Save the Date: 2022 Joint Engineers Conference

The 2022 Joint Engineers Conference will be held on November 2–4 at the Helena Delta Colonial Hotel in Helena, Montana. The conference provides educational and networking opportunities and is a joint venture of Montana’s engineering societies.

Individuals interested in applying to speak at the conference can access the form here. Speakers will be notified of selection in late May.

Montana to Receive $11.5 Million for Public Transit

US Senator Jon Tester announced that he secured $11.57 million for Montana public transit through the recently signed infrastructure law, according to a news release.

The funding can be used for transit systems in both urban and rural areas, buses and bus facilities, and transit designed for seniors and people with disabilities. It can also be used for planning and support to improve the condition of transit assets. Funding will be distributed through the Federal Transit Administration to the Montana Department of Transportation, Tribal nations, and urban areas via grant programs.

A general breakdown of grant funding is as follows: $4.36 million to rural areas; $3.44 million for buses and bus facilities statewide; $3.02 million for urban areas (Billings, Great Falls, and Missoula); and $0.53 million for public transportation on Indian Reservations.

Missoula, Bozeman, and Helena Continue Pursuit of Green Tariff

One year after formally adopting a joint agreement to work with NorthWestern Energy on developing a green tariff, the city and county of Missoula have agreed to
extend their contract with the project’s consultant and provide additional funding, according to a Missoula Current report.

If realized, the tariff would be the first of its kind in Montana, though the county’s energy conservation and sustainability coordinator Diana Maneta said it's taking longer than expected. “This extends the end-date of the contract through no fault of the consultant,” Maneta said. “The process of developing the green tariff has taken longer than initially anticipated.”

Last February, the cities of Missoula, Bozeman and Helena and their respective counties entered into an agreement to hire Energy Strategies of Salt Lake City after a national search for a consultant with expertise in designing utility rates and green tariffs. Under the contract, Energy Strategies would work with NorthWestern in developing the tariff—a move intended to help the three cities move closer to their goals of achieving 100% clean electricity by 2030.

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
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.

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**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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