

AN OFFICIAL NCEES PUBLICATION FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION, OPINIONS, AND IDEAS REGARDING THE LICENSURE OF ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NCEES HOSTS SUMMIT FOR ENGINEERING LEADERS

Faculty licensure, education requirements on the agenda

DAVID L. WHITMAN, PH.D., P.E.
NCEES PRESIDENT



One of the most rewarding experiences of being the NCEES president is meeting with leaders from other professional groups with an interest in licensure. One recent example was the sixth annual Leadership Summit that we hosted in December in Clemson. This summit includes the presidents, presidents-elect, and executive directors of NCEES, ABET, the National Society of Professional Engineers, and the American Society of Civil Engineers. This group represents some of the key players in the licensure of

professional engineers. The summit gives us an opportunity for frank discussion. Sometimes it leads to a plan for cooperation and sometimes to an agreement to disagree.

We discussed a number of subjects at this meeting, but let me touch on a few areas.

NCEES made a brief presentation on the use of the FE exam for outcomes assessment in ABET accreditation. I believe that this enlightened some of the

leaders who didn't realize the effectiveness of this exam for measuring continuous improvement of a program's curriculum. There was some discussion on having ABET

require all institutions to use this exam as part of the accreditation process, with some frank discussion on the fact that some institutions receive ABET accreditation while performing very poorly on the FE exam. The latter situation can occur because those institutions simply choose other methods of assessment in order to meet ABET standards. No concrete answers were proposed for either issue, but at least both remain on the minds of the ABET leadership.

Everyone agreed it would be beneficial to get more faculty licensed, but for a variety of reasons. Not only should they be licensed in order to meet the letter of the law in many jurisdictions, but licensed faculty would be proponents of licensure to their students. Students need to hear the positive aspects of licensure from those who are most influential during their education. NSPE agreed to develop a plan to educate students on the value of licensure, and NCEES gave them a copy of our Speaker's Kit as a starting point.

Much discussion was held on international licensure issues and the desire for all four groups to coordinate their efforts. The most common message that needs to be reinforced is that the United States does not have a national licensure system. As you know, the individual licensure boards develop the rules and regulations for their jurisdiction. Agreements such as the Washington Accord don't necessarily automatically put a candidate

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Careful review of budget necessary to protect Council assets

The Council follows sound fiscal procedures, but it is constantly evaluating how they are working and how they can be improved.

The NCEES *Bylaws* specifies, “An annual budget shall be prepared and submitted to the Council for approval.” Sounds simple enough. But before the Council votes on a budget at the Annual Meeting, it goes through a number of important steps in the development process.

NCEES staff began developing the draft 2010–11 budget in October. In December, Finance Committee Chair James Foley, P.E., and I met with staff to comprehensively review the budgeted income and expenditures for each department.

Next, the president, president-elect, and I will review the draft budget before it moves to the Committee on Finances, which will meet March 6. The Board of Directors will then give a final review of the proposed budget—submitted as part of the Finance Committee’s conference report—at its May meeting. Only then will it be ready for the Council’s review ahead of the Annual Meeting in August.

It’s a long and difficult process, certainly, but a wholly necessary one. NCEES has put strong internal controls in place to protect the integrity of financial reporting and to safeguard assets. The Council follows sound fiscal procedures, but it is constantly evaluating how they are working and how they can be improved.

Addressing Credentials Evaluations expenses

Of particular concern to me has been the financial deficit for NCEES Credentials Evaluations. I started noticing the service’s “red ink” when I was elected to the Board of Directors as Southern Zone Vice President in August 2007. While I am a strong supporter of NCEES Credentials Evaluations and the valuable (and high quality) service it provides to Member Boards, I have been very uncomfortable with the fact that it is projected to continue losing significant sums of money in the coming years. For this reason, I strongly proposed re-evaluating—and changing if necessary—its business model.

I am very pleased that the Board of Directors voted at its November 2009 meeting to instruct Executive Director Carter to come up with a new business plan to reduce the financial shortfall of the Credentials Evaluations service. As a result of this decision, our office in Miami will be closed and its operations moved to Clemson. In addition, an advisory group will develop a less complicated process to evaluate non-EAC/ABET programs.

While it may take several years to make a complete financial turnaround for the Credentials Evaluations service, there is no question that this action will begin to reduce (hopefully quickly) the large losses the Council has been experiencing over the last few years from its operations. It is my

belief that these actions can be taken without any sacrifice in the quality of evaluations or disruption in service to Member Boards. They will certainly have a positive impact on the overall Council budget in the years to come.

Year-end projections are positive

Since stepping into the treasurer's office last year, I have had an opportunity to see first-hand how the Council budget process works. We are striving to use realistic projections for budget numbers. We always follow sound fiscal procedures, track revenue and expenses carefully, and use strong internal controls.

As a result of this process, it appears that the year-end projections will be positive and there will be a surplus for 2009–10. I believe that this surplus will be needed in the future in case NCEES decides to adopt computer-based testing or for implementing the additional education initiative.

Committee on Finances

Chair: James Foley, P.E.
(California Board member)

Members: 9

The Committee on Finances is a standing committee that studies the financial needs of the Council and recommends means of securing adequate funds for its operation.

Each year, it works with NCEES officers and staff to compile the budget for the following fiscal year, which is presented to the Council during the Annual Meeting. It also reviews the audit from the previous fiscal year.

Board of Directors liaison:
Gene Dinkins, P.E., P.L.S.
2009-10 charges: 4

The committee is occasionally charged with reviewing existing financial policies or proposing new ones to address Council issues. This year, it will consider revising the financial policy on travel expenses to reimburse the cost for one first-time attendee from each Member Board to attend the Annual Meeting. (This would be in addition to the funding currently provided for one delegate from each Member Board.)



NCEES gets a fast start to the new year

As an organization, we are truly blessed to have so many individuals committed to improving the engineering and surveying professions in order to better serve the public.

Despite the hurdles of the winter weather that hit much of the nation, NCEES committees and task forces were very busy at the start of 2010.

For the first five weekends of the new year, NCEES hosted exam committees as they evaluated the performance of our exams, created new items for the item banks, and put the finishing touches on future exams. During this same period, standing committees and task forces met in various parts of the country to address their assigned charges.

MBA meeting preparations

Currently, we are hard at work finalizing details for a meeting of the Member Board Administrators' Networking Group, which will be held at NCEES headquarters on February 10.

This will be the second such meeting for the MBAs. In 2008, the Board of Directors authorized this meeting to be held biennially, alternating years with the Board Presidents' Assembly. This essentially means that the MBA Networking Group meets annually: one year in conjunction with the Board Presidents' Assembly and the next year as a group at NCEES.

NCEES funds the administrator for each Member Board to attend this meeting. This year, we are allowing Member Boards to fund other members of their senior staff to attend this very informative meeting.

The 2010 meeting will include presentations by various NCEES directors and managers on the services provided to Member Boards and their applicants and licensees; an update on the development of the examinee management system, which will first be used for the October 2010 exam administration; and a presentation by Michael Milligan, Ph.D., P.E., the executive director of ABET.

None of these meetings could happen without the concerted effort of a number of dedicated professionals who freely give their time and expertise to help NCEES. As an organization, we are truly blessed to have so many individuals committed to improving the engineering and surveying professions in order to better serve the public. We say it often, but can never say it enough: we very much appreciate your efforts.

Relocation of credentials evaluations

At its November meeting, the Board of Directors charged me with developing and implementing a plan to relocate the credentials evaluations service from Miami to the NCEES headquarters in Clemson (see "From the Treasurer," page 2). The plan has not been formalized yet, but I anticipate that the move will take place in early 2011.

Examinee management system set for October 2010 administration

New system expected to improve security and efficiency

Ensuring the integrity of engineering and surveying licensure exams is an integral part of our efforts to protect the public. NCEES staff is nearing the completion of a new tool to strengthen those efforts: the examinee management system.

Beginning with the October 2010 administration, all exam candidates will be required to register with NCEES through our Web site after they have been qualified by the appropriate licensing board.

This online system will allow boards to track a candidate's exam attempts across jurisdictions. This will strengthen exam security and allow boards to better enforce limits on exam attempts. It will also offer several optional features previously only available to boards using NCEES exam administration services, including

- Examinee seat cards, arranged to separate candidates taking the same exam
- Proctor rosters, with examinees divided into groups of 24 per proctor
- Online exam authorization notices
- Online score notices

How it works

When registering, candidates will select their exam (and afternoon module if applicable) and an exam location. At that point, NCEES will issue the candidate an identification number.

During the registration period, Member Boards or their testing services will be able to view registered candidates through the NCEES Web site. They must indicate whether each candidate has been approved to sit for the exam at his or her chosen location. When registration closes, there will be a one-week reconciliation period for boards to finalize their approvals. Exam orders will then automatically be generated from this list.

Prior to the exam dates, NCEES will send the boards a master roster of all registered and approved candidates. Only candidates appearing on the master roster will be admitted to the exam. This policy will apply to all Member Boards—not just those using NCEES exam administration services.

The examinee management system will require some new practices, but NCEES will continue to keep the staff at the Member Boards informed so that these changes can be implemented without disrupting the exam process.

STEVEN F. MATTHEWS
NCEES DIRECTOR OF
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



When will it happen?

Early July

Registration window opens for the October 2010 exam administration. Candidates who have been qualified by their board to sit for an exam will register through ncees.org. Member Boards (or their agents) can view registered candidates and mark their approval status until September 20.

September 12

Registration window closes. No additions will be allowed after this deadline.

September 13-20

Reconciliation period. Member Boards must finalize the approval status for all registered candidates.

September 20

Deadline for all exam orders.

Early October

NCEES will provide master rosters to all Member Boards. Only candidates appearing on the master roster will be admitted to the exam.

October 29-30

Exam administration

NCEES supports EWeek outreach activities

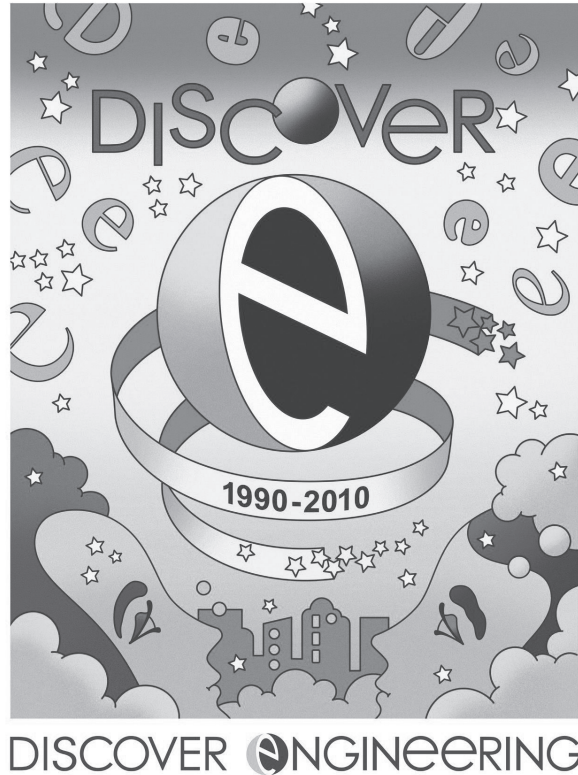
2010 initiatives encourage K-12 students to discover engineering

The people behind Engineers Week 2010 are hoping that some of today's egg bungee jump builders become tomorrow's breakthrough engineers.

With Engineers Week coming up February 14–20, NCEES and other society and corporate sponsors of the National Engineers Week Foundation are calling attention to the ways engineers can share their enthusiasm for applied math and science with schoolchildren throughout the country.

Among the range of outreach opportunities is the Future City Competition, a popular event that features teams of middle school students using engineering principles to design cities that address issues such as transportation, infrastructure, and sustainability. NCEES sponsors the Best Land Surveying Practices award at the national competition and sends representatives to the event to judge entries. Another program under the Engineers Week umbrella is DiscoverE, which encourages engineers to demonstrate to K–12 students the types of things engineers do in their daily work. DiscoverE includes lesson plans for engineering activities, including the aforementioned egg bungee jump and a makeshift solar oven.

“The goal of the EWeek activities is to show students that engineering involves creative thinking and collaboration and it's a rewarding career for people who want to improve the world around them,” said Davy McDowell, P.E., associate executive director at NCEES.



This year marks the 20th anniversary of Engineers Week DiscoverE outreach program. Volunteers use its educational materials to promote engineering to 5.5 million students and teachers in K-12 each year.

A source of financial support

As a member of the EWeek steering committee, NCEES provides financial support and leadership to the National Engineers Week Foundation, which organizes the year-round programs that culminate with the events of February 14–20. Many of the other society sponsors, such as the National Society of Professional Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and IEEE-USA, are members of the NCEES Participating Organizations Liaison Council.

The American Society of Civil Engineers is a co-chair of Engineers Week 2010, along with ExxonMobil. Each year, one engineering society and one corporation serve as co-chairs for Engineers Week. NCEES is currently slated for 2013.

Continued support for other outreach activities

Other programs aimed at middle and high school students have also received funding from NCEES recently.

At its November meeting, the NCEES Board of Directors authorized a one-time contribution of \$20,000 to the MATHCOUNTS Foundation (www.mathcounts.org). This is in addition to \$5,000 that was already pledged to the foundation.

MATHCOUNTS is a popular program for students in grades 6–8 that features math competitions and a club program that provides schools with the structure and materials for math clubs.

In January, NCEES renewed its sponsorship of the Junior Engineering Technical Society (www.jets.org), a program for high school students to answer questions about engineering careers and provide guidance on studying engineering in college. JETS sponsors a team competition that presents challenges focused on engineering-related themes.

NCEES is also continuing its financial support of TrigStar, an annual high school mathematics competition organized by the National Society of Professional Surveyors. The TrigStar program (www.nspsmo.org) promotes the study of trigonometry and builds awareness of the surveying profession among high school students, guidance counsellors, and math teachers.

Teaching engineering design may boost learning of science and math

The introduction of K–12 engineering education could improve achievement in science and math, increase awareness about what engineers do and of engineering as a potential career, and boost technological literacy, according to a report from the National Academy of Engineering and the National Research Council. The report, *Engineering in K–12 Education*, examines the status and nature of efforts to teach engineering in U.S. schools.

“The problem solving, systems thinking, and teamwork aspects of engineering can benefit all students, whether or not they ever pursue an engineering career,” said Linda Katehi, chancellor of the University of California–Davis and chair of the committee that wrote the report. “A K–12 education that does not include at least some exposure to engineering is a lost opportunity for students and for the nation.”

While science, technology, engineering, and mathematics instruction is collectively referred to as “STEM education,” the report finds that the engineering component is often absent in policy discussions and in the classroom.

The committee found that engineering education opportunities in schools have expanded in the past 15 years. Since the early 1990s, the report estimates, about 6 million children have been exposed to some formal engineering coursework. However, this number is still small compared with the overall number of K–12 students (approximately 56 million in 2008). The committee noted the challenges to expanding availability and improving the quality of these programs, including the absence of content standards to guide development of instructional materials, limited pre-service education for teachers, and impediments to including this subject in an already crowded curriculum.

With these challenges in mind, the committee recommended beginning a national dialogue on preparing K–12 teachers and identifying models for K–12 engineering education that will work for different school types. It also noted the importance of clarifying the meaning of “STEM literacy” and of developing curricula that appeal to groups typically underrepresented in engineering, such as girls, African-Americans, and Hispanics.

The full report is available from the National Academies Press (www.nap.edu).

National Academies news release
September 9, 2009

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NCEES renames FE exam module

Name changed to aid examinees' module selection

NCCEES has renamed one of the modules for its Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam. The Other/General module will be known as the Other Disciplines module beginning with the April 2010 exam.

While the content of the module has not changed, the new name more accurately reflects the examinees for whom the module is intended.

“The afternoon portion of the FE tests knowledge that’s usually gained in the final two years of an engineering degree, so it makes sense that examinees would perform better on the module corresponding to their specialty.”

All FE examinees take a common module in the morning and one of seven modules in the afternoon, choosing a discipline-specific module (Chemical, Civil, Electrical, Environmental, Industrial, or Mechanical) or the Other Disciplines module.

“In most cases, you should choose the module that best corresponds to your degree. If your degree is not in one of these major engineering disciplines, you should choose the Other Disciplines module,” said Tim Miller, P.E., director of exam services at NCEES.

Miller explained that examinees with degrees that fall into the discipline-specific modules typically have higher pass rates when they select the module matching their degree rather than the Other Disciplines module.

“The afternoon portion of the FE tests knowledge that’s usually gained in the final two years of an engineering degree, so it makes sense that examinees would perform better on the module corresponding to their specialty,” he said.

New specifications

The Architectural PE exam has new specifications for the April 2010 exam. Additionally, the specifications for the Transportation module of the Civil PE exam have been revised to clarify Section V, Other Topics. The fundamental topic has not changed but has been revised to more clearly define the topics that are covered.

Exam specifications are available online at ncees.org. Updated study materials for the Architectural PE exam are available from

the Architectural Engineering Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

2010 approved calculators

NCEES has approved the following calculators for use during the April and October 2010 exam administrations:

- **Casio:** All **fx-115** models. Any Casio calculator must contain fx-115 in its model name.
- **Hewlett-Packard:** The **HP 33s** and **HP 35s** models, but no others
- **Texas Instruments:** All **TI-30X** and **TI-36X** models. Any Texas Instruments calculator must contain either TI-30X or TI-36X in its model name.

Calculators not included within the above descriptions are not permitted in the exam room.

“This is our third year with this list,” said Miller. “Examinees, proctors, and state licensing boards have been happy with it, and NCEES felt that it continued to protect exam integrity while offering some flexibility.”

UPDATE

October 2009 exam pass rates

FE EXAMINATION

FE pass rates for examinees who attended

EAC/ABET-accredited engineering programs:

Examination Module	First-Time Takers	Repeat Takers
Chemical	87%	61%
Civil	74%	29%
Electrical	71%	25%
Environmental	82%	37%
Industrial	65%	26%
Mechanical	78%	27%
Other/General	73%	28%

*FE pass rates for FE Other/General module by
examinee degree:*

Examinees' Degree Discipline	First-Time Takers	Repeat Takers
Aeronautical/Aerospace	87%	29%
Agricultural	79%	63%
Architectural	71%	35%
Biological	83%	46%
Chemical	81%	37%
Civil	69%	25%
Electrical	58%	26%
Engineering Mechanics	60%	16%
Environmental	68%	35%
General Engineering	78%	29%
Mechanical	79%	34%
Mining/Mineral	58%	25%
Petroleum	55%	60%
Structural	71%	39%

PE EXAMINATION

Examination	First-Time Takers	Repeat Takers
Agricultural	80%	0%
Chemical	80%	33%
Civil	61%	28%
Control Systems	81%	60%
Electrical and Computer	63%	22%
Environmental	75%	39%
Fire Protection	64%	43%
Industrial	67%	21%
Mechanical	69%	36%
Metallurgical and Materials	56%	33%
Mining and Mineral Processing	73%	38%
Nuclear	79%	80%
Petroleum	83%	29%
Structural I	45%	28%
Structural II	65%	36%

SURVEYING EXAMINATIONS

Examination	First-Time Takers	Repeat Takers
FS	62%	25%
PS	67%	37%

Registrant responsibility extends beyond our own work

Most of the public do not have the tools or training to review a professional's work; it is really our responsibility to police our own ranks.

When we become licensed, we take an oath to safeguard the life, health, property, and welfare of the public. I believe that in our direct contact with the public, all of us strive to practice ethical standards to achieve this lofty goal. However, an area that is frequently overlooked is discipline within our own ranks. Often, we come across an error or infraction made by a fellow registrant. Part of our professional responsibility is to inform the regulatory board of any person or firm that is in violation of statutes or regulations.

I agree that it is uncomfortable to make a report against a colleague; however, if an infraction is not addressed, the damage to our profession can be dramatic. Being self-employed for over two decades, I can tell you that it takes 20-plus well-satisfied clients to overcome a poorly completed project. If a member of the public is harmed in some way by a colleague's work, it damages our whole profession. Most of the public do not have the tools or training to review a professional's work; it is really our responsibility to police our own ranks.

Most of the time, infractions are very minor in nature; being human, we all make errors. Most statutes or regulations have no clear procedures for addressing infractions we find in the course of our activities. Therefore, I believe the first step is to make a courtesy call to the registrant and inform him or her of what you have discovered. True professionalism is demonstrated by 1) making the call and 2) how we respond to receiving a call.

I, myself, have received a number of these calls over the last 40 years of practice. I appreciate them and do everything in my power to correct the error and rectify any damage caused.

Often such a discussion will bring to light information that had a bearing on the project, and the caller will conclude that, in fact, there is no infraction to report. These discussions are also a great learning opportunity for both professionals (especially the younger ones) and, for the sole registrant in a small office, an opportunity to get another's view on the complexity of difficult projects. I think most professionals would feel the same way.

Unfortunately, there are those who do not respond favorably to these calls and will ignore the problem. It is then on us to follow through with reporting infractions to the board.

It is our responsibility to do this, whether we work in the private sector, municipal, state, or even federal government. We do more damage to our profession by allowing these practices—and the practitioners—to continue. I, personally, am very proud to be working in my chosen profession and to have the trust of the public. Let's not lose that trust.

MEMBER BOARD NEWS

CALIFORNIA William Wilburn, P.E., is a new appointee to the board.

DELAWARE PE Paul Jones and Pasquale Canzano are no longer on the board.

DELAWARE PS James Bielicki Jr., P.L.S., and Mary Chvostal are new appointees to the board. John Murray, P.L.S., and Victor Kennedy are no longer board members.

KENTUCKY Charles Schimpeler, Ph.D., P.E., is a new appointee to the board. Deborah Moses is no longer a board member.

MARYLAND PE AND PS Jay Hutchins is the new executive director of both boards, and Pamela Edwards is the assistant executive director. Eugene Harvey is no longer a member of the PE board.

MISSOURI Daniel Govero, P.L.S.; John Michael Flowers, P.L.S.; and

Abiodun Adewale, P.E., are new appointees to the board. John Teale, Michael Gray, and Promod Kumar are no longer board members.

NEW YORK Ennala Ramabhushanam, P.E., is a new appointee to the board.

PENNSYLVANIA Harold Millan is no longer a member of the board.

TEXAS PE Former board chair E.D. Dorchester, P.E., died December 9 at the age of 86. He participated in several NCEES committees, including serving as chair of the Committee on Professional Ethics.

VIRGINIA Michael LeMay and Andrew Scherzer are new appointees to the board. John Seth Clark is no longer a board member.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

continued from cover

on the path to licensure in the United States. We all agreed to articulate these messages as consistently as possible and share our international calendars with each other.

As you might guess, additional education for licensure candidates was discussed—although for less time than I expected. We looked at the concept of an NCEES-based clearinghouse to approve the courses and/or course providers for the additional education requirement. NCEES indicated that a skeleton model and business plan is being developed but will proceed slowly until there is movement toward adopting the Model

Law 2020 rules by individual jurisdictions. ABET explained that the professional societies that make up the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) are empowered to make decisions to change the ABET general criteria if they believe it's appropriate. This has provided additional impetus for NCEES to invite a number of EAC members to an open forum that will be held in conjunction with the Participating Organizations Liaison Council meeting in March. I hope to be able to report on this in a future issue of *Licensure Exchange*.

Upcoming Events

February 5-6

EPE Committee Meeting, Clemson, South Carolina

Faculty Licensure Task Force Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia

February 10-11

MBA Meeting, Clemson, South Carolina

February 12-13

ACCA Meeting, San Antonio, Texas

February 14-20

National Engineers Week

February 19-20

Board of Directors' Meeting
Miami, Florida

February 25-27

Exam Audit Committee Meeting
Clemson, South Carolina

February 26

NCEES Exam Registration Deadline

March 6

Finance Committee Meeting
New Orleans, Louisiana

March 13-14

POLC Meeting
Atlanta, Georgia

March 21-27

National Surveyors Week

March 25

NCEES Engineering Award Jury
Meeting, Clemson, South Carolina

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Laramie, Wyoming

Henn Rebane, P.E.
Past President
Tampa, Florida

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Jury prepares to judge NCEES Engineering Award

Now that the February 1 entry deadline has passed, NCEES is preparing to name this year's winners of the NCEES Engineering Award. Introduced in 2008, the award recognizes college engineering programs for excellence in integrating professional practice and education.



Launched in December, the award's advertising campaign urges educators and P.E.s to work together to inspire the next generation of professional engineers.

The jury will meet March 25 in Clemson, S. C., to choose the \$25,000 grand prize winner and five additional winners, who will receive \$7,500 each.

Engineering programs accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET were invited to enter projects that demonstrate a meaningful partnership between professional engineering and education.

The entries will be judged by a 12-member jury composed of NCEES members, engineering deans, and representatives from ABET, the American Society of Engineering Education, the National Academy of Engineering, and the National Society of Professional Engineers.

"We want to promote the benefits and responsibilities of licensure, and this award is an important part of that effort," said Jerry Carter, NCEES executive director.

More information on the award is available online at www.engineeringaward.com.