NSPE-UT Continuing Education Conference Success

NSPE-UT was happy again to hold our annual Continuing Education Conference for Utah PEs in May. The free event was able to reach almost 160 attendees, counting both in-person and virtual attendees, which is an increase of about 50% over our last in-person event in 2019. The hybrid format allowed many PEs to attend in areas not local to the Wasatch Front.

A big thank you to our sponsors and partner—the University of Utah College of Engineering, GoEngineer, the Utah Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing, and especially to our presenters, who shared timely and helpful knowledge and information on a range of topics of interest to engineers.

DOE Confirms $504 Million Loan for Utah Hydrogen Energy Storage Hub

The Advanced Clean Energy Storage Project, claimed as the largest green hydrogen storage hub planned globally, will get $504.4 million loan funding from the US Department of Energy (DOE), according to an Energy Storage News report.

The DOE's Loan Programs Office said that it has closed on the half-billion-dollar loan guarantee for the planned facility in Utah, which will combine 220MW of alkali electrolysers with storage capacity in vast salt caverns with 4.5-million-barrel capacity.

The Loan Programs Office, which reopened in the early weeks of President Joe Biden’s term with solar industry veteran Jigar Shah at the helm, offered the loan in late April this year, after inviting the project's co-development partners Mitsubishi Power Americas and Magnum Development to apply, just under a year before that in May 2021.

While the initial invite had said up to $595 million could be on the table, it appears
the figure settled on is nearly a hundred million dollars less for the very long-duration – or seasonal – energy storage plant.

Project information from Mitsubishi Power Americas said the hub would take excess renewable energy from sources including wind, solar, geothermal and hydroelectric. Read more.

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**Utah Women in STEM Careers Slowly Increasing**

According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Utah ranked in the top 10 states for tech job growth, net tech employment concentration, and net tech employment gains in 2020. In addition, Salt Lake City is ranked as the second-best city in the country for professional opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math.

Yet despite the statewide opportunities, Salt Lake was ranked only 43rd among other metro areas for "STEM-friendliness," a metric that considers the gender disparity in STEM field occupations and degrees, according to a *Utah State Today* article. Nationally and locally, fewer women obtain STEM-related college degrees and work in STEM-related professions, and once employed they leave these careers at disproportionate rates compared to men, leaving that portion of the workforce predominately male.

The Utah Women & Leadership Project released a research paper in 2016 on Utah Women and STEM. A new 2022 report updates and compares data on three areas featured in the earlier report: current STEM employment data, possible reasons for the STEM gender gap, and ongoing efforts to increase diverse participation and success in STEM fields. Read more.

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**Program Demonstrates Alternative Vehicle Use in Southern Utah**

Alternatives to fuel-driven vehicles may soon be on the road as Washington County and five counties in Southern Utah explore the Drive Clean Rural USA program opportunities, according to a *St George News* report.

The program is funded in part by the Department of Energy Vehicles Technology program. Utah is one of eight states chosen for the project, which involves county government and private fleet partners. The groups will receive free assistance from Utah Clean Cities once they commit to the program. The three-phase project will run through June 2024.

"The pilot project goes into rural communities to work with them to build out an
advanced alternative transportation plan with the alternative fuels in Utah: propane, electric, natural gas, and possibly hydrogen," Tammie Bostick, Utah Clean Cities Coalition executive director, said.

According to the Utah Clean Cities website, the program assists local governments and organizations save money by transitioning vehicle fleets to clean fuels and advanced vehicle technologies. Large cities nationwide have many businesses, hospitals, schools, and local governments that have started the process. Read more.

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the NSPE Advocacy Center.

**NSPECon 2022 Open for Registration**

Engineers from all disciplines are invited to register for the 2022 Professional Engineers Conference (NSPECon 2022) in Philadelphia, August 1-3. Early-bird registration is available until June 30.

Invited speakers will address sustainability, emerging technology, the post-covid workplace and even, construction on the moon. Licensed professional engineers and those aspiring to be one are invited to join this multi-discipline community to engage with colleagues and hear more about relevant engineering topics.

**Sponsorship and Exhibitor Opportunities**

Prospective conference sponsors and exhibitors will see newly created opportunities to highlight their companies and organizations throughout the conference. Sponsors can welcome attendees to the “Feel the Philly Love” opening reception, support a conference education track featuring seven unique sessions, or demonstrate how their solutions help clients overcome specific challenges by exhibiting.

**PE Day**

On the final day of the conference, attendees can celebrate PE Day in person and raise awareness about the importance of PEs as qualified and ethical professionals. Before attending, everyone is invited to gear up with PE Day logo wear to show PE Pride at the conference.
Call for 2022-2023 Volunteers

Volunteers are the heart of NSPE and essential to helping the Society carry out its vision and mission and meet the goals of the strategic plan. Volunteer positions begin in mid-August and end at the 2023 Professional Engineers Conference.

There are three types of volunteer opportunities:

- **Level 1 (Highest Engagement)–Standing Boards and Committees**
  Often includes attending at least one in-person meeting. Most meetings held via video conference. Terms may be up to three years.

- **Level 2 (Intermediate Engagement)–Ad Hoc Committees and Task Forces**
  Activities primarily include online correspondence and video conference meetings.

- **Level 3 (Lowest Engagement)–Ad Hoc Volunteer**
  Volunteer on a project-by-project basis.

Submit an application by July 15 to be considered for a 2022-2023 term.

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House of Delegates Virtual General Assembly and Annual Meeting

The House of Delegates Virtual General Assembly will be live streamed on NSPE's YouTube channel for members on June 30 (2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. EST). Following the live stream of the General Assembly, NSPE members will have an opportunity to ask questions and talk with President-Elect Britt Smith, P.E., F.NSPE, and CEO Monika Schulz through a Reddit style AMA (Ask Me Anything) format in the Annual Meeting online community. All members are welcome.