

An official NCEES publication for the exchange of information, opinions,
and ideas regarding the licensure of engineers and surveyors



Headquarters Update

New initiatives promote FE and FS exams

DAVID COX | NCEES CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

GETTING COLLEGE STUDENTS ON THE PATH to licensure when they graduate is a primary goal of NCEES marketing and outreach efforts. Those who take and pass the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) or Fundamentals of Surveying (FS) exam at or near the time of graduation set themselves apart from the crowd when applying for jobs, and they enter the workforce with an added boost of confidence in knowing they are ready and on their way to becoming licensed. They are able to look forward toward completing the path as opposed to starting it. When talking to students, we often say, “You don’t know you need it until you need it and don’t have it.” Just ask anyone who has been in this situation, and they’ll tell you it’s much easier and far better to have it when you graduate.

Digital badges

We’re excited to introduce a new FE- and FS-focused initiative that launched in July to target current college students. NCEES has partnered with Credly to provide digital badges to examinees upon passing one of these exams. These digital badges can be displayed through social media, in email signatures, and in digital résumés to recognize their achievement and let others know they are on the path to licensure. The process is simple, and it is a great way for examinees to celebrate their



NCEES has partnered with Credly to provide digital badges for individuals who pass the FE and FS exams. The initiative launched in July 2022.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



BRIAN ROBERTSON, P.E.
NCEES PRESIDENT

2021–22 brings significant progress on priority initiatives

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THE OCCASION OF MY FINAL From the President article to express my sincerest thanks to all of you. I set out some ambitious projects for our Council this year, and I deeply appreciate all the time and effort our fantastic staff, committee volunteers, and zone meeting attendees put into executing them. All three “big swings” saw significant progress made—some were fully completed; others will carry over into next year.

I am very proud that the thorough spring-cleaning of our policies and position statements is one that we can check off as complete. Each standing committee reviewed at least one and assessed if they still represent and serve the needs of our 21st century Council. I was not anticipating a lot of major changes and look forward to the discussions at the annual meeting. It was a big task, and my deepest gratitude to all those who worked on the committees to take the spirit of this first challenge to heart and really evaluate each document in a fresh light.

The second challenge was sent to the Committee on Examinations for Professional Surveyors to come back with a final recommendation on changing the Principles and Practice of Surveying exam to a divisional format. The committee presented its motions at each of the spring zone interim meetings, after which we decided that it was premature to present recommendations for Council action this year. The initial results of the professional activities and knowledge study, or PAKS, are now available, and that data will be used by the committee next year to complete this challenge.

The third goal was given to the Engineering Licensure Model Task Force to suggest modernization and changes to our fundamental model for professional engineering licensure. Our current licensure model has served the engineering profession well for the past century, but times are changing.



The 2021–22 NCEES board of directors review the organization's financial policies with CFO Joe Scheving, CPA, at its September 2021 meeting at NCEES headquarters in Greenville, South Carolina.

While some of tomorrow’s engineering graduates will enter the professions in traditional disciplines, others will do so with a hybrid multidiscipline education. This turned out to be a larger goal than I anticipated. Future details may be ironed out by several standing committees, but the task force wants to put a little more thought into better defining the core framework first.

My fourth initiative got a later start than planned, and the mobility challenge is now well underway, with an expected completion in 2023. This initiative extends the Western Zone Mobility Challenge from 2019 to all our jurisdictions, with boards conducting peer reviews of other jurisdictions’ rules and regulations to identify ways to reduce barriers to mobility.

Those big swings and the mobility challenge have certainly received a lot of attention this year, and I also want to recognize that NCEES remains well connected to licensing and exam organizations in related professions, a wide array of professional and technical engineering and surveying societies, and advocates working to combat legislative threats

All three “big swings” saw significant progress made—some were fully completed; others will carry over into next year.

to licensure’s public protections. We continue our support of and active participation in the Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing, Engineering Change Lab-USA, DiscoverE, and many others. Our society partners continue to help provide subject-matter experts for our exam development committees. One new initiative started in January is a deeper analysis of overlapping or incidental practice between professions. This will be a shared effort between NCEES and our partners in architecture, landscape architecture, and interior design. Stay tuned as this gets underway in late 2022 and early 2023.

In conclusion, I want to express my humblest appreciation for the opportunity to serve this Council and our professions this year. I always tell anybody who asks me



2021–22 President Brian Robertson, P.E., (left) addresses delegates at the 2021 NCEES annual meeting. During his speech at the virtual meeting, President Robertson outlined the priority initiatives for his upcoming term.

that serving on the Colorado licensing board and my work with NCEES have been the most rewarding aspect of my entire consulting engineering career. Thank you for your enthusiasm and support for our noble mission.

Robertson is 2021–22 NCEES president and an emeritus member of the Colorado State Board of Licensure for Architects, Professional Engineers, and Professional Land Surveyors.

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

continued from cover

accomplishment. Anyone who sees the digital badge can click on it to learn more about its significance and the value of licensure. The option has been well received by examinees, and we look forward to seeing use of the badges grow and spread through social media.

Honor cords

Another new initiative we are working on is providing FE and FS honor cords for students to wear during their commencement exercises. The civil engineering department at the University of South Carolina started doing this a few months ago based on the suggestion of one of their graduating seniors. They had a great response from their students, and we believe this will be a great incentive to take

the exams before graduating. We are working with them to learn more about the process and hope to be able to offer FE and FS honor cords to all students who pass the FE and FS exams prior to graduation starting in December.

We are always looking for new ways to promote licensure to students, and your suggestions are always welcome. We appreciate all that member boards and volunteers do to support our efforts. As a reminder, promotional items and pop-up banners are available to member boards at no cost through the outreach fulfillment center in MyNCEES. These items are easily ordered online and delivered directly to you. Stay tuned for more exciting things coming in the future!

Getting to know the annual meeting consent agenda

AS DELEGATES SIT DOWN WITH THE *ACTION ITEMS and Conference Reports* to prepare for the annual meeting, they will see that one of the first items on the agenda is the approval of the consent agenda. But what is the consent agenda, and how is it developed?

The consent agenda is a list of motions that the Council will vote on in one motion, without debate. Any motion included in the *Action Items and Conference Reports* is eligible to be included on the agenda, including motions from standing committees and task forces, the board of directors, NCEES zones, or individual member boards. Typically, however, only standing committee and task force motions are included on this agenda.

Per NCEES Administrative Policy 9, the board of directors prepares the consent agenda. The agenda includes motions that the board of directors expects the Council to support without debate.

“Using a consent agenda helps the business meeting run more smoothly because the Council can quickly address routine matters,” NCEES Chief Executive Officer David Cox explained.

At its May meeting, the board of directors considered each motion that will come before the Council at the 2022 annual meeting and developed its position—whether the motion should be on the consent agenda and whether the board endorses, or supports, the motion.

The board has four options for each motion:

- Endorse the motion and place it on the consent agenda
- Endorse the motion and do not place it on the consent agenda
- Do not endorse the motion and do not place it on the consent agenda
- Take no position and do not place it on the consent agenda

Occasionally, the board takes no position on a motion. The board typically uses this designation when it wants



Member board representatives debate a motion at the 2019 NCEES annual meeting. To streamline the business sessions, the board of directors compiles a consent agenda for delegates to vote on in a single motion at the meeting.

the Council to fully debate the motion without being influenced by the board’s opinion.

Removing items from the consent agenda

Before the Council votes on the consent agenda, the president asks if anyone would like to remove items from the agenda. Any member board can request that an item be removed. It does not need to offer a rationale; a delegate simply needs to announce the board’s name and the motion that the board wants to remove from the consent agenda.

While boards sometimes remove motions from the consent agenda because they want to debate them or offer amendments, they also remove them if they have questions. Additionally, committees will occasionally remove their own motions from the consent agenda to make corrections. However, member boards do not need to wait until the business session begins to ask questions.

“We encourage members to ask any questions that they have about motions before the business sessions begin so that boards are best prepared to consider the motions and vote on the day,” Cox noted. “They can contact me or NCEES Chief Operating Officer Davy McDowell,

and we will point you toward the right person to find the information you need.”

Addressing non-consent agenda items

Motions that are removed from the consent agenda will be considered with the non-consent agenda. For these motions, each standing committee and task force will present its motions to the Council for discussion. If the board of directors opposes a motion, one of its members will present the board’s rationale for its opposition.

The president, who presides over the meeting, will then open the floor for debate of the motion. When debate ends, the president will call for voting. Each member board has

one vote, although a board can split its vote. For most motions, a majority vote wins. However, motions to amend the *Bylaws* require a two-thirds majority.

Preparing for the meeting

See the *Action Items and Conference Reports* for full information on the motions up for a vote at the 2022 annual meeting, the official reports from NCEES officers and committees, and a list of the rules that NCEES follows during the annual meeting business sessions. The publication is posted in the Board Resources section of MyNCEES (ncees.org/resources).

Zone business at the annual meeting

The four zones will meet separately on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning during the annual meeting. Each zone will vote to approve the minutes of its spring interim meeting.

The draft zone minutes are scheduled to be posted on the Board Resources section of MyNCEES (ncees.org/resources) by August 12.

Central Zone president-elect nominee

NCEES member boards will vote at the 2022 annual meeting to select a new president-elect. Nominees for the position rotate among the four NCEES geographical zones, and the 2022–23 president-elect will be from the Central Zone.

The zone has nominated Laura Sievers, P.E. Sievers is a member of

the Iowa Engineering and Land Surveying Examining Board. She is currently chair of the NCEES Committee on Examinations for Professional Engineers (EPE). She has previously served as vice chair of the EPE Committee and chair of the Committee on Examination Audit.



ENFORCEMENT BEAT



BOB HERBERT

ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF LICENSURE
FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND
SURVEYORS CHIEF SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR

Truth or consequences

WHEN THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF LICENSURE for Professional Engineers and Surveyors receives an application for licensure, it goes through a review process. In the past, the applications were submitted by paper, and the numerous pages were evaluated by hand.

The licensure application was somewhat limited on space for clarification. At times, an individual would mistakenly answer “No” when, in fact, they had been arrested for a misdemeanor or felony. The applicant erroneously interpreted what was required because of the lack of space for additional explanation in the question.

The background review process for all applicants has been standard with our agency for nearly 20 years. In reviewing the background history, the board staff processes each applicant through Alacourt, Accurint (once known as LexisNexis), and NCEES Enforcement Exchange to verify whether the applicant has any criminal or disciplinary actions. This is compared to the answers that the applicant has provided.

If a red flag arises from the background check, that information is forwarded to the board’s investigators for a more in-depth evaluation. The investigators research the listed jurisdictions for any criminal disposition of cases and reach out to any of those governmental agencies for documentation. The investigators also contact any listed state boards that took disciplinary action to gain additional information.

The board purchased a new database system that went live in October 2021. The application process is now fully automatic.

If a red flag arises from the background check, that information is forwarded to the board’s investigators for a more in-depth evaluation.

During the new application process, the applicant is provided with more detailed clarification instructions, including the following:

Instructions:

You are required to read all questions in their entirety. All states do not ask the same questions. **Background checks are performed on all applicants.** Any misrepresentation or untrue statements will be cause for an **automatic 1-year denial** of your application, **regardless if unintentional.**

Additional instructions:

Below is a list of actions that are misdemeanors and should be reported. This is not a complete list. If you are unsure if the action is a misdemeanor, you would need to contact the board office.

- DUI/DWI
- Reckless driving with or without alcohol
- Public intoxication
- Disorderly conduct
- Open container
- Possession of drug or drug paraphernalia
- Alcohol—minor buying alcohol or providing alcohol to minor

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MEMBER BOARD BRIEF

MBA professional development workshops focus on crisis communications and advocacy

THE 2022 NCEES ANNUAL MEETING HAS TWO upcoming professional development opportunities for member board administrators (MBAs). Both workshops will be held Tuesday, August 23 at the Carlsbad, California, meeting.

Crisis communications

The first, Crisis Communications and Media Training, is designed for MBAs to gain the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to successfully identify and manage a crisis in their state.

NCEES Chief Communications Officer Nina Norris will share recent examples and tips for working with and responding to the media and provide guidance to help with the development of crisis communications plans specific to the needs of individual states.

Advocacy and ARPL

A second MBA professional development workshop, Advocacy and the Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing (ARPL), focuses on addressing growing threats to public protection from licensing reform efforts.

MBAs and other board staff are invited to attend this workshop to learn how to prepare and guide their board when advocacy issues arise in their state. The workshop will explore the benefits of working together and the ARPL resources available to state boards.

NCEES Advocacy and External Engagement Strategist Joshua Twitty will provide an update on the most recent legislative sessions and their impact on engineering and surveying licensure.

Information on the NCEES annual meeting, including a schedule of workshops, is available in the Board Resources section of MyNCEES ([ncees.org/resources](https://www.ncees.org/resources)).



Member board staff participate in the MBA professional development workshop at the 2019 NCEES annual meeting in Washington, D.C. The 2022 annual meeting will include two professional development opportunities for MBAs.

**2022 NCEES annual meeting
professional development
workshops | Tuesday, August 23**



8:00–9:30 a.m.

Crisis Communications and Media Training

10:00–11:30 a.m.

Advocacy and the Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing

Grand prize winners named for NCEES Engineering and Surveying Education awards

NCEES ANNOUNCED THE WINNERS OF ITS 2022 Engineering and Surveying Education awards in June.

Engineering Education Award

NCEES awarded its \$25,000 Engineering Education Award grand prize to the University of Nebraska–Lincoln Charles W. Durham School of Architectural Engineering and Construction.

For the school's project, *Tarrant County College Student Success Center*, engineering students in interdisciplinary teams developed fully integrated designs for a student success center on the Tarrant County College campus in Fort Worth, Texas. The students faced several design challenges, including emergency planning for utilities and providing resiliency to handle natural disasters.

The jury praised the project for its integration of students, faculty, and professional engineers on a complex, real-world project.

This annual 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.

The jury selected seven additional winners to receive awards of \$10,000 each:

- Florida Atlantic University Department of Civil, Environmental, and Geomatics Engineering | *Design Connections—Bridge in Africa*
- Oklahoma State University School of Civil and Environmental Engineering | *Town Water Supply Engineering Design*
- Olivet Nazarene University Martin D. Walker School of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics | *Logan Nazarene Campground*

- Seattle University Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering | *Design of Shelter for Underprivileged Children in Colombia*
- Seattle University Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering | *Introducing Engineering to Elementary School Students through Flood Mitigation in School Property*
- The Citadel Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering | *Designing Advanced Air Mobility Infrastructure: Multidisciplinary Capstone Project*
- University of Wisconsin–Madison Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering | *Lakeside House Redevelopment*

Profiles of the winning engineering projects are posted at ncees.org/award.

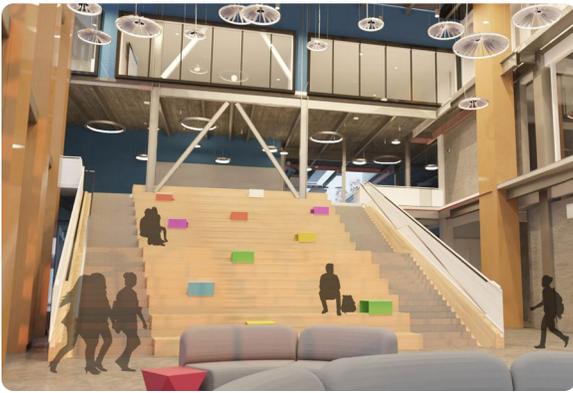
Surveying Education Award

The New Mexico State University Department of Engineering Technology and Surveying Engineering is the \$25,000 grand prize winner of the 2022 NCEES Surveying Education Award.

The award jury praised the program for its multiple paths for students entering the program and for its outreach efforts.

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. Jurors considered criteria such as student outcomes and involvement, outreach and recruitment, and the promotion of licensure.

In addition to selecting the \$25,000 grand prize winner, the jury chose six programs to receive the following awards:



The University of Nebraska–Lincoln’s Charles W. Durham School of Architectural Engineering and Construction won the 2022 NCEES Engineering Education Award grand prize. For its winning project, student teams developed fully integrated designs for Tarrant County College’s student success center in Fort Worth, Texas.

\$15,000 winners

- Florida Atlantic University College of Engineering and Computer Science | Department of Civil, Environmental, and Geomatics Engineering
- Idaho State University College of Technology | Surveying and Geomatics Engineering Technology program

- University of Maine College of Engineering | Surveying Engineering Technology program

\$10,000 winners

- North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University College of Science and Technology | Department of Built Environment

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ENFORCEMENT BEAT

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- Hunting on baited field; hunting at night, overlimit
- Overlimit on waterfowl or fish, illegal catch of fish

The application includes the following questions on disciplinary actions:

- Have you ever been disciplined, or do you have any complaints pending against you in another jurisdiction?
- Have you ever been convicted, plead guilty, been placed on probation, had adjudication withheld, or accepted pre-trial diversion for a felony or misdemeanor?

Depending on what is discovered during this process, several things can occur. First, the information will be reported back to the licensing staff for a determination on what happens with the application. The staff may ask for additional documentation and clarification from the applicant for what was discovered. Depending on the response, the applicant may find out—as stated above—that any misrepresentation or untrue statements will be cause for an automatic one-year denial of their application, even if unintentional.

The information that was uncovered may also lead to opening an investigation into the conduct of the applicant. Enforcement cases in the past that originated from an initial application have led to several disciplinary actions for performing engineering or land surveying in Alabama without a license.

The moral of this story is to be truthful. Not all disciplinary actions or criminal actions will keep an applicant from gaining licensure, but answering inaccurately because they forgot or did not know it was a misdemeanor—at a minimum—will delay the applicant from getting licensed for one year. At worst, a formal investigation could commence, and final disposition of that case could be damaging for the applicant. This is not the time to find out what the consequence of a board investigation could do for your future.

Herbert is chief special investigator for the Alabama board and a member of the 2021–22 NCEES Committee on Law Enforcement.

The following are recent and upcoming NCEES outreach activities to promote engineering and surveying licensure. For the latest outreach news, follow NCEES on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. Visit ncees.org for links to its social media pages.

Advance podcast

In the August episode of *Advance: An NCEES Podcast Series*, Bart Miller, P.E., senior principal at Walter P. Moore, discusses his role leading large and high-profile projects in a variety of markets, including sports, aviation, healthcare, convention centers, and education. Episodes are posted at ncees.org/podcast.

P.E. and P.S. Profiles

In our August profile, Denver Winchester, P.L.S., vice president of Crafton Tull in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, discusses his work on residential development, public infrastructure, and oil and gas projects. Profiles are posted at ncees.org/engineer-profiles and ncees.org/surveyor-profiles.

EDUCATION AWARDS

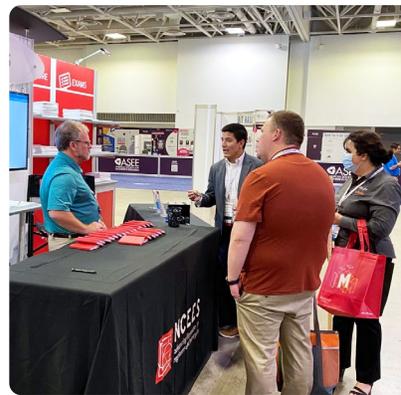
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- Oregon Institute of Technology
College of Engineering,
Technology, and Management
| Geomatics program
- University of Akron College of
Engineering and Polymer Science
| Surveying and Mapping program

Profiles of the winning surveying programs are posted at ncees.org/surveyingaward.

DiscoverE International Women in Engineering Day

Nevada board member Karen Purcell, P.E., represented NCEES at a DiscoverE International Women in Engineering Day event on June 23. Cohosted by the Congressional Women's STEM caucus, the webinar featured a panel discussion on women and girls in engineering and technology. A recording is available at discoverE.org.



NCEES Chief Operating Officer Davy McDowell, P.E. (left) answers questions on the FE exam at the ASEE annual conference, held June 26–29 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

ASEE conference

NCEES participated in the 2022 American Society for Engineering Education annual conference June 26–29 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to promote the FE exam as an

outcomes assessment tool and the value of licensure.



Left: University of Maine students run 3-wire levels in Benjamin Banneker Park, in Washington, D.C. The university's surveying engineering technology program won a \$15,000 NCEES Surveying Education Award in June 2022.



Right: New Mexico State University geomatics students and faculty attend a demonstration of mobile mapping systems. The university's geomatics/surveying engineering program won the \$25,000 NCEES Surveying Education Award grand prize in June 2022.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 2-3

PE Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering Exam Meeting
Greenville, South Carolina

AUGUST 5-6

FE Exam Meeting
Greenville, South Carolina

AUGUST 6

PE Electrical and Computer: Power Exam Meeting
Virtual

AUGUST 11-13

PE Structural Exam Meeting
Greenville, South Carolina

AUGUST 19-20

PE Architectural Engineering Exam Meeting
Greenville, South Carolina

AUGUST 23

2021-22 Board of Directors Meeting
Carlsbad, California

AUGUST 23-26

NCEES Annual Meeting
Carlsbad, California

AUGUST 26

2022-23 Board of Directors Meeting
Carlsbad, California

AUGUST 26-27

PE Nuclear Exam Meeting
Greenville, South Carolina

SEPTEMBER 8-9

2022-23 Board of Directors Orientation
Greenville, South Carolina

SEPTEMBER 9-10

PE Control Systems Exam Meeting
Greenville, South Carolina

SEPTEMBER 12-13

PE Agricultural and Biological Engineering Exam Meeting
Greenville, South Carolina

SEPTEMBER 16-17

PE Chemical Exam Meeting and PE Industrial and Systems Exam Meeting
Greenville, South Carolina

SEPTEMBER 20-21

PE Petroleum Exam Meeting
Virtual

SEPTEMBER 21-22

PE Fire Protection Exam Meeting
Greenville, South Carolina

SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 1

PE Environmental Exam Meeting
Greenville, South Carolina

MEMBER BOARD NEWS

Alabama

James Pegues is a new appointee. Helen Adams-Morales is no longer a member.

California

Eric Johnson is no longer a member.

Indiana PS

Michael DeBoy and Ross Holloway are no longer members.

Massachusetts

Jason Wentworth is the new executive director.

Minnesota

Jason Amberg and Alan Johnson are new appointees. Nirmal Jain and Scott Robinson are no longer members.

Mississippi

Michael Thornton is no longer a member.

Nebraska PE

Alan Wedige is a new appointee. David Johnson is no longer a member.

New Mexico

John Wayne is a new appointee.

Oklahoma

Gene Brown is a new appointee. Charles Darr is no longer a member.

Oregon

Erica Rooney is a new appointee. Erin Austin and Amin Wahab are no longer members.

Rhode Island PE

Ayodele Osimboni is a new appointee. Paul Aldinger is no longer a member.

Wyoming

Dave Fehringer is a new appointee. Greg Meinecke is no longer a member.

Brian Robertson, P.E.
President
Colorado

Christopher Duhamel, P.E., P.L.S.
President-Elect
Rhode Island

Christopher Knotts, P.E.
Immediate Past President
Louisiana

Paul Tyrell, P.E., P.L.S.
Treasurer
Massachusetts

Michael Drewyor, P.E., P.S.
Central Zone Vice President
Michigan

Thomas Orisich, P.L.S.
Northeast Zone Vice President
Maryland

Andrew Zoutewelle, P.L.S.
Southern Zone Vice President
North Carolina

Scott Bishop, P.S.
Western Zone Vice President
Utah

David Cox
Chief Executive Officer
South Carolina

Licensure EXCHANGE

*A publication of the National Council of
Examiners for Engineering and Surveying*

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ISSN NO. 1093-541X
VOLUME 26, ISSUE 4

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NCEES named one of the Best Places to Work in South Carolina

For the second year in a row, NCEES has been named one of the Best Places to Work in South Carolina. SC Biz News created this 17th annual program in partnership with the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce and Best Companies Group.

This survey-and-awards program was designed to identify, recognize, and honor the best employers in the state of South Carolina, benefiting the state's economy, workforce, and businesses.

"As we have continued to ensure that we address employee needs in the changing work environment, NCEES is honored to be named one of the best places to work in South Carolina again for 2022," said NCEES CEO David Cox. "We recognize our staff's role in protecting the public, and providing them with the best working environment for their development and overall well-being ultimately benefits us all."

Companies from across the state entered the two-part survey process to determine the Best Places to Work in South Carolina. The first part consisted of evaluating each nominated company's workplace policies, practices, philosophy, systems, and demographics. The second part consisted of an employee survey to measure the employee experience. The combined scores determined the top companies and the final ranking. Best Companies Group managed the overall registration and survey process, analyzed the data, and determined the final rankings.

The ranked companies will be recognized at an in-person awards ceremony on August 18, 2022, at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. A special issue of *SCBIZ Magazine* profiling the selected companies will be published in September.

For more information on the Best Places to Work in South Carolina program, visit BestPlacesToWorkSC.com.

