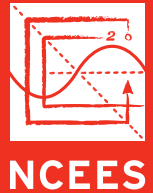


# Licensure EXCHANGE

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## FEATURE STORY

### UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN WINS 2016 NCEES ENGINEERING EDUCATION AWARD

NCEES IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE WINNERS OF the NCEES Engineering Award for Connecting Professional Practice and Education. The grand prize went to the University of Nebraska–Lincoln Charles W. Durham School of Architectural Engineering and Construction. The award jury met June 7, 2016, in Clemson, South Carolina, to select the \$25,000 grand prize winner.

The department received the top prize for its submission, *888 Boylston Street—Interdisciplinary Team Design*. For the project, electrical, structural, and mechanical engineering students worked as part of a team that also included licensed faculty, more than 50 licensed professional engineers and architects from industry, and many other allied professionals who served as mentors for the students. The team designed a proposed 17-story mixed-use high-rise building. The main guideline was for the building to be energy efficient according to the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers standards.

The jury praised the project for its strong interaction with professional engineers as well as its complexity and incorporation of multiple disciplines.

“This project had so many multidisciplinary aspects. The report was detailed and comprehensive and clearly conveyed the knowledge and skills learned,” said NCEES Engineering

Education Award jury chair Michelle Rambo-Roddenberry, Ph.D., P.E. “The breadth of interaction the students had with practicing professional engineers was impressive.”

The jury selected five additional winners to receive awards of \$7,500 each:

- George Mason University  
Sid and Reva Dewberry Department of Civil, Environmental, and Infrastructure Engineering  
*New Drinking Water and Sewer System for an Elementary School for Orphans—Bilwi, Nicaragua*
- George Mason University  
Sid and Reva Dewberry Department of Civil, Environmental, and Infrastructure Engineering  
*Water and Sanitation Project Children’s Feeding Center Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua*
- Seattle University  
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering  
*Design Development of a Cultural Village for Migrant Workers*
- Seattle University  
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering  
*Design of Habitat-Sensitive Erosion Hazard Mitigation Near a Bridge*
- Seattle University  
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering  
*Solar Microgrid in Rural Zambia with Real-Time Cloud-Based Monitoring*

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT



**MICHAEL KONZETT, P.E.**  
NCEES PRESIDENT

## My thoughts on the future of licensure

SINCE ITS INCEPTION, NCEES HAS BEEN COMMITTED to promoting mobility among the licensed engineering and surveying professionals in the United States. We have made great strides in 96 years. It is important to stop and realize how far we have come. At times, we commiserate about how much farther we need to go to make it easier for licensees to practice across the United States. That frustration will keep us in pursuit of better mobility.

As I transition from my term as president, I am driven to write briefly about another very important piece of the NCEES mission: to advance licensure. I believe the biggest obstacle to the advancement of licensure is our willingness to change—not just to accept change (which is hard enough) but to embrace change. If we fail to embrace change, which in most cases is driven by societal forces other than our own, we will not be doing our duty to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public that we serve.

To say that how we are doing things today is good enough is not acceptable. To say that the current requirements for licensure (education, experience, examination) are good enough will transform professionals into dinosaurs and licensure as we know it could become extinct. Of that I am convinced.

So how do I see NCEES as a change agent over the next few years? I would like to share my reflections by focusing on those three main tenets of licensure: examination, experience, and education.

### Examination

The transition to a computer-based testing format for the PE and PS exams is where I see us having the greatest impact in terms of ensuring our exams remain a reliable measure of professional competence. There has been much discussion during the past several years about how the exams need to be more practice oriented and less academic oriented, especially when the conversation turns to decoupling the PE exam from experience. The better we can make the exams test knowledge that can only

I have often said that the world is in a better place when more engineers are licensed. However, getting more engineers licensed shouldn't be at the expense of the public, which rightfully demands more from licensed professionals.

be gained through experience, the harder it will be for examinees to pass them without that experience. Our exam committees and volunteers have done a tremendous job with the resources they have. I am optimistic the conversion to CBT will give our item writers more tools to use toward the goal of exams that are more practice based.

### Experience

Changing the experience component for initial licensure is the toughest one for me to grasp. Every engineer and surveyor has a unique “experience” experience. I don't have hard evidence to prove it, but I have a feeling that for a number of reasons, many licensure candidates are not getting three to four years of quality, progressively challenging experience. I am not sure how to get a handle on the solution, but I do know some technical engineering societies are actively studying the experiential component of licensure. Stay tuned.

### Education

Finally, I believe the ever-expanding body of knowledge needed by engineers to practice at a professional level (i.e., licensure) now and in the future demands a basic level of education that is beyond what institutions of higher education can provide within the bachelor's

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# Winners of 2016 NCEES Surveying Education Award announced

## Ten surveying programs each receive a \$10,000 cash prize

NCEES IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE RECIPIENTS OF THE inaugural NCEES Surveying Education Award. This annual award recognizes surveying programs that best reflect the organization's mission to advance licensure for surveyors in order to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

NCEES awarded a \$10,000 prize to 10 qualifying programs to assist with each program's continued efforts to promote the importance and value of licensure. The award jury considered criteria such as student outcomes, student involvement, outreach, and recruitment. The award jury met June 23–24, 2016, in Clemson, South Carolina, to select the winners.

The jury selected 10 programs to receive awards of \$10,000 each:

- Ferris State University, College of Engineering Technology  
*Surveying Engineering program*
- Michigan Technological University, School of Technology  
*Surveying Engineering program*
- Nicholls State University, Department of Applied Sciences  
*Geomatics program*
- Oregon Institute of Technology  
College of Engineering, Technology, and Management  
*Geomatics program*
- Parkland College, Department of Engineering Science and Technologies  
*Construction Design and Management: Land Surveying program*
- Southeast Technical Institute, Department of Engineering Technology  
*Land Surveying Science Technology program*
- Troy University, College of Arts and Sciences  
*Surveying and Geomatics Sciences program*



*The NCEES Surveying Education Award jury reviews submissions for the inaugural cycle. The jury considered criteria such as student outcomes, student involvement, outreach, and recruitment.*

- University of Akron, College of Applied Science and Technology  
*Surveying and Mapping program*
- University of Florida, School of Forest Resources and Conservation  
*Geomatics program*
- University of Maine, College of Engineering  
*Surveying Engineering Technology program*

More information about the 2017 NCEES Surveying Education Award cycle will be posted at [ncees.org/surveying](http://ncees.org/surveying) when available.

## COMMITTEE FOCUS



**JOSEPH TIMMS, P.E.**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON COUNCIL  
ACTIVITIES CHAIR

# Addressing board concerns about ACCA motions

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON COUNCIL ACTIVITIES advises and briefs the president and board of directors on new policy issues, problems, and plans that require preliminary assessment and have not been assigned to a standing committee or that involve several existing committees.

Two of the committee motions that ACCA will present at the annual meeting were not endorsed by the board of directors, which means that one or more members of the board does not agree with the recommendations of the committee. These motions will be brought to the floor of the annual meeting for debate and Council vote.

### President and president-elect travel

ACCA Motion 1 relates to travel expenses, primarily with the class of travel used by the president and president-elect.

It should be noted that the membership of ACCA this year included three past president of NCEES (one of whom is also a past treasurer), two past presidents of the American Society of Civil Engineers, a past president of the National Society of Professional Engineers, and the current president of NCEES (who is the board liaison). The other members of the committee have been active in the work of NCEES and other professional organizations, so the committee is very aware of the amount of travel required by the president and president-elect.

The issue is whether Financial Policy 3, Travel Expenses, requires approval of the treasurer for the two officers to purchase a business-class or first-class ticket for flights of more than three hours. The committee felt that these elected officers do not need third-party approval as long as they are staying within budget for the offices. Secondly, the committee felt, based on members' experience, that five hours of flight time is a more appropriate guideline for a nonprofit organization.

The board of directors' opinion is that the president and president-elect should be able to travel business class, regardless

The committee felt that there are many qualified Council members who are eager to serve in a leadership role in NCEES, and a two-year term gives more individuals an opportunity to serve on the board of directors.

of flight time, as long as they stay within their approved budget. NCEES prepares travel budget estimates using economy-class pricing. Budgeting with no restrictions on when business or first class is used would be difficult, and overuse of business class by a tax-exempt entity could cause problems with the Internal Revenue Service.

The Council will need to decide the following issues: First, is it necessary to have the treasurer involved in the selection of air-travel class? Secondly, should there be a guideline on length of flight time and, if so, what should it be?

### Length of term for treasurer

ACCA Motions 8 proposes changes to the *Bylaws* regarding the term of office of the treasurer.

The original term of office of the treasurer was one year. It was later extended to two years, and more recently the addition of a second two years, if reelected, was added. This change has caused some controversy because the *Bylaws* does not address eligibility criteria for the second term. Some thought that the person elected should be a current member of a member board, as required for the first term. Others felt that the treasurer's second term should

*continued on next page*

follow the terms for president, which allow a member elected president-elect to serve until the end of terms as president-elect, president, and immediate past president even if he or she is no longer a member of a board.

ACCA proposed to solve those problems with a limit of one two-year term, which is the same as the term for zone vice presidents. An individual can run again in the future but cannot hold back-to-back terms, as with zone vice presidents. The committee felt that there are many qualified Council members who are eager to serve in a leadership role in NCEES, and a two-year term gives more individuals an opportunity to serve on the board of directors. The treasurer also has communication with the Committee on Finances and its chair as well as the NCEES chief financial officer.

The board's rationale for not endorsing the motion is that it believes that "by leaving the treasurer term at two years, the two zones that are in currently in sync with the treasurer's election

(the Northeast and Southern Zones) are given an advantage." The board recommends that the term length be changed to three years to remedy that situation.

This recommendation was presented to the committee as a three-year term, with the first year as a learning year. The committee felt this was not necessary. The claim that it would give two zones an advantage is hard to justify, as it could also be a disadvantage.

These are two motions that the Council will be voting on at the annual meeting. I have attempted to give a brief synopsis of ACCA's reasons for not accepting the board of directors' suggestions to the motions as printed. Obviously, I have a prejudiced view. I hope you will give these motions your thoughtful consideration.

*Timms is a former member of the West Virginia State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and the 2015–16 ACCA chair. He is also a past president of NCEES.*

## ENGINEERING AWARD

*continued from cover*

The NCEES Engineering Education Award recognizes engineering programs that encourage collaboration between students and professional engineers. EAC/ABET-accredited programs from all engineering disciplines were invited to submit projects that integrate professional practice and education.

A jury of NCEES members and representatives from academic institutions and professional engineering organizations selected the winners. The jury members considered criteria such as

- Successful collaboration of faculty, students, and licensed professional engineers
- Protection of public health, safety, and/or welfare of the public
- Multidiscipline and/or allied profession participation
- Knowledge or skills gained
- Effectiveness of display board, abstract, and project description



*Jurors review the entries for the 2016 NCEES Engineering Education Award competition. Twenty-one entries from a variety of engineering disciplines competed for six awards.*

### Award presentation

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln will be honored at the upcoming NCEES annual meeting. Representatives from the winning project will receive the award on behalf of the university's department of architectural engineering and construction at a luncheon on August 26.

### 2017 competition

NCEES is currently preparing for the 2017 award cycle, and entry information will be available in October. The 2016 NCEES Engineering Award Book will also be released this fall. Profiles of the winning submissions are available online at [ncees.org/award](http://ncees.org/award).

# President-elect nominee and incoming vice presidents discuss vision for NCEES

NCEES WILL ELECT A NEW PRESIDENT-elect at its 2016 annual meeting, which will be held August 24–27. Nominees for president-elect rotate among the four NCEES geographical zones. The 2016–17 president-elect will be from the Western Zone; the Committee on Nominations has submitted Patrick Tami, P.L.S., as its nominee.

Two new vice presidents will join the 2016–17 board of directors, which will be installed at the banquet on August 26: Brian Hanson, P.E., representing the Western Zone, and Maurice Bowersox, P.E., representing the Central Zone.

### Nominee for President-Elect Patrick Tami, P.L.S., California Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists



*NCEES Experience: Western Zone Vice President (2014–16, 2008–10); Committee on Law Enforcement Board of Directors Liaison (2015–16); Committee*

*on Uniform Procedures and Legislative Guidelines Board of Directors Liaison (2014–16), Chair (2010–12), Member (2007–08); Committee on Examinations for Professional Surveyors Board of Directors Liaison (2014–15, 2008–09), Member (2007–08); Advisory Committee on Council Activities Chair (2013–14), Member (2012–13); Mobility Task Force Member (2012–14); Committee on Nominations*

*Member (2011–12); Computer-Based Testing Task Force Board of Directors Liaison (2009–10); Faculty Licensure Task Force Board of Directors Liaison (2009–10); Surveying Exam Development Committee Volunteer (2009–16)*

*Tami's tenure on the California board ended in June 2016, after 10 years of service, and he is now an emeritus member. He is principal and office survey operations manager for R.E.Y. Engineers, where he is responsible for the implementation of training, quality control, and technical aspects of R.E.Y. office surveying services.*

### Why do you want to serve as NCEES president?

I had the opportunity to hear Maya Angelou speak at a small gathering more than a decade ago. Her choice of words, the rhythm in which she spoke, the tone of her voice, and the message she conveyed made a huge impact on me. She said, “If you don’t like something, change it. If you can’t change it, change your attitude.” I want to serve as NCEES president so I can continue the great work that we are doing, change what needs to be made better, and get on board with the matters that I am not in the majority on.

### What are the key issues you want to focus on as president?

My goals are to maintain financial security, provide outstanding exams, and improve licensure mobility.

Financial security is largely a maintenance issue at this point, due to the great work of current and previous NCEES staff.

The organization’s current financial condition allows us to focus on our vision and mission without the restrictions many organizations are currently facing. The key challenge for financial sustainability is demonstrating value to our members and customers. Leadership needs to listen to our members and be open to change in a way that is best for as many as possible.

We need to evaluate our exam processes to ensure that we are meeting the changing needs of the engineering and surveying professions. We need to collaborate on methods and requirements for all our exams to follow as part of exam development and administration. By consulting, reviewing, and then directing how the exams are developed and administered, we can ensure the exams are valid, reliable, and fair now and in the future. Additionally, clearly and consistently communicating our evaluation efforts and findings to our members will provide necessary accountability.

There is no greater opportunity to remove unnecessary impediments to engineering and surveying licensure than through NCEES. Licensure law commonality is one aspect in the strategy needed to overcome unnecessary licensure barriers when crossing state lines. Governors and state legislatures should be directed to the *Model Law* and *Model Rules* when looking to make changes. Likewise, NCEES should be made aware of changes to state rules and laws for possible inclusion in our governing documents.

Happily, we are making significant strides in helping each other, such as by sharing disciplinary and enforcement activities between member boards. Also, computer-based testing has allowed for candidates to travel shorter distances in most instances and improved security. As we continue to improve the efficiency of the licensing system nationwide, my hope is that we remember our duty to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

### How has your past experience prepared you for this office?

No one knows who first said, "The world is run by those who show up." I must admit I have a real problem about showing up at NCEES events; I have never missed one that I was invited to. I have even shown up at events where Mother Nature advised otherwise, such as a committee meeting in the snow, a task force meeting with a tornado, a zone meeting with an earthquake, and an annual meeting with a hurricane. Maybe someone is trying to tell me something.

I am honored to have been the NCEES Western Zone vice president twice. The first time gave me a chance to learn about the organization from a side I had not seen and the second time gave me an opportunity to be of value. I was asked to be on several committees and task forces in the past. Each one of these meetings gave me a little more insight to how NCEES operates, how we are doing some great work, and where we can improve.

### What advice would you offer member board members considering whether to get involved with NCEES?

"Give, and it will be given to you." (Luke 6:38) I am not sure that Luke was thinking about NCEES when he wrote this, but it surely speaks to my feelings about involvement in NCEES. I have received more personally from being an

active member than I could give in many lifetimes. There are way too many people to name that have influenced me and made me a much better person just by being involved.

I encourage new board members to attend the annual meeting as soon as possible after being appointed. While at the annual meeting, attend all of the sessions intended for new members, such as the first-time attendee lunch, leadership exploration and development within NCEES, and, of course, the social events. Introduce yourself to as many people as you can. You will find many kind and brilliant people. Find someone that can help lead you through the acronyms, flow of the meeting, and people to meet. Your member board administrator (MBA) is a good place to start. MBAs are the lifeblood of the organization and typically have the best insight into how things work. Most of all, be a good listener.

### Incoming Western Zone Vice President

#### **Brian Hanson, P.E., Alaska State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors**



*NCEES Experience: Western Zone Assistant Vice President (2014–16); Committee on Examinations for Professional Engineers Member (2014–16);*

*Committee on Uniform Procedures and Legislative Guidelines Member (2013–14); PE Civil Exam Development Committee (2011–16)*

*Hanson has been a member of Alaska board since 2010. He is currently senior aviation engineer for DOWL, a surveying, civil/transportation, and environmental services firm.*

### Why do you want to serve as Western Zone vice president?

I have been able to be involved in NCEES since my 2010 appointment to the Alaska board. In fact, I attended an NCEES Western Zone meeting before my first Alaska board meeting. I got involved early and have been able to attend zone and annual meetings, serve on committees, help with exam development, and serve as assistant zone vice president. I really enjoy my work on my state board and with NCEES and want to continue to contribute.

### What are the key issues or goals you want to focus on as vice president?

I would like to help NCEES achieve its strategic plan specifically in three areas: growing licensure, educating the public, and licensure mobility. As professionals, we are very good at what we do; however, we could do a better job conveying what we do and why it is important to the public. We need to increase the number of licensed professionals through continued outreach and testing domestically and internationally. Licensure mobility is important among U.S. jurisdictions and internationally as well. We are a global economy and need to start looking outside our borders for more opportunities to help achieve our strategic goals.

### How has your past experience prepared you for this office?

I have been on the Alaska board for more than six years; we are a combined board that deals with engineers, surveyors, architects, and landscape architects. I am a very active participant in our board, having been on multiple regulation and statute change projects, including allowing computer-based testing in Alaska, adding structural engineering and eight other disciplines, and developing grandfathering for licensing individuals in additional

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## OFFICER Q & A

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branches. I am also the lead individual that meets with the investigator regarding violation of licensure statutes and regulations. I served as chair of the Alaska board one term and was elected to serve for the upcoming term.

My NCEES committee experience includes the PE Civil Exam Development Committee, the Committee on Uniform Procedures and Legislative Guidelines, and the Committee on Examinations for Professional Engineers. Since 2010, I have attended all but one zone meeting and all of the annual meetings. Having served on multiple committees at the national and zone levels has allowed me to work with a lot of different people throughout the organization. Serving as Western Zone assistant vice president has exposed me to what goes into organizing the meetings and meeting budgetary restraints for the zone.

### What longer-term issues do you think will be important for NCEES to address in the future?

International licensure, or at least the ability to more easily become licensed across international borders, will be an important issue. This is a big leap since we are still challenged with getting a license in a neighboring jurisdiction. Why does it matter where you live, do your work, got your education, or took your exams if you are qualified to be a licensed professional? The United States is a big player in the global economy, but there are many opportunities internationally that NCEES can tap into. Looking at the *ENR* top 10 design firms, all of those firms have international revenues that

account for 20 to 90 percent of their total revenue. NCEES needs to be looking for opportunities more globally.

The transition to computer-based testing will help with this effort; continuing to advance all exams to CBT is critically important. All exams could then be offered almost anywhere around the globe at a relatively low cost. The current testing that NCEES offers is tapping into only approximately 20 percent of potential licensees based on the world population. I see a huge opportunity for NCEES to expand to a global marketplace for engineering and surveying testing.

### How did you get involved in volunteering with NCEES?

I had a couple of great mentors on the Alaska board—Boyd Brownfield, P.E., and Richard Heieren, P.S.—who encouraged me to get involved early and contribute as much as I could. I was able to start by attending a PE Civil Exam Development meeting, which was exactly as described: grueling, rewarding, and fun all at the same time. That led to serving on national standing committees and in zone leadership.

### What advice would you offer member board members considering whether to get involved with NCEES?

Get involved early and often. Attending zone and annual meetings is a great learning experience and opportunity to network. There are so many volunteer opportunities and areas of expertise required that it is easy to find something you enjoy where you can contribute. It is

a very rewarding experience to give back to the profession and society. The first step is at the zone meetings; you are there to learn and provide input. Simply attending the meeting is not enough; you need to engage, get involved with discussions, and meet as many people as you can. The same applies to the annual meeting; you will find, as I have, that everyone is passionate about their profession and service to NCEES.

Being a part of NCEES has been a rewarding experience for me and has allowed me to grow professionally and personally. I love being involved and making a difference. I feel like I have the ability not only to affect the 800,000 plus engineers and 60,000 surveyors that we regulate within our jurisdictions, but also the tens of thousands of examinees and the hundreds of millions of people served by the engineers and surveyors that we regulate. As an organized group, we make a substantial impact on society. I take that responsibility very seriously, whether it is changing educational requirements, adding a new exam discipline, changing the way we test, or trying to get more licensed individuals. Through my involvement with NCEES, I have the opportunity to positively affect other people's lives, and I get to do it with a bunch of great professionals.



## Incoming Central Zone Vice President

### Maurice Bowersox, P.E., Kansas State Board of Technical Professions



*Bowersox has been a member of the Kansas board since 2012 and is the 2015–16 board secretary. He is a retired principal of Wilson and Company, Inc.,*

*Engineers and Architects, a multidisciplinary consulting engineering firm. In 2005, he started his own consulting engineering business, Engineering Resources.*

### Why do you want to serve as Central Zone vice president?

I sought the Central Zone vice presidency to improve and advance the engineering and surveying professions. We face a number of challenges, both internal and external.

Technology is changing, and our business is changing. Mobility is more important than ever. Recognizing that each state and territory controls licensure within its borders, we need to find better ways to help professionals work in other jurisdictions.

Another issue is the decoupling of the timing of taking the PE exam and gaining the experience required for licensure as a professional engineer. We need to monitor the pass rates for people with different years of experience. What are we testing for if someone who's been practicing for one or two years can pass it? We need to look at the exam process with decoupling and make sure it is really testing practical experience, as opposed to academic knowledge.

Technology is changing quickly. Change isn't the issue; it's how we adapt to it.

### What are the key issues or goals you want to focus on as vice president?

There are many opportunities and challenges on the horizon, but in the short term I would like to focus on the implementation of license portability among states.

Of course, each jurisdiction has its own statutes. But for engineers and surveyors licensed to practice in multiple states, there has to be a better way to apply for licensure by comity. I understand that each state is different, but we need to find ways to reduce red tape and make the process less cumbersome.

### How has your past experience prepared you for this office?

I have served on the Kansas State Board of Technical Professions as an engineer member for four years and was recently appointed to my second four-year term.

During my 40-plus-year professional career in the private sector, I have held leadership positions in numerous professional and community organizations. I have served on the American Council of Engineering Companies of Kansas board of directors as president and national director, and I am licensed to practice engineering in the states of Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Oklahoma.

I think one of the biggest strengths is that I listen. I try to understand various points of view and find compromises to move things forward.

### What longer-term issues do you think will be important for NCEES to address in the future?

It seems to me we need to address the external challenges to licensure and modify our education requirements to meet the needs of the 21st century.

One concern is political moves to end licensure at the state level. These moves are made to protect competition, but our mission is to protect the public. NCEES needs to look out for this and offer support and leadership where it can.

Also, NCEES will need to address whether additional education requirements should be required to become a professional engineer in the future. The number of hours for a degree has political and financial challenges from politicians and parents. Education doesn't stop once you get your bachelor's degree, but should a master's be mandatory? We need to listen to different viewpoints and come up with something reasonable.

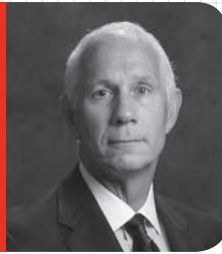
### How did you get involved in volunteering with NCEES?

Over the last four years, I have had the opportunity to attend NCEES national and zone meetings, which encouraged me to become more active in NCEES. I appreciate the support of the Kansas board and the Central Zone, and I look forward to the opportunity to serve as vice president.

### What advice would you offer member board members considering whether to get involved with NCEES?

I encourage member boards to attend zone and national meetings and choose a way that you can help improve our professions. You can decide if you're interested in volunteering with NCEES and then figure out how you can best help.

## HEADQUARTERS UPDATE



**JERRY CARTER**  
NCEES CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

### NCEES staff: a valuable asset

DURING MY TRAVELS TO NCEES MEETINGS AS WELL as meetings of affiliate organizations, I regularly receive compliments about the efficiency of NCEES staff and the high level of customer service they provide. I am sure that those of you who have interacted with any member of the NCEES staff will agree that we are blessed with some incredibly talented and passionate staff members. Great organizations need great people. I strongly believe in the adage that you need to hire people who are smarter than you, and it would appear that I have been quite successful at that, as I often find myself being the one who has to have things explained twice.

NCEES currently employs more than 70 individuals who provide services to support the efforts of the member licensing boards and its constituents, and we are constantly seeking ways to improve our processes and increase our efficiency in the delivery of our services. This could not happen without a staff of individuals who are passionate about their work and the organization. They have strong communication skills and are goal-oriented people who don't get bogged down in the muck of office politics or taking credit but are committed to getting the job done and achieving the goal. They are organized and detail focused, creative, and, most importantly, adaptable. Everyone employed at NCEES receives a detailed list of their individual job responsibilities, and the last item is always "and other duties as assigned." Everyone comes to understand that this phrase, in reality, means you do your job but you also contribute to the greater cause when there is a need.

For the past several years, the NCEES staff has been engaged in the process of transitioning our examinations from pencil-and-paper to computer-based testing (CBT). The success of the transition of the fundamentals exams to CBT belies the amount of effort that was required by every NCEES staff member to move to this new delivery system. As we proceed to transition the professional exams to CBT, we are using this experience to enhance the exams even more. This includes

Everyone employed at NCEES receives a detailed list of their individual job responsibilities, and the last item is always "and other duties as assigned." Everyone comes to understand that this phrase, in reality, means you do your job but you also contribute to the greater cause when there is a need.

integrating alternative item types, which we strongly feel will augment our ability to test for minimum competence. We will continue to incorporate any newfound knowledge as we take the next five years to fully transition all exams to CBT.

While being fully engaged in the CBT transition, many of our staff have been busy updating the NCEES website for the past two years. This may sound like a simple effort, but this project included conducting a number of surveys and convening focus groups to better understand how to best help people find what they were looking for on the NCEES website and eliminate confusion as much as possible. We constantly track statistics on visitors to the website, what pages they visit, and how long they remain on any given page. The new website was released on June 20. Along with compliments on the new design, we have also received valuable feedback. We will continue to adjust the website to address any concerns and to make it the best tool that we can.

For more than two years, our IT team has been hard at work developing new software to eliminate the multiple databases used for various NCEES programs. The revised customer management system, known as E3, now combines that information. This provides for greater ease of use for member boards and provides better access to information about exam candidates and individuals who have an NCEES Record. Member boards now have access to a candidate's NCEES account, which gives them information on exam history, credentials evaluations, Records, and so forth. Also, any licensee can now establish an NCEES account and log their continuing professional competency credits and upload certificates and evidence of attendance, which is then accessible by all NCEES member boards. This was a significant effort that was led by the IT team but involved every staff member.

I cannot fully express how gratifying it is to be a member of the NCEES staff and to be surrounded by so many creative and dedicated individuals. I often get compliments for the accomplishments of the NCEES team, which certainly does much for my ego, but I am confident that everyone knows that it takes a team effort. None of us is as smart as all of us.



*NCEES headquarters in Clemson, South Carolina, has a staff of 73 who oversee the day-to-day operation of the organization.*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*continued from page 2*

degree. This is certainly a subject of intense debate. This premise is primarily opposed by those who believe that the current requirement is good enough and we will surely drive our young people away from licensure if we dare require a higher standard (read “change”).

I don't buy this sky-is-falling argument. While I certainly don't see anything inadequate about the bachelor's degree in engineering if one simply wants to become an engineer, at the same time, I strongly believe that the education required to become a licensed professional engineer can and should be different. I have often said that the world is in a better place when more engineers are licensed. However, getting more engineers licensed shouldn't be at the expense of the public, which rightfully demands more from licensed

professionals. Much like the healthcare profession, engineering teams should be comprised of many types of professionals from technicians to engineers to licensed professional engineers. It is the latter group that must be held to the highest standards.

I must add that, contrary to popular belief, this additional education is not strictly about a master's degree only. NCEES must continue to be a leader in development of an alternative that can meet the higher standard without requiring a master's.

There you have my closing thoughts. I look forward to watching the future unfold with full confidence that the work of NCEES will bear much fruit in the advancement of licensure for the benefit of the public we serve.

# ENFORCEMENT BEAT

**NANCY EISSLER**

CALIFORNIA BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL  
ENGINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS, AND GEOLOGISTS  
ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## The many resources available for law enforcement personnel

NCEES PROVIDES A VARIETY OF RESOURCES FOR LAW enforcement personnel. Some are more well known, such as the Enforcement Exchange database. But I'd like to focus on resources that you may not be aware of, including the most important resource: opportunities for board law enforcement personnel to communicate with each other about our shared experiences and to learn from one another.

I've worked at the California board for over 25 years, and the vast majority of that time was spent working in our Enforcement Unit. In that role, I had the opportunity to communicate with various law enforcement personnel at many of the other member boards. The communication may have started with simple inquiries about actions taken against individuals licensed in multiple states, but it expanded to comparing the laws in each state and exchanging ideas on how to effectively enforce our laws. This shared-experience communication was—and still is—very beneficial.

Over the last few years, I've also had the opportunity to serve on the NCEES Committee on Law Enforcement, where several of our charges have been to develop ways to identify and mentor new law enforcement personnel, including investigators and attorneys, at the member boards and how to encourage communication among them.

The Law Enforcement Committee will be working with the member board administrators and NCEES staff to identify new law enforcement personnel on an annual basis. We'll then be sending them a welcome message with information about all of the enforcement resources available on the NCEES website. We'll also encourage them to sign up for the law enforcement Basecamp project, a web-based collaboration tool, so they have the opportunity to share in the discussions about enforcement of licensing laws.

It's extremely helpful to be able to learn from the successes and failures of others.

The 2016–17 Law Enforcement Committee will consider the development of an advisory group made up of experienced law enforcement personnel. The members of this advisory group would be available to assist member boards on a more individualized level with issues such as enforcement program development, innovative enforcement approaches and case resolutions, and investigator training methods.

But you don't have to be new to law enforcement to take advantage of the Enforcement Resources section on the NCEES website. Log in to the Members Resources section, and scroll down to the Enforcement Resources section. There, you will find the *Investigation and Enforcement Guidelines* and the *Investigative Training Manual* along with links to such things as the Law Enforcement directory, prior law enforcement programs, and other guidelines. There is also a link to request access to the law enforcement Basecamp project. If you don't already have a login to Member Resources, you can request one from the NCEES helpdesk at [support@ncees.org](mailto:support@ncees.org).

In addition to developing ways to identify and mentor new law enforcement personnel, the Law Enforcement Committee has also planned two exciting and informative workshops for the upcoming annual meeting, which will be held in August. The 2016 Law Enforcement Forum will be held on Friday afternoon.



*Member board staff working with enforcement of licensing laws and rules take part in the Law Enforcement Program at the 2015 NCEES annual meeting. The 2016 program will focus on the Linguistic Statement Analysis Technique.*

In addition to a brief overview of the updated NCEES Enforcement Exchange, we will again have our roundtable discussions of various law enforcement topics.

Some of the topics will include exam security and subversion policies and procedures when administering state exams, admissions of guilt in settlement agreements and consent orders, and private reprimands. For those of you who haven't attended the Friday forums in the past, I encourage you to do so. While the roundtable topics are the beginning points of the discussion, we always have time to discuss current law enforcement issues affecting the member boards.

The 2016 Law Enforcement Program will be held Saturday and will include a presentation on using the Linguistic Statement Analysis Technique. LSAT is highly effective in the detection of deception and truthfulness and the identification of hidden information in a subject's written or spoken statements. It involves scientifically examining the word choice, structure, and content of a subject's statement to determine whether it is truthful or deceptive as opposed to the traditional emotional method of rationalizing the events in the subject's story. I'm sure this presentation will provide beneficial information that we'll all be able to use in many settings, including our investigations.

Sharing our experiences with other law enforcement personnel can help in a variety of areas. You can learn information about your own licensees, such as disciplinary actions they've faced in other states or criminal convictions they've disclosed in other licensing applications. Or you can find out about issues that other states are dealing with and how they've addressed those issues. It's extremely helpful to be able to learn from the successes and failures of others.

I encourage law enforcement personnel to check out the Enforcement section of Member Resources on the NCEES website and sign up for the law enforcement Basecamp project. And for those of you attending the annual meeting, I look forward to seeing you at both the Friday forum and the Saturday program.

*Eissler is assistant executive officer of the California board and a member of the 2015–16 Committee on Law Enforcement.*

**MARIE TERNIEDEN**

ACEC VICE PRESIDENT FOR  
BUSINESS RESOURCES AND  
EDUCATION



## ACEC helps engineers and surveyors navigate continuing education with RCEP

FOR ENGINEERS, SURVEYORS, AND DESIGN PROFESSIONALS, the Registered Continuing Education Program (RCEP) provides a one-stop online shop for all educational activities, which includes easily accessible record keeping for continuing education, uniform and reliable transcripts for state licensing boards, up-to-date continuing education and licensure requirements by jurisdiction, and a master calendar of more than 133 Registered Education Providers. More than 72,000 design professionals use RCEP online to manage their continuing education.

Originally developed in 2008 by NCEES and the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), RCEP is now administered by ACEC with the support of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

As a special feature, state licensing board authorities can audit RCEP subscribers directly from the RCEP system. The board member simply logs into the RCEP system, selects the licensee's A/E/C discipline, and enters the individual's license number. A listing of education activities over a specified calendar period will be displayed.

RCEP is a powerful resource for firms to manage and track their staff continuing education programs. Firms can create customized reports to track continuing education credits earned toward renewing licenses, identify specific courses and seminars for staff improvement, and use RCEP to recognize and award merit increases to employees for their continuing education achievements.

To be a Registered Education Provider on RCEP, organizations must adhere to high professional educational program standards.

Unique to RCEP is the Provider network and master calendar. To be a Registered Education Provider on RCEP, organizations must adhere to high professional educational program standards. RCEP-approved Registered Education Providers can also advertise their educational activities on the RCEP Master Calendar, upload their course participants' records, and reach out to previous attendees for new and upcoming educational offerings.

For more information on RCEP, visit [rcep.net](http://rcep.net).

UPCOMING

# EVENTS

## August 5-6

FE Exam Meeting  
Clemson, South Carolina

PE Architectural Engineering  
Exam Meeting  
Kansas City, Missouri

## August 12

PE Environmental Exam  
PAKS Meeting  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

## August 18-20

SE Exam Meeting  
Clemson, South Carolina

## August 23

Board of Directors Meeting  
Indianapolis, Indiana

## August 24-27

NCEES Annual Meeting  
Indianapolis, Indiana

## August 27

Board of Directors Meeting  
Indianapolis, Indiana

## September 14-15

PE Petroleum Exam Meeting  
Houston, Texas

## September 23-24

PE Civil Exam Meeting  
Clemson, South Carolina

## MEMBER BOARD NEWS

### ALABAMA

Charles Willis is no longer a member.

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Member Norman Mills passed  
away June 5.

### LOUISIANA

Charles Coyle III and Jeffery Pike are  
new appointees. Wilfred Fontenot  
and Theodore Thompson are no longer  
members.

### NEBRASKA PE

Jon Wilbeck has been named executive  
director of the board. He previously  
served as interim executive director.

### NEW JERSEY

Joanne Leone is the new administrator.  
She replaces Karl Reidel.

### NEW MEXICO

Nadir Yilmaz is a new appointee.  
Rola Idriss is no longer a member.

### OHIO

Ferzan Ahmed is a new appointee.

### VERMONT PE/PS

Tara Grenier is the new administrator for  
both boards. She replaces Terry Gray.

### TEXAS PE

Albert Cheng and Catherine Norwood  
are new appointees. Cary Ann Baker and  
James Greer are no longer members.

Michael J. Conzett, P.E.  
*President*  
Nebraska

David H. Widmer, P.L.S.  
*Past President*  
Pennsylvania

Daniel S. Turner, Ph.D., P.E., P.L.S.  
*President-Elect*  
Alabama

Gary W. Thompson, P.L.S.  
*Treasurer*  
North Carolina

Christy K. VanBuskirk, P.E.  
*Central Zone Vice President*  
Iowa

Roy E. Shrewsbury II, P.S.  
*Northeast Zone Vice President*  
West Virginia

Theresa Hilliard Hodge, P.E.  
*Southern Zone Vice President*  
South Carolina

Patrick J. Tami, P.L.S.  
*Western Zone Vice President*  
California

Jerry T. Carter  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
South Carolina

## Licensure EXCHANGE

Jerry T. Carter, Chief Executive Officer  
and Publisher

Keri B. Anderson, Manager of  
Corporate Communications

Jennifer L. Williams, Senior Editor

Brittany D. Wilson, Graphic Designer

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## NCEES app returns to help users navigate annual meeting

The mobile app for the NCEES annual meeting is back to help attendees get the most out of the 2016 event.

Features of the app include

- The full event schedule
- Map of the meeting rooms
- Session enhancements, including the ability to set reminders and take notes
- Detailed information about speakers
- Links to the NCEES Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and LinkedIn pages
- Direct connection to Uber for transportation needs
- The ability to build a profile and easily share contact information with other app users
- Photo scavenger hunt competition

To download and install the app, go to [ncees.org/mobile](http://ncees.org/mobile) from a mobile device. Or download the app directly from iTunes or Google Play by searching for "NCEES meetings."

All registered annual meeting attendees will receive an email with download and login instructions during the week of August 1.