

State News for NSPE Members

Governor Announces New Modern Transit Hub

Governor Dan McKee announced on May 12 that the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) has taken the first step in making the proposed Dorrance Street Transit Center in Downtown Providence a reality, according to a [news release](#). The process, which began with the state transit agency publishing an on-line "[Request for Expressions of Interest](#)" (REOI) is designed to tap the expertise of private developers across the country for bold, innovative ideas to guide the construction and operations of the new facility.

The Dorrance Street Transit Center will replace Kennedy Plaza as RIPTA's central bus depot. The proposal envisions a mixed-use development that will include an enclosed intermodal transit center and RIPTA administrative offices, as well as an adjacent mixed-use transit-oriented development (TOD). In contrast to the current sprawling footprint of Kennedy Plaza, spread out across an urban park, the Transit Center will provide a single organized location.

The REOI invites interested parties from the private sector to submit concepts for the development of the new Transit Center under a joint development or public-private-partnership ("P3") arrangement. The REOI is designed to gauge initial industry interest in the development opportunity, as well as to seek industry perspective and feedback on diverse project considerations. From there, the responses will help RIPTA plan and execute the project. [Read more.](#)

U of Rhode Island Partnership Makes Impact on Research and Workforce Development

When the [National Institute for Undersea Vehicle Technology](#) (NIUVT) was formed in 2017 as a partnership of the University of Rhode Island, the University of Connecticut, and General Dynamics Electric Boat, it created collaborative opportunities in applied research, technology transition and workforce development.

"The institute educates individuals for the shipbuilding industry, transitioning not only technologies, but a solid knowledge-base to further advance the next generation and next platforms of undersea vehicles," said Arun Shukla, the institute's co-director of NIUVT and URI Simon Ostrach Professor of Mechanical, Industrial, and Systems Engineering, in a [URI News article](#).

The National Institute for Undersea Vehicle Technology has had a profound impact on the local economy by preparing students for defense-related careers, providing further education for those working in the defense industry, and partnering with governmental agencies and companies that have defense contracts.

More than \$16 million has been awarded to URI for institute research projects and workforce development, including \$5.5 million for 20 projects this year. Funding for this year's projects was approved on April 12.

When the institute was created, 12 technical areas were identified as having strategic importance to the Navy with regard to undersea vehicle technologies. URI and UConn have a rich history of research and collaboration with the Navy in these areas. All five of URI's engineering departments—chemical; civil and environmental; electrical, computer and biomedical; mechanical, industrial and systems; and ocean engineering—are represented in the collaborative's research projects. [Read more](#).

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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