Vermont to Receive $21 Million to Expand Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

The Green Mountain State is getting more green to go green! Vermont will receive $21 million in federal funding to expand electric vehicle infrastructure, according to a WCAX report.

The state is ranked number one in the nation for public EV charging stations per capita, but officials say the state needs a lot more, especially along highways. Officials say if people are expected to purchase expensive electric cars, consumers must have confidence they won’t get stranded on long drives. The hope is this will help Vermont reach its ambitious goal of 170,000 EVs by 2030.

Legislation Could Create Permanent State AI Commission

Vermont lawmakers are seeking to create a permanent commission to oversee and support the responsible use of artificial intelligence technology among state agencies, according to a Government Technology report.

The legislation (H. 410) looks to create a commission to oversee the ethical use of AI technology within state government. The idea for the commission comes from a recommendation by the state’s Artificial Intelligence Task Force, which was operational from September 2018 through January 2020.

Two bills were merged into one to create the current version of the legislation. The first bill aimed to create an index of current AI technology used within the state. The second bill looked to develop a code of ethics and support the responsible use of AI technology among state agencies.

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., 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 engineering undergraduate or graduate student who is enrolled in, or graduated from, an ABET-accredited engineering program.
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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