

## State News for NSPE Members

### Cooperative Initiative Will Spur Modernization and Energy Projects in Puerto Rico

The US Department of Energy, the Departments of Homeland Security and Housing and Urban Development, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico have launched a new effort to accelerate work to strengthen the island's grid resilience and advance new initiatives to enhance Puerto Rico's energy future. The parties created a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) that enhances collaboration among Federal agencies and the commonwealth, and kickstarts the [PR100 Study](#).

The PR100 Study is a community-driven and locally-tailored roadmap to help the island meet its target of 100% renewable electricity, improve power sector resiliency, and increase access to more affordable energy and cleaner air, according to a [news release from DHS](#). Dozens of grid modernization projects will start construction this year, and Puerto Rico's utility will sign contracts for at least 2GW of renewable energy and 1GW of energy storage projects. The plan is in line with the Biden Administration's 2050 goal of a net-zero carbon economy.

*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.



EDUCATION FOUNDATION  
NATIONAL SOCIETY OF  
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

## Congratulations to the 2021 Scholarship Winners!



**Markie Ash**  
Auxiliary Legacy  
Scholarship  
George B.  
Hightower, P.E.  
Fellowship



**Michael  
Kadus**  
Steinman  
Scholarship



**Robert  
Schneider**  
Steinman  
Scholarship



**Annabel  
Sharnowski**  
Steinman  
Scholarship



**Noah  
Struck**  
Steinman  
Scholarship



**Jacob  
Witlin**  
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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