

## State News for NSPE Members

### Governor Pietro Cancels Electric Power Authority Restructuring Deal

Governor Pedro Pierluisi's administration has cancelled a proposed debt restructuring deal for the Electric Power Authority, [NBC News reports](#). The agency holds \$9 billion in debt; the restructuring was considered crucial for economic healing in Puerto Rico by economists.

The governor, however, said it was unfeasible because it wasn't using smart fiscal practices and would leave the government with more debt than assets. At least one economist agreed, saying that the agreement would have resulted in higher power bills even while experiencing ongoing outages.

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### Nonprofit Trains Women for Skilled Jobs, Works Toward Water Supply Resiliency

The Mesa Multisectorial del Bosque Modelo de Puerto Rico is a nonprofit organization that trains local women to install renewable energy systems in their communities that are rebuilding. The organization aims to promote sustainable development in Puerto Rico's rural communities while promoting resiliency.

According to [DirectRelief](#), Bosque Modelo is striving to not only develop renewable energy and an uninterrupted water supply, but also to add jobs to the region.

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

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### 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.](#)

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## Mark Your Calendars: 2022 Professional Engineers Conference



August  
1-3  
2022  
Philadelphia, PA  
Sheraton Philadelphia  
Downtown

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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