Tennessee PE Honored as FEYA Finalist

Christopher Saucier, P.E., was recently honored as a top 10 finalist for NSPE’s Federal Engineer of the Year Award for his work on the Tennessee Valley Authority’s Boone Dam Remediation Project in Kingsport, Tennessee. Saucier and the other finalists were recognized prior to the announcement of a winner during a virtual awards event on February 24. Robert Zueck, Ph.D., P.E., was named the 2022 FEYA winner.

The Federal Engineer of the Year Award, sponsored by the Professional Engineers in Government, honors engineers employed by a federal agency that employs at least 50 engineers worldwide. These nominees have made extensive contributions to their organizations and also to the public that PEs ultimately serve.

Leading Project Manager Brings Boone Dam Remediation to a Close
After nearly seven years of remediation work, Boone Dam is expected to reopen to the public this summer. Christopher Saucier, P.E., was the principal project manager and technical director for the Boone Dam Internal Erosion Remediation Project, the largest dam safety modification program in agency history. The final construction piece of the dam’s recovery, a composite seepage barrier (cutoff wall), is anticipated to provide value beyond remediation costs and ensure public safety through enhanced risk reduction measures. Guiding a team of 60 engineers,
geologists, and geographic information specialists, Saucier led development of new project structures and processes—coordinating efforts and communications between TVA design and construction teams and external contractors.

Aligned with the numerous technical advancements achieved during the project, Saucier facilitated new strategies for agency reviews and approvals required for project closure and reservoir operation, further advancing TVA’s implementation of risk-informed decision making. He also developed steps for evaluating project implementation impacts on TVA’s dam safety risk profile. Following the final stage of remediation, which demonstrated successful performance during reservoir refilling, an external independent review board recognized the project’s successful best practices as exemplary.

**Chattanooga Sewage System Upgrades Will Stop River Contamination**

Chattanooga’s sewer and storm water systems are receiving infrastructure upgrades in an effort to reduce sanitary sewer overflows after heavy rainfall. The city’s old sewer system combined sewage and rainfall into one system, causing repeated overflow into the Tennessee River, according to *Water and Wastes Digest*.

The project, “Clear Chattanooga,” includes major upgrades and revisions to portions of the wastewater system including pipe rehabilitation, pump station improvements, and upgrades to the Moccasin Bend Environmental Campus.

**Proposed Law Would Ban Blockage of Large Utility Projects by Municipalities**

Last summer, Memphis did something rare: it cancelled a major oil pipeline project from a multi-billion-dollar corporation, according to a WPLN News report.

The decision was celebrated by some Memphis residents and denounced by the fossil fuel company behind the project. Now, Tennessee lawmakers have introduced legislation that would preempt local governments from blocking future projects.

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

**Meet the 2022 Federal Engineer of the Year**

Robert Zueck, Ph.D., P.E., was named NSPE’s Federal Engineer of the Year during a virtual awards event on February 24 for his discoveries and contributions in the
engineering field. The Federal Engineer of the Year Award, sponsored by the Professional Engineers in Government, honors engineers employed by a federal agency that employs at least 50 engineers worldwide.

Zueck works 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.

“Every success for me has come out of the hard teamwork of many fellow engineers and scientists,” Zueck stated. “I thank them all—particularly those who provided valuable constructive criticism of my rather unique research results.”

In a basic research project conducted several years ago, Zueck discovered how geometrically complex vibrations initiate, grow, and sustain themselves, often limiting higher performance for many combat systems. He used this new vibration knowledge to improve the Expeditionary Warfare Center’s modeling capability for designing, analyzing, and deploying towed sensors, ship moorings, sub-sea arrays, and other slender naval structures.

“This basic science discovery could be very useful for modeling, simulating, and testing in many other fields of engineering and science,” he said.

Read more.

Mark Your Calendars: 2022 Professional Engineers Conference

The 2022 NSPE Professional Engineers Conference will bring together professional engineers across disciplines from August 1–3, in Philadelphia at the
Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown. Registration for the conference opens in April.

PECON attendees can access specialized content from experts as they discuss issues and trends impacting the profession, develop power skills and life skills not taught in school, and advance their careers by expanding their expertise and preparing for future developments in the industry.

The seventh annual PE Day will coincide with the conference’s culmination on August 3. These two events allow PEs to join their peers in celebration of the profession and advocacy for licensure.

NSPE will continue to monitor health and safety guidelines while we proceed toward hosting this in-person event.

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**2022 NSPE Student Scholarships Available**

Students can apply for the 2022 NSPE Education Foundation scholarships through a new online submission platform. The following scholarships have an *April 1* application deadline:

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.

**Coming soon!** 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.
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