

State News for NSPE Members

Bill to Fund Montana Roads and Bridges Signed Into Law

On March 13, Governor Greg Gianforte signed into law House Bill 267 — known as the SAFER Act — an infrastructure funding bill that will create a fund to provide state match dollars for road and bridge projects, the [Flathead Beacon reports](#).

The bill will allow for the creation of the Securing Access to Federal Expenditures to Repair (SAFER) Montana Roads and Bridges Account, a state account that will hold \$100 million from the general fund. SAFER funds will be specifically allotted to match federal transportation grants and additional one-time-only federal funding opportunities, which are available annually each August when states are able to request funds from the Department of Transportation that other states have left on the table that year.

Per House Bill 267, up to \$15 million per year will be allotted to match grants and redistribution dollars. Funds that are not used will be rolled over to the next year. Sprunger estimated that the \$100 million SAFER account will help the state secure around \$800 million in federal match dollars. [Read more](#).

Petroleum Experts Donate \$6.5 Million in Software to Montana Tech

Montana Technological University has received a donation from petroleum experts for educational licenses for geological and petroleum engineering software. The state-of-the-art software, valued at more than \$6.5 million, will be licensed exclusively for teaching, tutorials and non-commercial research primarily in the Structural Geology for Engineers and Sedimentology and Petroleum Geology courses, which cater to a diverse audience of geological, petroleum, and civil engineering students, the *Montana Standard* reports.

Montana Tech is the only university in Montana that offers geological engineering and petroleum engineering degrees. The geological engineering department offers a bachelor's degree, three master's degrees with several options, graduate, and

undergraduate drone certificates.

The petroleum engineering department is home to a bachelor's degree, a master's degree, and a minor in the discipline. The program teaches students to use mathematics, physics, and geology to address and solve critical issues that lead to energy security. [Read more](#).

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

TVA Engineer Named 2023 FEYA Winner

Stephen Craven, Ph.D., P.E., was named [NSPE's 2023 Federal Engineer of the Year](#) for his innovative work securing Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) substations and developing improved communication architecture. Now in its 44th year, the Federal Engineer of the Year Award is the only one of its kind to solely recognize outstanding engineers employed in the federal government. Federal agency winners were honored during a ceremony held at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, on February 24.



Stephen Craven is a third-generation TVA engineer, serving at the agency's Power Service Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Among his accomplishments, Craven has helped secure substations against cyber-attacks, designing ways to keep critical equipment disconnected from external attackers and yet still be remotely monitored for anomalies. He was also instrumental in the development of a new communication architecture that is faster, more reliable, and less expensive than previous schemes. [Read more](#).

FEYA ceremony photos can be accessed on the NSPE [Flickr album](#).

WORKability Wednesdays Are Back!

NSPE offers a live webinar series free to members—"WORKability Wednesdays"—to support members with their professional development goals. The series covers topics impacting the industry and helps to enhance your competencies in the profession. The spring season sessions kicked off on March 8 with [Understanding the New Requirements for Cybersecurity Insurance](#). Register now at [NSPE's PE Institute](#) and invite a colleague to attend.

Upcoming webinars

- **March 22**—[Using Construction Manager at Risk Project Delivery to Manage the Current Challenges in Constructing Projects](#)
- **April 12**—[Doing Bad Things for Good Reasons: An Examination of Unethical Pro-Organizational Behavior Among Professional Workers](#)
- **Save the date for webinars on April 26, May 17, and May 31**

Take the Milton F. Lunch Ethics Challenge!

Match your wits and knowledge of engineering ethics with experienced professional engineers and engineering students throughout the country! All current NSPE individual members and NSPE chapters (including student members) are invited to participate in the [2023 NSPE Milton F. Lunch Ethics Contest](#) . Contest submissions are due by **May 12**. [View past contest winner entries](#) .

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22314**