

State News for NSPE Members

Bill Would Require Condo Inspections by Engineers or Architects

A Florida Senate bill (S.B. 1702) seeks to require more stringent inspections for high-rise multi-family residences in Florida following the Champlain Towers condo collapse in Surfside. Inspections would be required to be done by licensed engineers or architects, according to the [Tampa Bay Times](#).

Such buildings within three miles of a coastline would have to be inspected in their 20th year and every seven years after that. Other such buildings would have to be inspected in their 30th year and then every 10 years in perpetuity. The bill was passed unanimously by the Florida Senate's Community Affairs Committee in late January.

Florida Power & Light Now Has 50 Solar Energy Centers in the State

Florida Power & Light Company has put into service eight new solar energy centers, bringing its total to 50 centers installed statewide, [according to a news release](#). The centers generate enough clean, emissions-free energy to power approximately 750,000 homes throughout the state annually.

Recently, FPL said it expects to complete its goal of installing 30 million solar panels across Florida five years early—by the end of 2025. This represents the largest solar expansion in America.

Using Engineering to Unlock Answers to Medical Mysteries

An engineering professor at the University of Central Florida is using engineering

principles to solve the mystery of why the heart attack is the silent killer. Olusegun Ilegbusi conducted a study that used intra-vascular ultrasound imaging with computational fluid dynamics to help predict when a myocardial infarction may occur. The groundbreaking study examined conditions that might cause plaques in the coronary arteries may break off to cause a heart attack, according to a [UCF Today article](#).

The research was used by major drug manufacturers to study the effectiveness of their new heart disease drugs. Ilegbusi is also studying potential causes of and treatments for various cancers and sleep apnea.

“I take the human body as the ultimate engineering design,” Ilegbusi stated in the article. “I am excited by the challenge of utilizing engineering principles to unlock its mysteries. Such a formidable task requires the collaboration of multiple experts in diverse fields of medicine, engineering, computer science, materials science and advanced manufacturing.”

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.

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., PLS, 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.



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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