Save the Date! Continuing Education Conference at the University of Utah

The Utah Society of Professional Engineers Board, the University of Utah Engineering Alumni Association, and the Department of Occupational and Professional Licensing are partnering to hold the annual Continuing Education Conference on **Saturday, May 14** (COVID restrictions permitting).

This year promises a great line-up of presenters and topics! Many of you have probably attended this event in the past and know that it is a great opportunity to learn and earn continuing education hours toward license renewal. All Utah PEs, including non-NSPE members, are invited to participate in the free event. Look for more information in the March issue of *PE Matters*.

Does Utah Need a $270 Million Bridge Across Lake Powell?

No bridges cross Lake Powell for roughly 90 miles between the Glen Canyon Dam in Arizona and Hite at the upstream end of the reservoir. For years, the Utah Department of Transportation operated a ferry between Halls Crossing and Bullfrog in the middle of Lake Powell. Because of record low reservoir levels and other issues, the ferry is not operational, *The Salt Lake Tribune* reports.

Representative Phil Lyman (R-Blanding) believes it's time to replace the ferry with a more reliable alternative. At a subcommittee hearing held at the Utah Capitol earlier this month, Lyman requested lawmakers approve $2 million for an engineering study of a large bridge to cross rugged canyon terrain near the ferry site.

"Right now," Lyman said, "90% of Lake Powell is in Utah but 90% of the traffic is flowing to Arizona because Arizona has so many more services there for Lake Powell. Bullfrog and Halls Crossing could be a world-class resort if we could
connect the dots."

The proposal would carry a hefty price tag, however: approximately $270 million, according to preliminary estimates.

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**Utah Should Keep Its Engineering Momentum Going**

*In a Desert News opinion column, Utah Valley University President Astrid Tuminez shares why she believes substantive investments and the right strategic partnerships will allow Utah to shape itself into a game-changer in the modern economy.*

In the early 2000s, then-Utah Governor Michael O. Leavitt identified a major challenge for our state. Too many of Utah’s startups were migrating to Silicon Valley for adequate talent and venture capital. Leavitt envisioned a high-tech economy thriving in Utah. To create a road map for his vision, he reached out to Silicon Valley industry leaders and met John Warnock, University of Utah alumnus and cofounder of Adobe Systems, who shared that the key to a high-tech economy was investing in engineering education.

In 2001, the Utah State Legislature passed SB61, or the Engineering Initiative, as a long-term collaboration between state government, higher education and industry leaders to facilitate a surge in engineering and computer science degrees. Now, nearly two decades since the bill was passed, Utah’s higher education system has more than doubled its annual output of engineering and computer science graduates.

At Utah Valley University, we have nearly tripled our engineering students from 366 in 2001 to almost 1,100 in 2021, and computer science majors increased from 104 to 1,010 in the same timeframe. From 2010-2020, tech-related employment in Utah expanded from 46,000 to more than 118,000, and the state’s GDP has grown from $70 billion to $168 billion.

Read more.
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.

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*Find more job openings or reach the right employees on the NSPE Job Board.*

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**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.
The NSPE Education Foundation is honored to announce a $30,000 donation from NSPE member Om P. Popli, P.E., P.L.S, 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
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.