

## State News for NSPE Members

### Commissioners Award \$11.6M in Transportation Grants

The Mississippi Transportation Commission recently distributed approximately \$11.6 million in grants for multimodal transportation projects throughout the state, the [Mississippi Business Journal reports](#).

The awards, announced on July 13, come from the state's Multimodal Transportation Improvement Fund. The fund was established by legislators in 2002. It is controlled by the state's three transportation commissioners, who may use its funds to improve airports, public ports, railroads and transit systems. Ports can receive up to 38% of the funding, with airports receiving up to 34%; transit systems, up to 16%; and railroads, up to 12%.

Grantees must apply for the funds. Applications are received and reviewed by a committee specific to each mode of transportation. These committees then make funding recommendations to the commission. Each commissioner represents a broad geographic district. The state's transportation districts are called the northern, central, and southern districts.

The approximately \$11.6 million in funds were split between the three districts, with the northern district receiving approximately \$5.3 million; the central district, approximately \$2.9 million; and the southern district, approximately \$3.4 million.

[Read more.](#)

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### MDOT to Host Job Fair in Newton

The Mississippi Department of Transportation will have an on-site job fair on **Wednesday, August 30** (from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.) at its district office in Newton, 7759 Hwy. 80 West. There will be on-site interviews for available jobs in transportation infrastructure, maintenance, and engineering, [wtok.com reports](#). For more information on career opportunities access the [MDOT website](#) or call 601-683-3341.

## Vermont PE Rises to Top Leadership



**William (Bill) Atkinson, P.E., F.NSPE**, was installed as NSPE's 2023–24 president during a ceremony at NSPECon23 in Louisville, Kentucky, on August 3. He has spent most of his career volunteering for NSPE and various engineering organizations that hold true to his passion for protecting the public through licensure and ethical engineering decision making.

Atkinson serves as the engineering manager and lead engineer at Vermont Mechanical Inc., a mechanical and plumbing design build contractor that focuses on healthcare and commercial construction (where he has been employed since 2001). He currently directs the service and engineering departments.

Throughout his engineering career, Atkinson has taken on various volunteer and leadership positions within NSPE, the Vermont Society of Professional Engineers, ASHRAE, and NCEES. He served on the Vermont Board of Professional Engineers and the University of Vermont College of Engineering Advisory Board. He has also served as an ABET observer and as the president of the Clarkson University Vermont Alumni Chapter. He is a licensed professional engineer in New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont.

Atkinson lives in Essex, Vermont, with his wife, Kim Atkinson, P.E., and two young active sons. When he and his wife are not working they are often found coaching or enjoying the outdoors in all seasons.

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## Honoring Excellence in the Profession

NSPE members were recently honored for their outstanding contributions to the profession during NSPECon23 in Louisville, Kentucky.

### Engineering Education Excellence Award

This award recognizes licensed engineering faculty who have demonstrated the ability to link engineering education with professional practice. It is sponsored by the Professional Engineers in Higher Education (PEHE) interest group.

**Waterloo Tsutsui, Ph.D., P.E.**, is a senior research associate in the School of Aeronautics and Astronautics at Purdue University where his primary aim is to provide a rigorous education that nurtures an engineering mindset among students and empowering



them to analyze, communicate, and solve complex problems. He ensures students derive maximum advantage from meticulously designed educational experiences integrated into their curriculum, fostering lasting knowledge and capabilities that extend far beyond the confines of the classroom for the ultimate benefit of students. As an example, Tsutsui implemented virtual labs and visualization in lab courses as an innovative way to link engineering practice to education.

### **New Professional of the Year Award**

This award recognizes a young NSPE member who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession and the community during the early years of one's career.



**Sri Kumar, P.E.**, is the president and CEO of Connico, a national consultancy serving the aviation, civil, and transportation markets. In his current role, he is responsible for outlining the company's strategy for the future, ensuring the company continues to execute its goals, and delivering excellence to clients from Tampa to Seattle. He is also committed to building Connico's employee-focused culture and is passionate about developing a strong, diverse, and uniquely talented team who work each day on solving some of the nation's most complex infrastructure challenges.

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## **Emerging Leaders Program Seeks Candidates**



The [NSPE Emerging Leaders Program](#) is seeking the next group of engineering change-makers. Candidates with 5–8 years of professional experience in the engineering field who are prepared to think strategically about their career and begin taking on leadership roles are [invited to apply](#).

The 2024 ELP syllabus and related time-commitments are available and the application for the program is due by **Thursday, August 31**.

[Apply Now](#)

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