

## State News for NSPE Members

### Infrastructure Improvements Needed to Avoid Weather-Related Outages

After a major ice storm knocked out power for more than 100,000 Memphis residents earlier this month, potential proactive solutions are being considered by various groups, according to an article in [the Tennessee Lookout](#).

Memphis Light, Gas and Water primarily blamed downed tree branches for the outages and said it needs more resources to remove limbs throughout the city. An aging infrastructure is also blamed. MLGW's president said the utility has engaged with other city utilities on preparedness tactics to inform its [infrastructure improvement plan](#). In a 2019 master plan, the Shelby County Office of Resilience recommended implementing a smart grid to [mitigate power outages](#). However, cybersecurity risks and higher costs are stumbling blocks to such a solution.

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### \$5.6 Billion Ford Plant Will Bring Construction Jobs, Development to West TN

Engineering businesses could stand to benefit from Ford's Blue Oval City, the construction of which is expected to bring 3,000 workers on site each day by year's end, according to HTL Advantage President Mark Herbison, as quoted by [commercialappeal.com](#). That number will likely increase to 8,000 workers a day in 2023, he said. HTL Advantage is an economic development coalition of three West Tennessee counties—Haywood, Tipton, and Lauderdale.

About 3,500 permanent jobs are expected to be created by the \$5.6 billion Ford plant. Local and state officials believe that it could transform Western Tennessee. Other professions that could benefit from the project include architects, homebuilders, and trucking companies. Production at the facility is slated to begin in 2025.

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NSPE's Job Board is your one-stop resource for professional engineering employment. Whether you are on the hunt for your next career move or looking for today's top engineering leaders and talent, you will find it here.

NSPE provides the tools PEs need to keep current in the profession and advance their careers.

### **Featured Jobs**

[Mechanical Design Engineer](#)

[Minority Educational Institution Student Partnership Program](#)

Oak Ridge, TN

*Find more job openings or reach the right employees on the [NSPE Job Board](#).*

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

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## **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., 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.



**NSPE** EDUCATION FOUNDATION  
NATIONAL SOCIETY OF  
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

## Congratulations to the 2021 Scholarship Winners!

					
<b>Markie Ash</b> Auxiliary Legacy Scholarship George B. Hightower, P.E. Fellowship	<b>Michael Kadus</b> Steinman Scholarship	<b>Robert Schneider</b> Steinman Scholarship	<b>Annabel Sharnowski</b> Steinman Scholarship	<b>Noah Struck</b> Steinman Scholarship	<b>Jacob Witlin</b> Steinman Scholarship

*Congratulations also to Blitman Scholarship Recipient: Justin Sivasothy*

## 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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