State's Natural Resources Department Seeks RFPs on Air Quality Projects

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Controls hosted a virtual public meeting on February 15 to solicit requests for proposals on projects that will improve air quality in the state.

A 2017 agreement between the federal government and the Volkswagen Corporation created an Environmental Mitigation Trust to fund projects that mitigate air quality impacts from high-emitting diesel vehicles and engines. Delaware’s share of the Environmental Mitigation Trust is approximately $9.6 million.

DNREC developed a mitigation plan to accept and distribute these funds to eligible projects. Bids are due by close of business on Monday, March 21. Access bid information here.

Lewes Considering Creating Its Own Transit Line

To ease chronic traffic congestion, Lewes is considering rolling out a transit service this summer. Called the Lewes Line, the city service would lease five buses from Delaware Transit Corporation to run on a loop with nine stops. DTC is offering to lease each retired DART First State bus for $1, according to an article in The Washington Post.

The line would connect areas like the downtown area, beaches, and the Cape May-Lewes ferry terminal. The projected cost of running the line is $150,000 annually; fares are projected to collect $20,000 per year.

Engineering the Future of Manufacturing

As researchers race to find the latest and greatest technologies the world needs to be more resilient and sustainable, one team of educators at the University of
Delaware is aiming to create a blueprint for a more renewable manufacturing future with a $3 million grant from the National Science Foundation, the UDaily reports.

"It's important to educate the new generation of engineers to try to change the mentality of how we're utilizing the limited resources we have," said Marianthi Ierapetritou, UD's Bob and Jane Gore Centennial Chair of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering.

She will lead the project as she works with Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Professors Dionisios Vlachos and Raul Lobo, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Associate Professor Hui Fang and Joseph R. Biden, Jr. School of Public Policy and Administration Assistant Professor Kalim Shah to launch the future manufacturing project in 2022.

The goal is to thoroughly examine existing literature around renewable products and processes in manufacturing, which will help researchers synthesize existing data and identify gaps in knowledge. From there, researchers can develop a framework for examining the potential economic, environmental and market impacts of alternative products and processes, while also evaluating the realistic probability of introducing new "green" solutions into existing supply chains and consumer markets.

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the NSPE Advocacy Center.

Virtual Federal Engineer of the Year Award Ceremony

The 2022 Federal Engineer of the Year Award winner will be announced on
February 24 (noon) during a virtual awards event on NSPE’s website and YouTube channel. The Society recently announced the top 10 finalists who have made extensive contributions to their organizations and also to the public that PEs ultimately serve.

The Federal Engineer of the Year Award, sponsored by the Professional Engineers in Government, honors engineers employed by a federal agency with at least 50 engineers worldwide.

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**Education Foundation Gifted $30,000 for Diversity Scholarship**

The NSPE Education Foundation is honored to announce a $30,000 donation from NSPE member Om P. Popli, P.E., P.L.S, the president and founder of Popli Design Group in Penfield, New York. This generous donation will establish a new scholarship to promote diversity in the profession by encouraging and supporting minority female students pursuing an engineering degree.

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.

The scholarship recipient will be required to reconfirm eligibility at the beginning of each year of study via a minimum GPA and proof of enrollment. This requirement not only establishes eligibility each year, but also serves as a continual “touch point” for the Education Foundation and the student, allowing for additional support and relationship-building throughout the student’s academic career.

**Supporting the Future of the Profession**

The NSPE Education Foundation is dedicated to fostering the next generation of engineering talent through its scholarship program. This new scholarship is a generous addition to other Education Foundation scholarships focused on creating a diverse profession. It also reaffirms the commitment of NSPE, the Education Foundation, and NSPE members to promoting diversity and tomorrow’s engineer.

A new [online submission platform](#) for the 2022 scholarships is now live. All applications must go through this platform for consideration. Students can apply for the following scholarships by **April 1**:

**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.

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**Reimagining the Possible During EWeek**

As a member of the DiscoverE coalition, NSPE’s mission includes outreach to young students and a call to engage, educate, and inspire more children and young adults to consider a career in engineering.

Visit NSPE’s Engineers Week [web page](#) for information and links to all of the various programs happening for this year’s celebration. This page also provides access to downloadable resources for individuals, state societies, and chapters to assist in planning and promoting events. Some of these items include program logos, ads, printable posters, and an Engineers Week Zoom background featuring the NSPE and DiscoverE logos.

NSPE will also be featuring women members/engineers on its social media channels to celebrate Girl Day ([Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day](#)) on February 24. This event is an excellent way to highlight the work and voices of female PEs to
highlight them as role models for girls interested in engineering as a career. If you know of any women engineers who would be good to feature, please contact Stacey Ober or Sean Woods.

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