

## State News for NSPE Members

### Tennessee Offers New Pathways to the PE

The Tennessee Legislature passed a law that provides additional pathways for an individual to qualify to become a professional licensed engineer. The law (S.B. 2479), which also updates qualifications to become a licensed landscape architect, became effective on July 1.

The first pathway requires that a licensure applicant be a graduate of a four-year curriculum leading to a bachelor's degree (approved by the board) and must complete post-graduate coursework leading to a master's degree or higher in engineering (approved by the board). The candidate must also pass the FE and PE exams and have a minimum eight years of experience.

The second pathway allows an individual to apply for licensure if they have graduated from an ABET/ETAC-accredited four-year engineering technology program (approved by the board), hold a postgraduate degree in engineering from an institution with an ABET/EAC-accredited undergraduate engineering program (approved by the board), have a minimum eight years of experience, and have passed the FE and PE exams. [Read more.](#)

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### Broadband Access Funded by State Government

Tennessee Governor Bill Lee and Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Stuart McWhorter [announced](#) the state will award more than \$446 million in grants for the expansion of internet access across the state.

In total, the broadband infrastructure grants will provide broadband access to more than 150,000 unserved homes and businesses across 58 counties.

According to a 2020 Federal Communications Commission report, one in six rural Tennesseans lacks access to broadband. Since 2018, TNECD has awarded nearly \$120 million in broadband grants through state and federal funding to serve more

than 140,000 Tennessee households.

"To achieve economic growth and prosperity, it's imperative that Tennessee's communities have the proper infrastructure in place," McWhorter said.

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## Six Counties to Get Water Infrastructure Upgrades

Six water infrastructure grants will provide much-needed upgrades to existing system components in as many counties in Tennessee. The grants are part of \$3.7 billion American Rescue Plan funds sent to the state, according to the [Cheatham County Exchange](#). \$1.32 billion was designated for waterworks projects.

"We continue experiencing considerable growth across the state, and many of our communities require additional resources to address their evolving needs," Speaker of the House Cameron Sexton was quoted.

The grants went to Greene County, Johnson County, Unicoi County, Warren County, Mountain City, and Clarksville.

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

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## Moving the Society Closer to Our Vision

*By Britt Smith, P.E., F.NSPE, President 2022-2023*



What does NSPE mean to you? I'd like to try to tell you what it means to me. I began my career with a small civil engineering firm with a focus on municipal engineering. After a few years, I moved to the public works department in Jefferson City, Missouri. This is the same city where my wife and I have raised our three children. As a result, I've had the privilege of working for the community that I have called home most of my career.

Like many of you, I was approached by another engineer early in my career and asked to join NSPE. I have moved through various leadership and volunteer roles at the chapter, state, and national levels. I could not be more humbled to be the president of NSPE. I never dreamed that I would be in this position. As I got involved with NSPE, I met and built friendships with many wonderful engineers within my community, around the state, and across this great country. Each time I get involved and want to give back, I seem to receive so much more than I give. Our founder David Steinman probably had similar thoughts. Steinman understood that the technical problems of the various engineering disciplines are different, but

the interests of the profession are shared. He founded NSPE to unite the profession around those common interests. NSPE was created, and continues today, to be the single national professional society, with solidarity of purpose and concentration of strength, to provide for the professional interests of the engineering profession.

NSPE has adopted as our vision: A world where the public can be confident that the engineering decisions affecting their lives are made by qualified and ethically accountable professionals. Our vision statement is a simple statement, but a very powerful message. I heard once that the average engineer holds the lives of more people in their hands than any doctor could see in a lifetime. As I considered that statement, I couldn't help but think about the awesome responsibility we carry. NSPE was created and continues today to help all members of our profession fulfill that responsibility.

[Read more.](#)

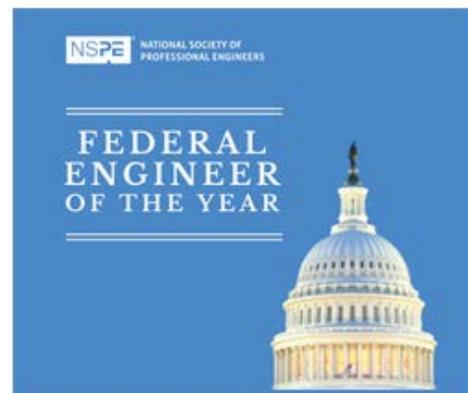
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## Nominations Open: Federal Engineer of the Year

Honoring the commitment of federal engineers to innovation and service is the hallmark of the [Federal Engineer of the Year Award](#).

Nominations for the award, which attracts participation from more than a dozen federal agencies, are open until October 31.

The FEYA ceremony is scheduled for February 24, 2023, at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. Tickets will be available for sale in January. [Apply or nominate a worthy engineer.](#)



### The 2022 Federal Engineer of the Year

**Robert Zueck, Ph.D., P.E.**, was named NSPE's 2022 Federal Engineer of the Year for his discoveries and contributions in the engineering field during a [virtual awards event](#) in February.

Prior to retirement, Zueck worked in the US Department of the Navy's Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC), Expeditionary Warfare Center at Port Hueneme, California. He is heralded for applying his vibration research to military defense projects for which engineers can now design beyond

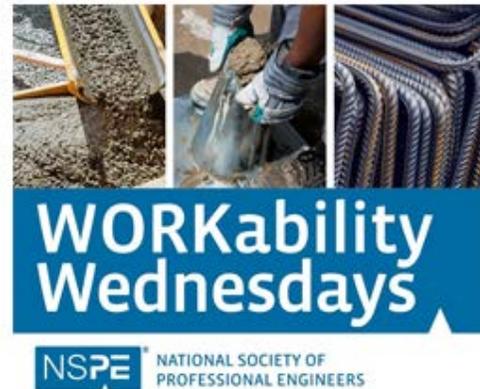


the speed, agility, and stealth limitations of many military sensors, weapons, and platforms. Find out more about Zueck in a [PE article](#).

## Access Free WORKability Wednesdays Webinars

The reviews of the [Engineering: Addressing Unintended Consequences as a Professional](#) webinar are excellent. “Applicable to all engineering disciplines,” says one attendee.

If you were busy this summer and missed it, there is time to watch this thought-provoking webinar at NSPE’s PE Institute. All webinars in the [spring series](#) are available free to members. Watch for more information soon about what to expect in the fall series lineup!



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