

# PE MATTERS

STATE  
NEWS

NSPE-LA

>>> MARCH 2022

*State News for NSPE Members*

## Electrical Modernization Increases Power Reliability in Northern Louisiana

Electric utility company Entergy Louisiana recently completed a \$100 million project across Ouachita Parish that positioned the region for economic growth and increased the resilience and reliability of the electric system in north Louisiana. New transmission equipment was installed, and portions of the local, existing transmission system were upgraded. This work made the electric system in the area more interconnected with higher capacity, which will help the company deliver power now and into the future by way of clean generating resources such as solar.

While the project enhanced service reliability, it should also help import lower cost power that would keep the region attractive to existing or new customers, including those turning to electrification to reach sustainability goals, the company stated.

[Find out more.](#)

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## South Louisiana the US Area Most Vulnerable to Climate Change

A recent United Nations report on climate change says increasingly volatile weather events make the future of South Louisiana uncertain. Rising seas and the sinking of the Mississippi River due to human interventions make South Louisiana the most vulnerable place to climate change in the US, according to [a businessreport.com article](#).

A Louisiana climatologist quoted in the piece agreed with the UN report and said that the loss of sediment from leveeing the river and saltwater intrusion caused by coastal oil and gas development are two major causes of the Mississippi sinking.

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

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## Meet the 2022 Federal Engineer of the Year



Robert Zueck, Ph.D., P.E., was named NSPE's [Federal Engineer of the Year](#) during a virtual awards event on February 24 for his discoveries and contributions in the engineering field. The Federal Engineer of the Year Award, sponsored by the Professional Engineers in Government, honors engineers employed by a federal agency that employs at least 50 engineers worldwide.

Zueck works in the US Department of the Navy's Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC), Expeditionary Warfare Center at Port Hueneme, California. He is heralded for applying his vibration research to military defense projects for which engineers can now design beyond the speed, agility, and stealth limitations of many military sensors, weapons, and platforms.

"Every success for me has come out of the hard teamwork of many fellow engineers and scientists," Zueck stated. "I thank them all—particularly those who provided valuable constructive criticism of my rather unique research results."

In a basic research project conducted several years ago, Zueck discovered how geometrically complex vibrations initiate, grow, and sustain themselves, often limiting higher performance for many combat systems. He used this new vibration knowledge to improve the Expeditionary Warfare Center's modeling capability for designing, analyzing, and deploying towed sensors, ship moorings, sub-sea arrays, and other slender naval structures.

"This basic science discovery could be very useful for modeling, simulating, and testing in many other fields of engineering and science," he said.

[Read more.](#)

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## Mark Your Calendars: 2022 Professional Engineers Conference



Harnessing the Power  
of PEs to Create a  
Better World  
Engineering for Society



August  
1-3  
2022  
Philadelphia, PA  
Sheraton Philadelphia  
Downtown

The 2022 NSPE [Professional Engineers Conference](#) will bring together professional engineers across disciplines from August 1–3, in Philadelphia at the Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown. Registration for the conference opens in April.

PECON attendees can access specialized content from experts as they discuss issues and trends impacting the profession, develop power skills and life skills not taught in school, and advance their careers by expanding their expertise and preparing for future developments in the industry.

The seventh annual [PE Day](#) will coincide with the conference's culmination on August 3. These two events allow PEs to join their peers in celebration of the profession and advocacy for licensure.

NSPE will continue to monitor health and safety guidelines while we proceed toward hosting this in-person event.

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## 2022 NSPE Student Scholarships Available

Students can apply for the 2022 NSPE Education Foundation scholarships through a new [online submission platform](#). The following scholarships have an **April 1** application deadline:

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.

**Coming soon!** 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.

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