

Wyoming Engineering & Surveying Society

“Support and Enhance Participation Among Individuals Involved in the Engineering and Surveying Professions in the State of Wyoming”

2023 started off with the 103rd convention in Casper, Wyoming, on February 1st and 2nd. Despite Wyoming’s relentless 2022/2023 winter and several closed roads, the conference was well attended with 327 registered attendees. As the WES Board continues to evolve towards providing a hybrid conference (live and virtual), we have experienced growing pains of recording four presentations in progress at any one time. We are working more closely with our host facilities to ensure internet and bandwidth services are adequate to provide 4 well recorded presentations at a time. Our goal - to deliver a positive experience to our attendees and members.

The keynote speaker, Yellowstone National Park Superintendent, Mr. Cam Sholly, provided a fantastic presentation with great video footage from the June 13, 2022, flooding event in Yellowstone National Park. Mr. Sholly shared information about the flood event itself, depicting time lapsed video indicating how quickly conditions were changing during the event. He highlighted the recovery efforts by park staff, local partners, contractors, and private entities to assist in having the southern end of the park open in 8 days and the northern end of the park open in 20 days to accommodate the 2022 visitor season. The response and recovery efforts were fantastic considering the extensive damage caused by the event.

In 2022 and early 2023, WES provided approximately \$30,000 to University of Wyoming students in the form of scholarships and Student of the Year Awards. The Wyoming Engineering and Surveying Society believes strongly in supporting UW engineering and surveying students and continues to do so annually through our robust and healthy scholarship and award program. A big thank you to our membership and convention attendees who support this important endeavor.

One surveying project was submitted for the 2022 Project of the Year award. The Project of the Year was awarded to the Wyoming Department of Transportation for their project utilizing precision survey and machine guidance to remove deep snowpack to open Wyoming mountain pass highways in the Spring each year. The 2022 Engineer of the Year was awarded by President Harrison Carter to Mr. Ryan Kobbe for the positive influence he has had on the profession in Wyoming and supporting UW engineering students through their academics and helping them as they transition to their working careers.

Mr. Gary Grigsby has announced that he will be stepping down as WES’s Executive Director after the 2024 Convention. A big thank you to Gary who has made a positive impact on the growth and advancement of WES in the past 9 years. The use of Cvent to provide registration and class attendance has saved the Society time and money and made the experience better for our members. The WES Board has established a committee of seasoned members to provide guidance to the search and hiring process for our next Executive Director. We will be actively working to fill this vacancy to allow the new individual to work alongside Gary through the preparation, programming, and hosting of the 2024 convention. PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THIS UPCOMING POSITION.

Planning and preparation have begun for the 104th Convention, which will be held in Laramie, Wyoming on February 7-8, 2023. Please watch closely for the Call for Presentations that will be issued mid-summer and get your name on the presenters list. We look forward to another successful conference and are excited to have the UW Gateway Center and the Hilton Garden Inn hosting us. We strongly encourage anyone who would like to volunteer to help with the conference, serve on a WES committee, or join the WES Executive Board, to reach out to a WES Board member.

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WES President
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