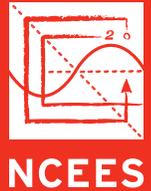


Licensure EXCHANGE

DECEMBER 2020
Volume 24, Issue 6



**CHRISTOPHER
KNOTTS, P.E.**
NCEES PRESIDENT



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Work of NCEES continues during pandemic

I AM VERY PROUD—BUT NOT SURPRISED—to report that despite the challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, all NCEES committees, the board of directors, and staff have continued their work. This is accomplished mostly through virtual meetings and the Basecamp project management system. The board of directors was able to hold a face-to-face meeting in early November at our new headquarters in Greenville, South Carolina. The building is amazing. When activities get back to normal, I am sure committees and visitors will greatly appreciate the layout and technical advances that were incorporated into the structure.

Recently, NCEES participated in a virtual leadership meeting with ABET, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Society for Engineering Education, and the National Society of Professional Engineers. While many discussions focused on operations during COVID-19, the standard topics of threats to public protection, education, and licensure dominated the meeting. The virus has not paused the issues that we deem important, which is why NCEES continues its work.

The Engineering Licensure Task Force met twice via Zoom, with much productive discussion. With such a heavy topic and an all-new group of people, we are investigating the possibility of an in-person meeting for this group in Greenville in 2021. Many believe the virtual format has limited the depth of some necessary discussions. I agree but am cognizant of the need to protect everyone's safety as we move forward.

The current situation has impacted some activities that do not have a good alternate format to continue. The members of the board of directors have visited many NCEES member boards since instituting a visitation program in 2016. I personally can attest to the value of those visits, but with COVID-19, many boards are meeting virtually or not meeting at all. This has obviously caused the program to pause, but it will resume when conditions allow.

Upcoming events such as Board Presidents' Assembly and the Participating Organizations Liaison Council meeting had already moved to a virtual format for next year. The NCEES board of directors also recently reviewed plans for the upcoming zone interim meetings. The board initially decided to adjust some meeting plans and cap attendance. However, after further discussion with member board administrators and senior staff, the board decided to cancel the in-person zone interim meetings. This is the only way we can protect the health and well-being of member board representatives and staff, while ensuring that business is conducted in a way that includes all member boards. The primary purpose of the zone interim meetings is to prepare member boards for the annual meeting. We will accomplish that through a series of podcasts, presentations, and virtual meetings.

continued on page 5

MEMBER BOARD BRIEF



JON WILBECK

NEBRASKA BOARD OF ENGINEERS AND
ARCHITECTS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Navigating the legislative process

LEGISLATIVE BILL 755 (LB 755) PASSED IN THE Nebraska Legislature in 2020. The bill made key changes to the Nebraska Engineers and Architects Regulation Act, including provisions for the decoupling of engineering experience as a prerequisite for eligibility for the Principles and Practice of Engineering exam. The bill, which became effective November 14, 2020, was the successful result of a concentrated outreach effort by the Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects to educate the state engineering societies, legislators, and other stakeholders about the reasons for the proposed changes in order to build consensus. LB755 successfully passed on a 47-0-2 vote.

The Nebraska engineering board's effective outreach effort in 2020 was a revised plan of lessons learned from the unsuccessful attempt in 2014 to introduce decoupling provisions to its practice act. These lessons may be helpful to other engineering and surveying boards that are considering legislative changes in their state.

Understanding the legislative environment

One of the first things that you can start prior to seeking legislative change is researching how the legislative and bill-making process is structured in your legislature. The following are some key points to understand:

- In which legislative chamber are bills introduced?
- Which legislator do you want to approach to sponsor your proposed changes?
- Will your bill have a public hearing?
- Will it be sent to a specific legislative committee?
- What is the fiscal impact of the changes to your board's budget? Do the changes affect or eliminate any applications or renewal fees?
- Which individuals or groups will be opposed to the changes, and why?

Building consensus

Once your board has agreed on the changes it would like to make and identified the major policy changes it intends to seek, start contacting key stakeholders about the proposed changes prior to bill introduction. This is an opportunity to explain the reasoning behind the issues and to engage in a dialogue with these groups. In this way, consensus can often be achieved. This consensus may evolve into reduced opposition during the later lawmaking process and build a stronger foundation of support for your proposed changes. To maintain momentum and enthusiasm, keep stakeholder groups informed as your changes move through the legislative pipeline. Develop a system for communicating important information to the leaders of interested parties and their members.

Crafting the message

First, identify the main purpose and intent of your proposed legislative changes. Prioritize the changes that are critical and most relevant to your board.

Understand the current legislative trends and relevant issues discussed by legislators. To illustrate, a point that the Nebraska engineering board used to support its 2020 decoupling provisions was that the board viewed the change as removing an unnecessary barrier to licensure. The board understood that this topic was relevant and highlighted this point when discussing the proposed changes.

Identifying key legislators

If bills in your state go through a specific committee that deals with engineering or surveying matters, reach out to that committee and its legislative members. Meet with legislators when the legislature is not in session, as they usually have more time to meet and learn about the issues. In some jurisdictions, it may also be beneficial to build relationships

with key staff members of legislators and your governor's policy office.

If your state restricts board members and staff from engaging in such activities, consider making similar contact with other influential people who can contact these legislators—or connect with legislators through your state professional engineering or surveying societies.

Educating those legislators

When educating legislators on your changes, ensure that those discussing the changes with legislators are comfortable with and knowledgeable about the issues. Make sure you have considered the advantages and disadvantages of the changes, and be honest with legislators about the impact of the changes. Legislators will want to know both sides of the issue so that they can defend their position or vote on the issue. Be prepared to answer the following questions:

- Why does this need to happen?
- Why is this important?
- How will these changes positively impact the citizens of our state?

Understanding the opposition

Preferably, your board has heard and considered some opposition to your proposed changes and has had the ability to assess the effect prior to bill introduction. However, it is always a good idea to keep aware of potential opposition during the legislative session. Monitor bills of similar scope or that affect other regulatory boards to gain a sense of the tack that groups who are philosophically opposed to government regulation take. This could be useful in testimony at your bill's public hearing when refuting similar opposition. Let your bill's sponsor know of any opposition and your board's perspective. In this way, the sponsor can be better informed and prepared once debate opens on the bill on the legislative floor.

Leveraging resources

The following resources may be beneficial to your board:

- The NCEES *Model Law* and *Model Rules* can be used as a solid foundation for boards as both a high-level benchmark and a sound and realistic guide that

will provide greater uniformity of qualifications for licensure, raise these qualifications to a higher level of accomplishment, and simplify the interstate licensure of engineers and surveyors. Using the *Model Law* as a framework for seeking change in your state is beneficial because it represents a consensus of all member boards on the gold standard of licensure requirements.

- The Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing (ARPL) is an organization composed of national associations that represent highly complex, technical professions and their state licensing boards. NCEES is a member of ARPL. The alliance helps ensure that the voices and concerns of advanced professions—including engineering and surveying—are heard by lawmakers in debates around licensing.

ARPL has a range of online resources to help state licensing boards communicate the importance of licensure in protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public. NCEES member boards can access these in the Member Resources section of the NCEES website (see Advocacy Resources at ncees.org/resources).

- Several other state licensing boards have been successful in advancing changes to the acts that they administer, including Nebraska's engineering board, so a conversation with that board's members or director is a worthwhile endeavor.

After passing a bill

While the bulk of the work is now behind you, there are still a few things to consider.

- **Say thank you.** After a key vote, the bill's passage, or any other major step along the way, continue to build and strengthen relationships with legislators by thanking them for their support. A handwritten note is always appreciated; however, a personalized, heartfelt email to the legislator can also be effective.
- **Update primary sponsor(s) on implementation.** Many legislators like to receive updates on the implementation of bills they previously sponsored. Reach out to the primary sponsor(s) of the legislation when your board reaches major milestones in the bill's

continued on page 4

NCEES launches podcast series

NCEES RECENTLY LAUNCHED A MONTHLY PODCAST to further its virtual outreach. *Advance: An NCEES Podcast Series* highlights professional engineers and surveyors across the country and their critical work helping safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

The first episode features Kevin Edwards, P.E., MBB, chief diversity and inclusion officer at Bechtel, who discusses diversifying the engineering workforce. The second episode features Anna Rios, R.P.L.S., who is the RPLS project manager at Landesign Services Inc., on the future of surveying. Future episodes will focus on current and relevant topics for the professions of engineering and surveying.

Podcast host Davy McDowell, P.E., the chief operating officer of NCEES, explained the aim of the new project: “Safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of the public is at the heart of the work of professional engineers and surveyors. For the most part, their role in public protection goes unnoticed in our everyday lives. In our new podcast series, NCEES highlights the work of licensed professionals within engineering and surveying and their contributions to our society.”



NCEES launched a podcast series in September to highlight professional engineers and surveyors across the country and their critical work in safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

Episodes of the monthly podcast are posted online at ncees.org/podcast. They are also available on Spotify, Stitcher, and Apple Podcasts.

MEMBER BOARD BRIEF

continued from page 3

implementation, such as the adoption of new rules and regulations or board approval of the first cohort of licensees under the new requirements.

- **Celebrate.** Consider marking the occasion through a signing ceremony with the governor or other similar activities. In some states, signing ceremonies can be arranged through a request by the primary bill sponsor. Another option is to obtain official copies of the bill (or law) and obtain signatures from bill sponsors. These can be framed or otherwise presented to key

stakeholders, including executive committee members and legislative committee members. Finally, consider hosting a webinar or other event to promote and explain the legislative changes. A webinar or in-person seminar also provides another opportunity to invite the introducing legislator(s) or key staff to speak about their sponsorship of the legislation.

With some hard work, careful planning, and consensus building, you can successfully pass legislation.

Future City moves to virtual format for 2021

IN RESPONSE TO THE ONGOING COVID-19 PANDEMIC, the Future City Competition has moved the 2021 cycle to a virtual format. Future City adjusted the program to fit with a variety of education models. Teams can complete the deliverables—including the essay, city model, and presentation—in person as a group or by collaborating remotely. The regional competitions and finals will take place online instead of in person.

A Q&A session with judges will be the only live component. To allow for interaction between teams and engineering, technical, and city design professionals, teams will have a 10-minute Q&A session with judges through video conferencing.

Part of the DiscoverE outreach programming, Future City challenges middle-school teams to design and build cities of the future. NCEES sponsors the Best Land Surveying Practices Special Award at regional competitions across the country and at the finals each year.

The 2021 schedule for the competition has also been adjusted. Regional competitions, which are usually held in January, will be held from late January to late February. Judging for the finals, which is usually held in February, will be conducted in March. The winners will be announced at an online presentation in April.



NCEES judges Bradley Roberts, P.S., and Scott Bishop, P.S., (second row, far right) present the Best Land Surveying Practices Special Award to the Oklahoma team at the 2020 Future City finals. NCEES sponsors the award at the regional and national Future City competitions.

“Future City and the judging for the NCEES special award will look a little different this year,” explained Chief Communications Officer Nina Norris. “What will not change is the opportunity for thousands of students to learn about the important roles for engineering and surveying in our communities now and in the future.”

Details for the 2021 Future City Competition are available at futurecity.org. More information will be posted there as it becomes available.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

continued from cover

The other purpose of the zone meetings is to conduct zone business, including officer elections. That is best done with all boards present, but travel restrictions and quarantine mandates would make it impossible for all boards to be represented. With virtual meetings, all boards will be able to participate in the balloting process. NCEES staff will be working with zone leadership to solidify plans.

One positive in the many challenges of the pandemic is that we accelerated the conversion of pencil-and-paper exams to computer-based testing. The new schedule has all exams being

converted to CBT two years earlier than planned. This will allow those seeking licensure many more opportunities to sit for an exam in a testing center rather than at the large, twice per year pencil-and-paper administrations, many of which were canceled this year by governmental size limitations on gatherings.

I wish my message was not so COVID-19 intensive, but it has impacted everything we do and how we do it. Hopefully, in the not-too-distant future, we will be looking back at 2020, thankful we are past this health issue. I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

NCEES opens 2021 Engineering Education and Surveying Education awards

NCEES RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THE CALL FOR ENTRIES for the 2021 cycles of its Engineering Education Award and Surveying Education Award. Both awards were canceled in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Engineering Education Award

The NCEES Engineering Education Award recognizes college engineering programs for engaging their students in collaborative projects with licensed professional engineers. It was established to promote understanding of the value of licensure and to encourage partnerships between the engineering profession and education.

EAC/ABET-accredited programs from all engineering disciplines are invited to submit projects that integrate professional practice and education.

At the discretion of the award jury, up to eight cash awards are presented each year:

- Grand prize: \$25,000
- Up to seven awards: \$10,000 each

Due to the cancellation of the 2020 competition, NCEES will be accepting those entries for the 2021 competition cycle. If a program completed a project in 2020, it can be entered for a chance to win one of the 2021 awards.

The winning engineering departments/colleges decide how to best use the cash awards. NCEES encourages the winners to use the funds for the advancement of projects connecting professional practice and education.

To be eligible for the 2021 awards, projects must be in progress or completed by March 15, 2021. Entries are due to NCEES by May 17. For more information on the NCEES Engineering Education Award, visit ncees.org/award.

Surveying Education Award

The NCEES Surveying Education Award recognizes surveying/geomatics programs that have a broad and robust



James Purcell, P.E., (left) 2018–19 NCEES president, presents the 2019 NCEES Engineering Education Award grand prize to the University of Nebraska–Lincoln at the NCEES annual meeting. The organization's 2020 education awards were canceled in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. NCEES is now taking applications for the 2021 award cycles.

curriculum and best reflect NCEES' mission to advance licensure for surveyors in order to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

NCEES is now accepting applications for the 2021 competition cycle. The organization encourages all surveying/geomatics programs to submit an application.

At the discretion of the award jury, up to seven cash awards are presented each year, as follows:

- Grand prize: \$25,000
- Up to three prizes: \$15,000 each
- Up to three prizes: 10,000 each

Use of the funds awarded is encouraged to be incorporated into the surveying/geomatics programs.

Applications for the NCEES Surveying Education Award are due by May 21, 2021. More information on the award program and 2021 award cycle are available online at ncees.org/surveyingaward.



JIM SZATKOWSKI, P.E.

IDAHO BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL
ENGINEERS AND PROFESSIONAL LAND
SURVEYORS DEPUTY DIRECTOR

COVID-19 presents training opportunities

MANY JURISDICTIONS HAVE CONTINUING professional competency (CPC) requirements like the ones described in the NCEES *Model Law* and *Model Rules*. Those that do often have enforcement challenges when licensees let their renewal period pass by and fail to comply with a board's CPC training requirements. This poses challenges for the licensees, especially if they're licensed in multiple jurisdictions. It can result in a snowball effect of reciprocal discipline and charges for failing CPC compliance in all jurisdictions where they are licensed.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, many licensees are facing travel restrictions and social distancing requirements. These make some of the more conventional delivery modes of CPC training a challenge. At the same time, these impediments to face-to-face training can open opportunities for other ways to earn CPC credit.

Our board adapted to the pandemic by holding virtual board and office meetings to include those working remotely. In the same way, virtual training programs are becoming the default or standard in training delivery. Providers have improved offering options and quality due to the demand being placed on them for their training. Further, many of the meetings and conferences that delivered CPC opportunities are still doing it—except virtually, in private meeting rooms during scheduled virtual conferences.

We have been presented with a challenge with this pandemic. As usual, people in the engineering and technology sectors have met the challenge by improving remote virtual access so that your wirelessly connected device can be a virtual delivery platform for both one-way and two-way video and audio, as well as displaying training material on a convenient device. Many smartphones can even be the delivery system. Capitalize on the opportunity and schedule this training during downtimes experienced during your remote work from home.

Our board adapted to the pandemic by holding virtual board and office meetings to include those working remotely. In the same way, virtual training programs are becoming the default or standard in training delivery.

Law Enforcement Committee publishes new resource for Enforcement Exchange

The Enforcement Exchange Instruction Manual is now available in the Member Resources section of the NCEES website (see Enforcement Resources in ncees.org/resources).

Enforcement Exchange is a web-based database system in which member boards can track disciplinary actions taken against violators and screen licensee and applicant disciplinary actions posted by other jurisdictions. The new instruction manual provides guidance on topics such as getting started with Enforcement Exchange, searching for violators, and adding individuals and firms to the database.

Your board investigators and staff can also continue to do their jobs virtually, with no risk of exposure to the viral threat, and business can proceed while we adapt to the new normal.

COMMITTEE FOCUS

NCEES committees and task forces begin work on 2020–21 agenda

WITH ITS COMMITTEES AND task forces addressing almost 60 charges this year, NCEES has a full range of issues to consider in 2020–21. President Christopher Knotts, P.E., assigned the 11 standing committees charges that focus on issues such as education, enforcement, and exams. He appointed three task forces to study issues related to public outreach, the engineering licensure model, and the regulation of fire protection engineering.

The following are highlights of the issues that these groups will address this year.

One common charge for most committees is to review the report from their respective 2019–20 committee. These committees will review last year's recommendations and proposed motions and determine if they should be brought forward as motions at the 2021 annual meeting. This review process is required because of the change in format to the 2020 annual meeting. The meeting moved to a virtual format, and voting was held by ballot before the annual business meeting. Therefore, the Council addressed only essential business and carried over most committee reports and motions to 2020–21.

A full list of charges and the membership of each group is

available in E3, the NCEES customer management system (click on MyNCEES at the top of ncees.org to access the system). The committees and task forces will publish their reports in the annual meeting *Action Items and Conference Reports*. The Council will vote on any resulting motions at the annual meeting in August 2020.

Advisory Committee on Council Activities

Chair: Kelly Fedele, P.E., P.S.

Board of directors liaison:

Christopher Knotts, P.E.

**Staff liaison: Donna Moss,
SHRM-CP, PHR**

ACCA makes recommendations on policy issues that are not assigned to another standing committee or that involve several committees. It also reviews the NCEES *Manual of Policy and Position Statements* and recommends revisions.

The committee's charges for 2020–21 include reviewing last year's ACCA report and proposed motions to confirm that these motions should be brought forward at the 2021 annual meeting. The committee will consider creating a Past Presidents Committee that would be available as a resource to all committees, task forces, and NCEES staff. It will also consider whether the number of Distinguished Examination

Service Awards should be limited each year.

Committee on Awards

Chair: Robert Krebs, P.E., L.S.

Board of directors liaison:

Dean Ringle, P.E., P.S.

Staff liaison: Sherrie Dyer, CAP-OM

The Committee on Awards will collect nominations for NCEES service awards to be presented during the 2021 annual meeting and recommend recipients to the board of directors. Nomination materials are available at ncees.org/resources under Board Resources. Nominations are due by January 31, 2021.

Committee on Education

Chair: Wendy Amann, P.E.

Board of directors liaison:

Michael Drewyor, P.E., P.S.

Staff liaison: Davy McDowell, P.E.

The Committee on Education serves in an advisory role for education issues related to ABET, requirements prior to initial licensure, continuing professional competency, and foreign degree or unaccredited program evaluation.

This year, the committee will review the 2019–20 Education Committee report and proposed motions. It will review the NCEES *Continuing*

Professional Competency Guidelines, Model Law, and Model Rules to determine if any changes need to be made in light of the increased growth of virtual learning. ACCA will consider the development of an outreach program—possibly similar to the NCEES Engineering Education and Surveying Education awards—that focuses on K–12 education. It will also review the NCEES Engineering and Surveying Education standards and propose revisions as necessary for Council approval at the annual meeting.

Committee on Examination Audit

Chair: Christy VanBuskirk, P.E.

Board of directors liaison:

Christopher Duhamel, P.E., P.S.

Staff liaison: Lehmon Dekle, P.E.

The Committee on Examination Audit conducts regular audits of the NCEES exam program. It observes standard-setting studies to update exam specifications. The committee also reviews the findings of previous audits to ensure that items were addressed appropriately.

This year, the committee will audit the most recent administrations of the following Principles and Practice of Engineering exams: Civil, Industrial and Systems, Mining and Mineral Processing, and Naval Architecture as well as the Principles and Practice of Surveying exam. It will observe standard-setting studies for the PE Control Systems and PE Industrial and Systems exams. It will also review exam audit findings from the 2019–20 audit cycle to ensure that items were appropriately addressed.

Committee on Examination Policy and Procedures

Chair: Jeffrey Jones, P.L.S.

Board of directors liaison:

Brian Robertson, P.E.

Staff liaison: Tim Miller, P.E.

The EPP Committee reviews the effectiveness of the NCEES exam process and recommends revisions to policies and procedures when needed.

This year, the committee's charges include reviewing the *NCEES Examinee Guide* for content and effectiveness.

The committee will review exam volumes regarding Examination Development Policy 8, Deleting/Combining/Renaming a Discipline or Module from the Examination Program and will provide recommendations to the board of directors as needed. It will also review the 2019–20 EPP Committee report and proposed motions.

Committee on Examinations for Professional Engineers

Chair: Carmine Balascio, Ph.D., P.E.

Vice chair: Laura Sievers, P.E.

Board of directors liaison:

Brian Robertson, P.E.

Staff liaison: Tim Miller, P.E.

The EPE Committee oversees the development and scoring of the Fundamentals of Engineering and Principles and Practice of Engineering exams. Its recurring charges include conducting content reviews to update exam specifications, monitoring the training of exam development volunteers, and recommending changes to exam policies and procedures as needed.

A new recurring task is to compare exam development committee member data with benchmarks established by the EPE Committee as part of the NCEES Exam Development Volunteer Diversity Monitoring plan. The committee will review progress on data collection from target populations. It will periodically review the NCEES Exam Development Volunteer Diversity Monitoring plan. The committee will also set exam development committee membership benchmarks and periodically review and modify them as needed.

Committee on Examinations for Professional Surveyors

Chair: Aaron Morris, P.L.S.

Vice chair: Glen Thurow, P.S.

Board of directors liaison:

Timothy Lingerfelt, P.L.S.

Staff liaison: Tim Miller, P.E.

The EPS Committee oversees the development and scoring of the Fundamentals of Surveying and Principles and Practice of Surveying exams. It reviews item performance, monitors the training of exam development volunteers, and recommends changes to exam policies and procedures.

The committee will also continue the development of a plan to restructure the PS exam into the following separately scored divisions, which delegates approved at the 2019 annual meeting:

- Core PS
- Boundary
- Public Land Survey System
- Mapping science
- Incidental drainage design

continued on next page

COMMITTEE FOCUS

continued from page 9

Committee on Finances

Chair: Timothy Rickborn, P.E.

Board of directors liaison:

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

Staff liaison: Betsy Pearson, CPA,
and Joe Scheving, CPA

The Committee on Finances studies the financial needs of NCEES and recommends sources of income and ways and means of securing adequate funds for the Council's operation. The committee will review the results of the 2019–20 audit and the organization's current financial condition. It will work with NCEES leadership to recommend the operating and capital budgets for the 2021–22 fiscal year.

Its other charges include working with the EPS Committee to estimate exam fees if and when the PS exam transitions to a multidivisional structure. It will also review the 2019–20 Finance Committee report and the proposed motions not presented at the 2020 annual meeting.

Committee on Law Enforcement

Chair: Jill Short

Board of directors liaison:

Timothy Lingerfelt, P.L.S.

Staff liaison: Bob Whorton, P.E.

The Committee on Law Enforcement promotes greater uniformity and cooperation between member boards in the enforcement of licensure laws. The committee maintains the *Investigation and Enforcement Guidelines* and *Investigative Training Manual*, best practice manuals for

A full list of charges and the membership of each group is available in E3, the NCEES customer management system.

enforcement activities and training. It also conducts a law enforcement program at the NCEES annual meeting and writes the column *Enforcement Beat for Licensure Exchange*.

This year, the committee's other charges include developing recommendations for conducting virtual investigations. It will also review the 2019–20 Law Enforcement Committee report and any recommendations from the report and propose motions if appropriate.

Committee on Member Board Administrators

Chair: Heather Richardson

Board of directors liaison:

Brian Robertson, P.E.

Staff liaison: Stef Goodenow

The MBA Committee coordinates MBA meetings, including those at the NCEES annual meeting and zone interim meetings. The committee facilitates cooperation between MBAs and assists with any member board efforts to address licensure processes and practices. It also mentors new MBAs and writes a *Licensure Exchange* column, *Member Board Brief*.

The committee's charges for 2020–21 include assisting NCEES staff to develop a program of regular MBA video

conferences or virtual MBA meetings. It will also review the 2019–20 MBA Committee report, including any recommendations, and propose motions as appropriate.

Committee on Uniform Procedures and Legislative Guidelines

Chair: Lamberto (Bobby) Balli, P.E.

Board of directors liaison:

Christopher Duhamel, P.E., P.S.

Staff liaison: Keri Anderson

Each year, the UPLG Committee looks for ways to strengthen the licensure process and proposes any necessary changes to the *Model Law* and *Model Rules*, documents that provide member licensing boards with models for their own practice laws to regulate the engineering and surveying professions.

The committee charges include reviewing the *Model Law* and *Model Rules* to determine if any processes outlined in these documents place an unintended barrier to potential licensees from underrepresented groups. The committee will recommend revisions as needed. It will also review the 2019–20 UPLG Committee report and proposed motions.

Engineering Licensure Model Task Force

Chair: David Beasley, Ph.D., P.E.
Board of directors liaison: Christopher Knotts, P.E.
Staff liaison: Stef Goodenow

President Knotts formed the Engineering Licensure Model Task Force to review the current NCEES engineering licensure model and assess whether a tiered licensure model would include more of the engineering team who have credentials other than a professional engineering license. An example of such a tiered model is the medical profession, with medical doctors, physician assistants, and registered nurses.

Fire Protection Task Force

Chair: Dale Jans, P.E.
Board of directors liaison: Paul Tyrell, P.E., P.L.S.
Staff liaison: Davy McDowell, P.E.

President Knotts formed the Fire Protection Task Force to review NCEES Position Statement 22, Fire Protection, to consider if the position statement is still relevant and accurate, and to recommend revisions if needed. The task force will also review the Society of Fire Protection Engineers Position Statement, “The Engineer and the Engineering Technician Designing Fire Protection Systems.” It will make endorsement recommendations to the NCEES board of directors.

Public Outreach Task Force

Chair: Candie Robinson
Board of directors liaison: Dean Ringle, P.E., P.S.
Staff liaison: Nina Norris

President Knotts is continuing the Public Outreach Task Force in 2020–21 to look for opportunities to advance licensure for engineering and surveying. The task force will develop a best-practices procedure that could be provided to governors to aid in the appointment of engineers and surveyors to their respective boards. The task force will also review the 2019–20 Public Outreach Task Force report and any recommendations and propose motions if appropriate.

EXAM NEWS

Board approves 2020–21 exam item costs

THE NCEES BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECENTLY APPROVED values for each exam item for fiscal year 2020–21, which began October 1. The values are calculated in three groups: multiple-choice items for exams administered via computer-based testing, or CBT; multiple-choice items for pencil-and-paper exams; and constructed response, or essay, questions for pencil-and-paper exams.

The following are the exam item costs for 2020–21:

- CBT item cost: \$1,721
- Pencil-and-paper exam item cost for multiple-choice items: \$2,316
- Pencil-and-paper exam constructed response: \$16,361

Each year, NCEES assesses the potential financial damages associated with an exam breach and sets a cost to replace an

exam item, or question, if it can no longer be used. NCEES considers travel expenses, subject-matter experts’ time, psychometric costs, and office and personnel costs when establishing the dollar value of each exam item.

2021 approved calculators

NCEES recently approved the calculator models that can be used on computer-based and pencil-and-paper exams in 2021:

- Casio: All fx-115 and fx-991 models (Any Casio calculator must have “fx-115” or “fx-991” in its model name.)
- Hewlett Packard: The HP 33s and HP 35s models, but no others

continued on page 13



DAVID COX

NCEES CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

NCEES resources can facilitate interstate practice

IN THE CURRENT ANTI-LICENSURE, ANTI-REGULATION environment, member boards need to take proactive steps to make themselves less of a target. The days of taking six to eight weeks, or longer, to approve candidates for licensure are no longer acceptable. Lawmakers are looking at your processes from the consumer's perspective. You must be able to justify your processes from this same perspective and demonstrate how they benefit consumers and allow candidates to get to work as licensees as quickly as possible. Reviewing your current processes is the first step. Several tactics—including taking advantage of existing NCEES tools—do not involve making changes to your law.

If law changes are necessary, please do not see opening your law as a bad thing. The anti-licensure lobby certainly will not hesitate to open it. I realize that most boards cannot lobby, but you can partner with a professional society that does actively lobby. The time to make these connections is now, not the day before a legislative committee hearing. If you have not already made such connections, NCEES can help.

I strongly encourage you to review the latest publication from the Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing (ARPL), *Licensed to Move: A Guide to Interstate Practice*. This article does not discuss the report in detail but rather uses it to demonstrate the need for action. The report is in preparation for what we believe will be the dominant licensure legislative issue in 2021: universal licensure. Such systems require occupational and professional licensing boards within a state or territory to grant individuals with out-of-state licenses a license to practice in that jurisdiction, often with few limitations.

NCEES offering tools such as the Records program is not enough; member boards must take advantage of these resources.

The report discusses the danger of the typical one-size-fits-all approach and provides three guiding principles for lawmakers:

- Recognize systems that work
- Develop substantially equivalent requirements for education, examination, and experience—the three Es
- Provide adequate public protection

I want to focus on the first guiding principle: recognition of systems that work. NCEES has developed a strong package of tools available to member boards so that your board can create such a system. The backbone is the NCEES Record. A Record contains everything you, as a member board, need to license a candidate—including transcripts, exam information, references, verified experience, licensure history, and disciplinary action history. The Record also indicates if the candidate is a Model Law Engineer (MLE), Model Law Structural Engineer (MLSE), or Model Law Surveyor (MLS). For example, an MLE has an EAC/ABET-accredited engineering degree, has passed the FE and PE exams, has four or more years of progressive engineering experience, holds a current license, and has no disciplinary actions.

NCEES offering tools such as the Records program is not enough; member boards must take advantage of these

resources. We have several member boards who use the NCEES Record very effectively. These states can point to their use of the Record program as an integral part of their processes that benefit the consumer and allow licensed professionals to get to work quickly. For example, these boards often approve MLE candidates on the same day or, in most cases, in three business days or less. That's a useful example of proactive work to share with lawmakers who are considering a universal licensing bill.

I am asking for every member board member to strongly consider using the NCEES Record as part of your board's application for interstate practice. You can develop a short electronic application to gather any additional information that your board needs. In addition, I encourage you to approve MLE, MLSE, and MLS comity applicants within five business days or less, either by staff or select board members. You could then ratify the decision at your next board meeting instead of requiring candidates to wait for approval on board meeting dates.

The NCEES Record also has a place in initial licensure. In this case, a Record contains the same information as when it is used for comity licensure applications except

that it does not have an initial license. It could be used in the same manner for interstate practice. Combine it with a short electronic application, and you have a package ready for review for initial licensure. Imagine if your staff only had to process and review applications for licensure. You could go from the old days of someone applying three to four times to your board at various steps in the licensure process to applying just one time, using a tool that the candidate could then use in other jurisdictions. Again, this is a useful example of proactive efforts to share with legislators. Also, imagine the staff time available to concentrate on your two major functions: issuing licenses and enforcing your law.

Why not allow NCEES to walk candidates through the exam process, collect transcripts and references, assist them in documenting their experience, and then review the provided information? Why not have candidates apply to your board once when they have a complete NCEES Record and are ready for licensure? Why not have more staff time to concentrate on licensure and the fourth E—enforcement? Making these process changes is not weakening licensure requirements. The three Es will still be in place. However, these process changes will put your board in a better position to defend your practices and demonstrate a proactive mindset to lawmakers. NCEES stands ready to assist you in making these things happen.

EXAM NEWS

continued from page 11

- Texas Instruments: All TI-30X and TI-36X models (Any Texas Instruments calculator must have “TI-30X” or “TI-36X” in its model name.)

Limiting the types of calculators allowed in the exam room is one of the measures NCEES takes to protect the integrity of its exams.

COVID-19 updates

NCEES is continuing to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on administering licensing exams.

To accommodate as many pencil-and-paper examinees as safely as possible, NCEES added a regional exam administration on January 26, 2021, for PE Civil examinees. The PE Civil exam is currently scheduled to be administered in 15 cities across the United States, although exam sites are subject to change as communities continue to address the pandemic. Registration for this administration closes December 14, 2020, at 3:00 p.m. EST.

Notices on COVID-19-related updates are posted on the NCEES website at [ncees.org/COVID-19](https://www.ncees.org/COVID-19).

Moments in NCEES history



As part of its ongoing centennial celebrations, NCEES is featuring moments in the organization's history in each 2020 issue of Licensure Exchange.

This issue's historical focus is NCEES headquarters.

The organization now known as NCEES was initially headquartered in Columbia, South Carolina, in the office of the first executive director, T. Keith Legaré, P.E. It moved to the civil engineering building of Clemson University in 1960, when James Hagood Sams, Ph.D., P.E., (and dean of the school of engineering at Clemson) became executive director. After renting several facilities in the local area, NCEES constructed a building on Clemson University property in 1981. Several renovations and expansions allowed headquarters to meet the organization's growing needs. In 2020, as NCEES celebrated its 100th anniversary, the organization moved to a new headquarters in Greenville, South Carolina.

From the Secretary-Treasurer's Report—1924

T. Keith Legaré

When the membership of the Council increases, it will probably be necessary to establish permanent headquarters for the Council in order that the records may be properly kept and the clerical work efficiently handled.

From the Report of the Executive Secretary—1937

T. Keith Legaré

President J.S. Dodds paid an official visit to the office of the National Council in Columbia, South Carolina, on May 15 and made a first-hand inspection of the location and facilities of our headquarters.

From the President's Report—1949

Alexander Blair

Twice during my term of office, I have visited Council headquarters in Columbia, to consult with the Executive Secretary and to observe the workings of the office. I would like to compliment the Secretary on the excellent filing system, the efficiency, the neatness, and order that was evidenced.

From the President's Report—1960

Lawrence E. McCartt

On July 1, T. Keith Legaré retired as Executive Secretary of Council after serving in this capacity for nearly 37 years. [...] On July 1, Dr. James H. Sams, formerly Dean of Engineering at Clemson, assumed the office of Executive Secretary. The Secretary's office has been established in Room 216, Civil Engineering Building, Clemson, South Carolina.



After renting several facilities in the local area, NCEES constructed a building on Clemson University property in 1981. The new building provided 12,500 square feet of space for Council activities.



Renovations in 1990 added conference rooms, five meeting rooms, additional room for exam department personnel, and office space to accommodate future growth. The building expansion doubled the space available to support Council initiatives.

MEMBER BOARD NEWS

ARKANSAS

Lorie Tudor is a new appointee.
Scott Bennett is no longer a member.

GUAM

Cathyann Gogue is a new appointee.
Philip Villanueva is no longer a member.

INDIANA PE

Jason Durr, Sam Reed, and Susan Zellers are new appointees.

LOUISIANA

Linda Bergeron and Byron Racca are new appointees. Alan Krouse and Scott Phillips are no longer members.

MISSOURI

Mark Nolte is a new appointee.
Michael Freeman is no longer a member.

NEVADA

Robert Fyda and Lynnette Russell are new appointees. Kent Anderson and Greg DeSart are no longer members.

NEW JERSEY

Ileana Botelho is now acting board administrator, replacing Michael DeFrancisi.

TENNESSEE PE

Melanie Doss is a new appointee.
Susan Ballard is no longer a member.

VIRGINIA

Tim Colley is a new appointee. Robert Boynton is no longer a member.

WISCONSIN

Carl Hampton is the new board administrator, replacing Christian Albouras.

EMERITUS

The NCEES board of directors approved the following emeritus members at its November meeting.

Delaware PE: Carmine Balascio;

Indiana PE: Harold Snead; **Nevada:**

Kent Anderson; **Oklahoma:** William

McVey; **Utah:** Scott Bishop

UPCOMING EVENTS

Currently scheduled events may change as NCEES continues to address the COVID-19 pandemic. All meetings will be conducted virtually.

December 2–5

PE Structural Exam Scoring Workshop

January 5–8

FE Exam Meeting

January 12

CBT Single-Day Testing Event

January 12–15

PE Electrical and Computer Exam Meeting

January 19–22

FS and PS Exam Meetings

January 26

PE Civil Exam Regional Administration

January 28–30

PE Civil Exam Meeting

January 29

Board Presidents' Assembly

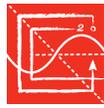
Moments in NCEES history (continued)



The third renovation of headquarters in 2004 added 13,265 square feet to the existing building, bringing it to a total of 38,000 square feet. Renovations in 2013 added 2,800 square feet in this section for additional meeting facilities.



NCEES completed the move to its new headquarters in Greenville, South Carolina, in May 2020. The 70,600-square-foot building offers additional space for NCEES services, including exam development.



Christopher Knotts, P.E.
President
Louisiana

Brian Robertson, P.E.
President-Elect
Colorado

Dean Ringle, P.E., P.S.
Immediate Past President
Ohio

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

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

Christopher Duhamel, P.E., P.S.
Northeast Zone Vice President
Rhode Island

Timothy Lingerfelt, P.L.S.
Southern Zone Vice President
Tennessee

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*

Comments or questions can be directed
to editor@ncees.org.

David Cox, CEO and Publisher

**Keri Anderson, Manager of
Corporate Communications**

Jennifer Williams, Senior Editor

**Katy Goforth, Senior
Communications Specialist**

Brittany Wilson, Graphic Designer

ISSN NO. 1093-541X

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 6

All articles within *Licensure Exchange*
may be reprinted with credit given to this
newsletter and to NCEES, excluding those
articles reproduced in *Licensure Exchange*
with permission from an original source.

The ideas and opinions expressed in *Licensure
Exchange* do not necessarily reflect the policies
and opinions held by NCEES, its board of
directors, or staff.

POSTAL NOTICE

Licensure Exchange is published bimonthly by
NCEES, 200 Verdae Boulevard, Greenville, SC
29607-3900.

Periodicals postage paid at Clemson, SC 29633

MBA Webinar Resource Program available to assist with virtual outreach

NCEES recently launched its MBA Webinar Resource Program to support member boards in their online outreach efforts by providing access to the NCEES webinar platform to host their own virtual programs.

NCEES provides the following:

- Webinar platform for up to 500 attendees
- Registration page
- Webinar moderator to facilitate the webinar process
- Resources to support a successful webinar
- Post-event reporting and recordings

The member board provides the speaker, webinar content, PowerPoint slides, and promotional communications. The board also has the option to host a recording of the webinar on its website.

For more information on the program, visit the Member Resources section of the NCEES website (see Board Resources at ncees.org/resources).