

State News for NSPE Members

MDOT Director Looks Down the Road at Infrastructure Funding Needs

Mississippi Department of Transportation Director Brad White says an influx of "one-time" state and federal money is allowing the agency to again build and widen roads. But he said the agency needs long-term, steady revenue streams to maintain them once they're built. Get more insight on the state's infrastructure needs in this [Mississippi Today](#) podcast.

Mississippi County Launches 2024 Infrastructure Grant Program

Mississippi County has announced the launch of its 2024 infrastructure grant program, which will award a total of \$750,000 to cities and towns within the county to fund vital water and sewer infrastructure improvements and projects. Applications can be submitted on the county's website, and the deadline to apply is Friday, March 1, at 5 p.m.

"We are pleased to once again have the opportunity to provide the funding to help our cities and towns make much-needed infrastructure improvements to their water and sewer systems," said County Judge John Alan Nelson. "We are eager to see the applications and to identify projects that will improve the quality of life of Mississippi County residents, support our local economy, and help continue our current population growth."

The grants are funded through the American Rescue Plan Act's Coronavirus Local Fiscal Relief Fund, which was signed into law in 2021 and provides each US county with funding to support investments that promote long-term growth and opportunity. [Read more in this kati8.com report.](#)

Mississippi State is Taking Strides Towards Carbon

Neutral Goal

Mississippi State University, home to the largest undergraduate student body in the state, made strides earlier this month towards its goal of being carbon neutral by 2042, [Mississippi Today reports](#). The school announced on February 6 that it was installing on its campus 3,420 solar panels — which it expects to start generating power by this summer — claiming it as the largest such project among Southeastern Conference colleges.

The project also includes upgrading 54,000 lighting fixtures with LED bulbs. Officials say the additions are a major step in reaching the 2042 goal, which the school set for itself in its 2012 climate action plan.

"We think renewable energy is one of our primary methods of reducing our footprint," Saunders Ramsey, executive director of MSU's Campus Services, told [Mississippi Today](#). "We're doing all we can to be good stewards." [Read more](#).

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

NCEES Seeks PE Expertise to Update Exams

NCEES is currently seeking licensed professional engineers to participate in a professional activities and knowledge study, or PAKS, to update specifications for the PE Architectural Engineering Exam and the PE Environmental Exam.

Architectural Engineering

NCEES requires a cross section of PEs practicing architectural engineering (including those working in industry, consulting, the public sector, and academia) to complete an online survey about the tasks and knowledge required of a licensed architectural engineer with four to six years of experience to practice in a manner that safeguards the public. Access the survey [here](#) and participate by April 24.

Environmental Engineering

NCEES requires a cross section of PEs practicing environmental engineering (including those working in industry, consulting, the public sector, and academia) to complete an online survey about the tasks and knowledge required of a licensed environmental engineer with four to six years of experience to practice in a manner that safeguards the public. Access the survey [here](#) and participate by May 5.

The 2024 Scholarship Season Opens

The NSPE Education Foundation is [now accepting applications](#) for the 2024 scholarship season through an online submission platform. The application

deadline is April 1.

High School

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 award is for \$5,000.

Undergraduate

The [Steinman Scholarship](#) is awarded annually to undergraduates entering or continuing their junior year in a four-year ABET-accredited engineering program. The award is for \$5,000.

The [William R. Kimel, P.E., Engineering Scholarship](#) is awarded to an undergraduate student who is a resident of either Kansas or Missouri, enrolled as a junior in an ABET-accredited engineering program in a college or university in either Kansas or Missouri. The award is for \$2,500.

Graduate

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. The award is for \$3,000.

PE Institute – 15 Free Webinar Package

NSPE has moved 15 on-demand webinars out from behind the paywall for viewing by members from the comfort of home or the office. Members can [add the webinar package to their account now](#). Once added, the webinars can be viewed through January 15, 2025.

Since 2022, NSPE has offered all PE Institute webinars free of charge to members. Past webinars are also available for viewing in the [On-Demand Webinars](#) section of the PE Institute website.

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