."

Mulberry said that the new engineering building aims to alleviate this strain, calling it a "historical" moment for the university, faculty, and students. The new 180,000-square-foot, \$88 million building will increase the square feet per student from 12 square feet to 60 square feet. [Read more.](#)



NSPE's **Job Board** is your one-stop resource for professional engineering employment. Whether you are on the hunt for your next career move or looking for today's top engineering leaders and talent, you will find it here.

NSPE provides the tools PEs need to keep current in the profession and advance their careers.

### **Featured Job**

[Dean, John and Marcia Price College of Engineering](#)  
Salt Lake City, UT

[Find more job openings or reach the right employees on the NSPE Job Board.](#)

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

---

# Looking Toward a Promising Future

*By Bill Atkinson, P.E., F.NSPE, President 2023–24*



As I continue on my professional journey as the NSPE president, I often reflect on what our organization has done since its founding in 1934 and what NSPE needs to do going forward. The next stage of NSPE's future begins with our vision to ensure that the public lives in a world where engineering decisions are made by qualified and ethically accountable professionals. This will require that a unified engineering community step up to protect licensure laws across the nation and maintain high standards for professional practice. It will require that we embrace innovation and emerging technologies. This future will be bolstered by a new generation of engineers that we must encourage to understand that they can truly make a difference in the world. I look forward to playing my part and supporting others in these efforts.

## **Licensure and Emerging Technologies**

Protection of the public health, safety, and welfare is at our core as professional engineers. Licensure is key to ensuring consistent standards of practice and professional competencies. We must make sure that these standards and competencies remain relevant to how we do things today, while looking toward the future.

We must continually question ourselves and the regulations that are in place. Are state licensing laws adequately regulating the profession of engineering without precluding otherwise qualified individuals from practicing? Is our current licensure model adequately serving its purpose? Are engineering licensure exemptions creating gaps where the public could be harmed? The answers to these questions can help drive us to better ways of safeguarding the public.

I believe that most individuals that become engineers do so because they are good at making things better. They are not tied to the world they are in today and are always pursuing excellence and improvement. I believe that by pooling our experiences as engineers, we can bring the best and brightest together to tackle any challenge that we may face as we seek to evolve. This evolution will involve

the development and use of emerging technologies to spur innovative solutions. NSPE is supporting members by providing professional development that showcases the use of these technologies in a manner that is ethical and will benefit the public. [Read more](#).

---

## NSPECon24 – Call for Presentation Proposals

Prepare to share your expertise during NSPECon24 in Raleigh, North Carolina, August 7-9, 2024. [Review the topics](#) NSPE seeks in the areas of career development, leadership, and issues and trends, and think about how you can contribute. The submission site will open on November 1 and the proposal deadline is **January 10, 2024**.

The [NSPECon23 program](#) is still available online and may give potential presenters some ideas about the caliber of sessions needed for next year.

---

## Volunteers are the Heart of NSPE: Get Involved and Share Your Voice



Volunteers are essential to advancing NSPE's vision to ensure a world where the public can be confident that engineering decisions affecting their lives are made by qualified and ethically accountable professionals. Volunteering is also a great opportunity for members to grow their professional network and connect with other leaders in the field.

There are [several ways to get involved](#)...here a few opportunities to consider

**Serve as a mentor for an engineering student.** If interested, send an email to [education@nspe.org](mailto:education@nspe.org).

**NSPE online community champion.** Virtual opportunity to promote community and sharing of ideas through NSPE's online channels. If interested, send an email to [membership@nspe.org](mailto:membership@nspe.org).

**Write an article for *PE* magazine.** Share your expertise and insights on professional practice, education, ethics, leadership, licensure, public policy, DEI, emerging technologies, and sustainability and resilience by serving as a guest writer for *PE* magazine. If interested, email [pemagazine@nspe.org](mailto:pemagazine@nspe.org) for submission guidelines.

**Collaborate with staff to draft/supply input** on federal legislation, regulations or public comments to federal Congressional staff and committees (Identify your area(s) of vocational expertise.) If interested, send an email to [governmentrelations@nspe.org](mailto:governmentrelations@nspe.org).

You received this e-mail because you are subscribed to *PE Matters* e-newsletter.

To update your e-mail address, visit [www.nspe.org](http://www.nspe.org) and login to manage your account.

If you do not wish to receive any more issues of *PE Matters*, click here to unsubscribe .

### Share with your network



**National Society of Professional Engineers | 1420 King Street | Alexandria, VA  
22314**