

## State News for NSPE Members

### Last Call: NSPE-DE Excellence Awards Nominations

The **Engineer of the Year** and **Young Engineer of the Year** are the most prestigious awards presented by NSPE-DE. These honors recognize individuals who provide sustained and unusual welfare, the advancement of the engineering profession, and/or service to humankind. New this year, we will be introducing a **Government Engineer of the Year** award. Individuals that are eligible for nomination must be currently engaged in the practice of engineering as an employee of the state, local or quasi-government agency in either a managerial or technical position.

If you know or work with someone who you think is deserving of either the Engineer of the Year, Government Engineer of the Year, or Young Engineer of the Year awards, don't hesitate to nominate them. The nomination deadline is **December 1, 2023**. Access nomination information [here](#).

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### Biden Visits Delaware to Promote \$16 Billion for Passenger Rail Projects

President Joe Biden, arguably the nation's biggest Amtrak fan, visited a train maintenance shop in his home state of Delaware on Monday to showcase more than \$16 billion in federal investments for rail travel along the busy Northeast Corridor, saying of long-delayed improvements, "we're finally getting it done."

The president highlighted spending to modernize 25 passenger train projects between Boston and Washington at an event in Bear, about 12 miles (20 kilometers) from Biden's home in Wilmington, the [AP reports](#).

"Why, in the United States of America, do we not have the best rail system in the world?" Biden asked. Noting that better train service in some of America's busiest locales would help ease car traffic and potentially reduce fossil fuel use, he added, "There's so much more we can do to better the environment and quality of life."

Amtrak runs about 800,000 trips daily on its Northeast Corridor, the White House says, which makes it the nation's busiest rail corridor. The funding for the rail improvements comes from the roughly \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure law that Biden signed nearly two years ago, one of several legislative achievements he's trumpeting in a presidential race that could feature a rematch against former President Donald Trump. From the law, Amtrak will get about \$66 billion in new investments, according to the White House. [Read more.](#)

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## Delaware DOT Seeks Input on Long Range Transportation Plan

The Delaware Department of Transportation has begun the process of updating the Long Range Transportation Plan with an estimated 2024 completion date. Over the coming months, the department is looking forward to gathering comments and suggestions to help provide a first class transportation system that helps to connect all Delawareans.

The purpose of a Long Range Transportation Plan is to identify broad goals, policies and priorities that will serve as a framework for shaping DeIDOT's transportation investments and decision-making over the next 20 years. To learn more about this planning effort, [check out the project website](#). Access the survey [here](#).

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## Wilmington Looks to Repair Aging Wastewater Infrastructure

Wilmington is getting over \$3 million from the US Environmental Protection Agency to rehabilitate and repair part of its aging wastewater infrastructure, the [Delaware Public Media reports](#).

The city will specifically target a mile and a half long stretch of combined sewer main constructed in the early 1900s using concrete or brick piping. The goal is to extend the life of the pipeline, improve flow control, and decrease localized flooding. The repairs could extend the life of the pipeline by 50 years.

"This interceptor project will improve the combined stormwater and sewer infrastructure that was originally built in the early 1900s. The focus of the Biden Administration is on important infrastructure needs in disadvantaged areas around the nation, and this award is a perfect example of meeting local needs," said Wilmington Mayor Mike Purzycki in a statement. "Our Public Works Department will now be able to reduce localized flooding while extending the life of the Prices Run infrastructure system by another half-century."

The project area will extend from West 28th Street between North Jefferson Street and Jessup Street all the way to the Brandywine River.

The Wilmington wastewater project is one of 715 water infrastructure projects nationwide receiving an EPA community grant - part of the agency's \$1.47 billion of spending this year on these projects across the country.

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## University of DE to Prepare the Clean Energy Workforce

The University of Delaware will play a leading role in workforce development efforts associated with the Mid-Atlantic Clean Hydrogen Hub (MACH2), which has been selected by the US Department of Energy to receive up to \$750 million in funding through the historic Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs program, [UDaily reports](#).

MACH2 was chosen as one of seven hydrogen hubs, totaling up to \$7 billion in grants, announced by the Energy Department on October 13. In stiff national competition, MACH2 ranked among the most pro-labor and greenest hubs in the nation, according to the Delaware Sustainable Chemistry Alliance, which brokered the proposal, involving industries, academic institutions, local governments and community partners from across Delaware, southeastern Pennsylvania, and South Jersey.

Hydrogen is the most abundant element in the universe, and the Energy Department is working to accelerate its use as a clean energy source and as a means to decarbonize heavy industry, transportation, and energy storage to meet President Biden's goal of a 100% clean electrical grid by 2035 and net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, with the regional hydrogen hubs leading the way.

MACH2 will encompass a network of hydrogen producers, consumers, local connective infrastructure for hydrogen deployment, and the education and training needed to develop the region's clean energy workforce. UD will lead the higher education component of MACH2's workforce development with Cheyney University, Rowan University, and the University of Pennsylvania.

"Collaboration is the key to success in strengthening our region's economy and advancing sustainable energy sources for the future. The University of Delaware is proud to lead MACH2's higher education workforce development initiatives in partnership with Cheyney, Rowan and Penn," said UD President Dennis Assanis. "Working together, we will provide new educational and research opportunities for our students and grow our region's skilled workforce for the high-paying clean-hydrogen jobs of today and the future." [Read more](#).

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## NSPE-DE Supports the Future of Engineering

NSPE-DE has opened the 2023–2024 scholarship program for Delaware high school seniors who plan to enroll in a college engineering program next fall. The **Delaware Engineering Society - Joe J. Welker Memorial Scholarship** provides \$1,500-\$4,000 for the freshman year.

Access scholarship criteria and applications forms [here](#). Applications are due on **December 31, 2023**.

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## **WANTED: Volunteers for the Delaware MATHCOUNTS Program**

Middle school students from across our state come together for the Delaware MATHCOUNTS Competition, the only in-person math competition of its kind. These students are some of the most capable and hardworking young mathematicians in our state. This program doesn't work without the engagement of professional engineers who can mentor and inspire them. NSPE-DE is seeking volunteers for the 2023-2024 MATHCOUNTS season. There are various opportunities to get involved and make a difference. For more information, contact James Taylor ([president@nspe-de.org](mailto:president@nspe-de.org)).

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

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## **Check Out the Latest Issue of *PE***

### [Future Forward](#)

Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and nanotechnology are revolutionizing the world. But these technologies are developing at a pace much faster than can be effectively absorbed into critical engineered infrastructure. The NSPE Emerging Technologies Committee is laser focused on ensuring that new technologies can benefit society and the profession with minimal risk to safety and security.



### [Claiming a Seat at the Table](#)

Does it ever seem like your ideas go unnoticed? Do you sometimes feel like you have stalled in your organization? Does it seem like your team is not getting the support it needs? If you want to “claim a seat at the table,” how you show up, use your influence, and communicate can be the difference between winning opportunities or not.

[Access the full issue online](#). Members who subscribe to the digital edition of *PE*

can also access the current and back issues.

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## Engineers Week 2024 — Welcome to the Future!

Founded by NSPE in 1951, [Engineers Week](#) (February 18–24, 2024) is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce. The latest theme for Engineers Week — **Welcome to the Future!** — seeks to inspire the next generation to play a vital role in innovating solutions to global challenges that impact future generations. By working together to develop new technologies, products, and opportunities, engineers create new possibilities that make the world a better place.



Engineers Week is a time for you to:

- Celebrate how engineers make a difference in our world.
- Add your voice to the conversation about the need for engineers, technicians, and technologists.
- Engage students in engineering.

[Access promotional resources.](#)

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## Share Your Views: Outreach to the Next Generation

What are you doing to promote the engineering profession to young people? Send your comments (250 words or less) to [pemagazine@nspe.org](mailto:pemagazine@nspe.org).

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