

State News for NSPE Members

Cyberattack Targets Toll Collection System

Puerto Rican authorities said hackers targeted an electronic toll collection system called AutoExpreso, run by private operator Professional Account Management, the [Associated Press reported](#) in April. Other cyberattacks have plagued the island in recent years, as well.

Back in 2020, an online scam tried to steal more than \$4 million from Puerto Rican government agencies, forcing authorities to freeze nearly \$3 million. Also that year, hackers targeted the database of Puerto Rico's fire department and demanded \$600,000 in an alleged extortion act.

Nonprofit Laying the Groundwork for Solar Power

About 400 homes and businesses in the central Puerto Rican community of Adjuntas have solar power, thanks to Casa Pueblo. The nonprofit, which works toward conservation, has helped provide a small solar network for the area that can withstand blackouts using backup batteries, the [New York Times reported](#).

During outages, the organization's headquarters can also be used by people who use medical devices that need to be powered. Casa Pueblo's solar installations are funded by local and international foundations, and by sales of coffee grown in Adjuntas. The organization is working to spread solar power in other parts of Puerto Rico, as well.

Just 2.5% of the island's energy comes from solar power in large part due to the cost of solar panels being a barrier for many residents.

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

Register Now for NSPECon 2022 Reimagined



Engineers from all disciplines are invited to register for the [2022 NSPE Professional Engineers Conference](#) (NSPECon 2022) in Philadelphia, August 1-3. Invited speakers will address sustainability, emerging technology, the post-covid workplace and even, construction on the moon. Whether you are a licensed professional engineer, aspire to be one or, would like to learn more about a career as a qualified and ethically accountable professional, you are invited to join this multi-discipline community to engage with colleagues and hear more about relevant engineering topics.

Prospective conference sponsors and exhibitors will see [newly created opportunities](#) to highlight their companies and organizations throughout the conference. Sponsors can welcome attendees to the “Feel the Philly Love” opening reception, support a conference education track featuring seven unique sessions, or demonstrate how their solutions help clients overcome specific challenges by exhibiting.

On the final day of the conference, attendees can celebrate [PE Day](#) in person and raise awareness about the importance of PEs as qualified and ethical professionals. Before you go, make certain you are geared up with [PE Day logo wear](#) to show your pride on-site.

2022 QBS Award Nominations Open

ACEC and NSPE are seeking nominations for the [QBS Awards program](#), which recognizes public and private entities that make exemplary use of the qualifications-based selection process at the federal, state, and local levels.

Award winners [serve as examples of how well the QBS process works](#), and they help ACEC and NSPE promote the practice of QBS in jurisdictions that do not use, or underuse, QBS to procure engineering services. A maximum of one QBS Award

may be presented to the federal government sector, the state government sector (includes all governmental units under the state level), and nongovernment sector.

Nominations may originate from an ACEC member organization, an NSPE state society, a public or private entity, or an individual in the public or private sector. Self-nomination is not permitted.

Nominations and supporting materials are due by **Friday, June 17** (COB). [Access the nomination form and instructions](#) .

Scholarships Open for Applications

The Swadesh and Om P. Popli, P.E., P.L.S. Scholarship and the William R. Kimel, P.E., Engineering Scholarship are accepting applications from students pursuing engineering degrees in the fall. The application deadline is **June 15**.

The [Swadesh and Om P. Popli, P.E., P.L.S. Scholarship](#) is a multi-year scholarship that will provide \$5,000 each year of the recipient's four-year education. Applicants must be a female high school senior from an underrepresented ethnic minority (African American, Hispanic, Native American, or Pacific Islander) pursuing a degree in civil, electrical, or mechanical engineering at an ABET-accredited program.

The [William R. Kimel, P.E., Engineering Scholarship](#) is a \$2,500 scholarship awarded annually to an undergraduate student who is a resident of either Kansas or Missouri and enrolled as a junior in an ABET-accredited engineering program in a college or university in either Kansas or Missouri.

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