

## State News for NSPE Members

### Legislature Sets Priorities for American Rescue Plan Funds

The 36th Guam Legislature released a bipartisan list of priorities for the anticipated \$664 million in American Rescue Plan funding. It was signed by all 15 senators and addressed to Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, who requested to meet with the Legislature on May 11 to discuss policy priorities for the money, according to a *Pacific Daily News* report.

A [joint statement](#) from Speaker Therese Terlaje and Minority Leader Chris Duenas stated that American Rescue Plan funds presented an opportunity to truly affect people's lives. In addition to targeting \$68 million in direct assistance to individuals and families affected by the pandemic, the funding priorities include the following:

- Around \$341 million for the investment in infrastructure and technology toward economic growth and affordable housing and development.
- \$18.5 million for workforce training and diversification, as well as student aid.
- Funding for the Small Business Pandemic Assistance Program to provide direct assistance to businesses negatively impacted by the pandemic and to develop additional programs or opportunities for the creation of new small businesses and to encourage economic growth.
- Funding to avert rate increases for the Guam Waterworks Authority and to repair pipelines and expand sewer infrastructure to off-grid locations.
- Funding to Public Works to repair Guam's roads, advance the Village Streets Master Plan and fund highway infrastructure projects.
- Money to bring water and sewer infrastructure to the Chamoru Land Trust Commission homes and the building of affordable homes.
- \$7 million each to the University of Guam and Guam Community College.

[Read more.](#)

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### Department of Labor to Work with Contractors on H2-B

## Applications

The Guam Department of Labor is working with local contractors who need H-2B, or skilled foreign workers, for construction projects within the confines of the new guidelines provided by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services, according to a *The Guam Daily Post* article.

GDOL Director David Dell'Isola said USCIS' guidance for the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act includes provisions that allow H-2B workers to come to Guam to work on projects that "support or are adversely affected by the military realignment."

"Guam DOL welcomes this guidance which will assist contractors on Guam to get the badly needed supplemental skilled workers needed for ongoing and future contracting activity," Dell'Isola stated. "We expect that employers will soon submit applications to USCIS using the new flexibility."

[Read more.](#)

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## Governor Launches Education Assistance and Youth Empowerment Program

The Leon Guerrero-Tenorio Administration has established the Governor's Education Assistance and Youth Empowerment Grant Program to fund student engagement opportunities for public, private, and charter school students. This program will maximize the \$33 million awarded in Education Stabilization Funds dedicated to the Governor's Office through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act.

The Guam State Clearinghouse (under the Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Guam) is soliciting interest and proposals from educational institutions, government entities, community organizations, and nonprofit organizations to develop programs and activities addressing the learning loss for students along with improving their social and emotional well-being.

Proposals may include, but are not limited to, activities and programs related to the following:

1. Academic and Sports Activities including: academic competition and exhibits; literacy programs and initiatives; STEM and STEAM programs; and youth sports and recreational activities.
2. Development and Enhancement of Learning Resources including: curriculum development; digitization, production, and publication of online learning resources; and online and television learning programming.

3. Programs Supporting Leadership Development, Social and Emotional Resiliency, and Positive Pro-Social Activities including: arts and humanities, behavioral health & wellness, Chamoru language, environmental stewardship, cultural diversity, and drug and alcohol prevention.
4. Supplemental Student Learning and Engagement Activities including: community special education programs and services; community youth development programs; homework assistance and tutoring; summer learning and discovery programs; weekend and after-school community learning opportunities; and youth empowerment programs.

[Learn more.](#)

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

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## **New Jersey Student Wins MATHCOUNTS Title**

Marvin Mao, an eighth-grade student from Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, was named the [2021 Raytheon MATHCOUNTS National Competition](#) champion during the virtual event held May 8-10. Mao will receive a \$10,000 scholarship.



This year's national competition engaged 224 students representing 56 US states and territories in four rounds: Sprint, Target, Team, and Countdown.

The runner-up for the individual competition was Bohan Yao, an eighth-grader from Redmond, Washington, who will receive a \$5,000 scholarship. Ten finalists will receive \$3,000 scholarships.

Mao is also a member of the first-place New Jersey team consisting of fellow eighth-grade students Evan Fan, Ying Lu, and Alexander Wang. The team will receive a trip to the US Space Camp. The California team finished in second place and the New York team placed third.

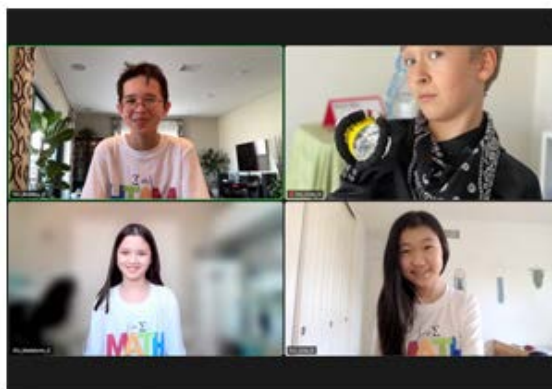
### **California Team Captures Math Video Award**

A video combining algebraic equations with an exciting heist won the [2021 Math Video Challenge](#) for a team representing the Elite Academic Academy in southern California.

Team members Bradley Carpiuc (eighth grade), Madelynn Carpiuc (sixth grade), Zoe Kim (eighth grade) and Cole

Seelman (sixth grade) each won a \$1,000 college scholarship for their “[The Sanitizer Stealers](#)” video during the challenge finals on May 9. The video is about a group of thieves who steal overpriced hand sanitizer from a store.

The crime is caught on camera, and the owner uses math to piece together just how much the thieves got away with.



The Math Video Challenge is a national program sponsored by MATHCOUNTS and the Department of Defense (DoDSTEM). More than 200 students who advanced to the national level of the MATHCOUNTS competition voted to determine the winning video.

[Access the 2021 finalist videos.](#)

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## Nominations Open for the QBS Awards

Every year, ACEC and NSPE partner to administer the [QBS Awards](#), recognizing public and private entities that make exemplary use of the qualifications-based selection process at the federal, state, and local levels. Award winners serve as examples of how well the QBS process works, and they help promote the practice in jurisdictions that do not use or underuse QBS to procure engineering services.

ACEC and NSPE are now seeking nominations for the 2021 QBS Awards by the deadline **Monday, June 7**. The awards are administered in three categories: federal government sector; state government sector; and nongovernment sector.

Nominations may originate from an ACEC member organization, an NSPE state society, a public or private entity, or an individual in the public or private sector. Self-nomination is not permitted.

[Learn more and download a nomination form.](#)

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## Boost Your Career with NSPE’s Spring Webinars

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This season's NSPE webinars will take place on Wednesdays starting at 2 p.m. EST. The webinars are available to members for \$99 (\$129 for nonmembers) and will include an online discussion and a 10-question quiz for the sessions to qualify for continuing education credit.

**May 26:** [Catapult Your Win Rate by 50%](#)

**June 2:** [Engineering Challenges of the 21st Century: A Discussion with Leaders of Engineering Change Lab – USA](#)

**June 9:** [Tools to Ensure Effective Litigation Preparation and Testimony as an Engineering Professional](#)

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