

## Minneapolis bridge collapse, investigation lead to closer look at inspection process

The August collapse of the westbound Interstate 35 bridge in Minneapolis, Minnesota, led to increased scrutiny of public highway bridges as coverage of the collapse briefly dominated the front pages and airwaves. For one licensed engineer intimately familiar with the science of bridge inspections, the attention was long overdue.

“We need to raise the standards for bridge inspections,” said Kenneth White, Ph.D., P.E., an emeritus member of the New Mexico Board and head of the civil engineering department at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces. White has conducted training courses in bridge inspection for state and federal officials for 35 years and is serving on the team investigating the Minneapolis bridge collapse. He has written extensively about new technologies applicable to bridge inspections, including close-range photogrammetry, virtual reality, and fiber-optic sensors. But White says these technologies are still being researched and are not widely used in the field.

“Most bridge inspections still consist of a visual inspection, and with those there are some problems you can’t see, such as corrosion. There is a limitation there,” said White. He added that licensed professional engineers are rarely present at the sites where visual inspections occur and that those who do conduct the visual inspections are often “technician-level” employees of state transportation departments.

In fact, the National Bridge Inspection Standards of the Federal Highway Administration state that professional

engineering licensure is not required for bridge inspection program managers, provided they meet experience requirements and attend a bridge inspection training course. Team leaders can qualify for their positions with an associate’s degree in engineering technology.

Many have questioned the perceived weaknesses of current bridge inspection practices.

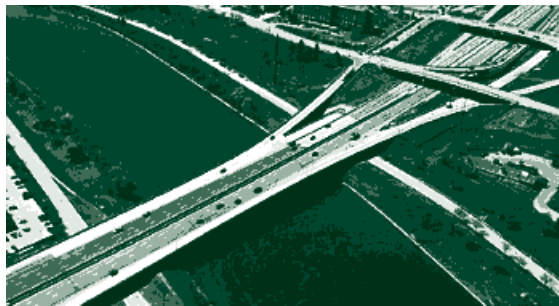
“While the specific cause of this bridge collapse won’t be determined by authorities for several months, there is federal documentation showing current inspection practices are ineffective and often rely solely on inspectors’ subjectivity,” said Robert Bernstein, the CEO and president of Los Angeles-based Material Technologies, Inc., in an October 24 release.

Lee Floyd, P.E., the South Carolina state bridge maintenance engineer, said his department requires inspection team leaders to have five years’ bridge inspection experience. They also must pass a two-week course, such as the one taught by White at New Mexico State, when they first become team leaders and every five years thereafter.

“A P.E. reviews the reports of the inspection teams, and if there is a question or clarification needed, they will call the team leader and go out into the field and make a special assessment,” said Floyd, whose department inspects roughly 6,000 bridges annually, following up on 200 to 300.

In North Carolina, the rate of follow-up visits is “very low, less than half a percent,” for the nearly 12,500 bridges inspected annually,

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*Bridge collapse (continued from page 1)*

according to Don Idol, assistant state bridge inspection engineer. Idol says that experience, not licensure, is the most important factor for bridge inspectors. “A professional engineer with no bridge inspection experience is no better than a technician,” he said.

The National Bridge Inspection Program, which was initiated in 1971 in the wake of the 1968 collapse of the Silver Bridge between West Virginia and Ohio, delegates the task of conducting bridge inspections to the states, who are responsible for ensuring that program managers, team leaders, and inspectors meet federal standards, which Floyd said are “minimal, and lower than what we require in South Carolina.”

Despite the recent attention given to bridge safety, data suggests that most of the bridges already determined to be structurally deficient or functionally obsolete stand little chance of being improved or replaced in the near future. In an October 30 release, Ruth Stidger, editor-in-chief of the trade publication *Better Roads*, said, “The spike in construction materials and diesel fuel has eroded the spending power of our state and local road agencies.” A recent survey conducted by *Better Roads* and Contech Bridge Solutions, Inc., indicates that nearly 25 percent of highway bridges are categorized as

structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. That survey lists Minnesota as one of the states with the lowest percentage of structurally deficient or functionally obsolete bridges (14 percent).

The National Transportation Safety Board, which is in charge of the Minneapolis bridge collapse investigation, has given no official word on what factors are responsible for the collapse, although two engineers involved in the investigation, speaking on the condition of anonymity, told the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* that the investigation is currently focusing on a corroded gusset plate. It may not be known for several months whether higher inspection standards—including higher standards for the inspectors themselves—could have prevented the collapse.

Kenneth White, who, like the rest of the investigation team has been directed not to comment on the ongoing NTSB investigation, says he hopes it will not take another disaster to rejuvenate the public’s interest in the issue of bridge safety. “I’m worried that it will be on people’s minds for six months or a year and then fade away until something else happens.”

*Doug McGuirt*  
*NCEES editor*

# MESSAGE

## Raising the bar for recognition of licensed engineers and surveyors

As licensed engineers and surveyors, we make up a select group. We have met extensive requirements in education and experience and have passed rigorous examinations. Having done so, we carry professional titles that translate into a level of prestige and career opportunities that wouldn't be possible otherwise. But with these rewards comes the responsibility to serve as public ambassadors on behalf of the professions.

David Steinman, Ph.D., P.E., who served as NCEES president in 1931–32 and later founded the National Society of Professional Engineers, was more than just a world-class designer of bridges. He was also a persistent voice on behalf of his fellow professional engineers and a leading figure in the pursuit of engineering licensure laws. Looking back on his archived speech from the 1947 Annual Meeting, it is clear that our licensure system did not come without a struggle:

“Because we had the vision, because we believed, heart and soul, in Engineers’ Registration, because we were convinced that this movement represented an indispensable forward step of progress for our profession, we consecrated ourselves to this cause and dedicated to it our best energies and talents. We had to overcome complacency and disparagement, prejudice and misunderstanding, vested interests and selfish obstruction, secret opposition and open antagonism.”

We owe a great deal to Steinman and the others who worked to make engineering and surveying licensure a reality in each U.S. state and territory. It certainly was not a given. Many fought against it at the time, ignoring the need to protect the public from professional incompetence in favor of protecting their own special interests. At the very least, we owe it to our predecessors to do whatever we can to continue to raise the stature of the engineering and surveying professions in the eyes of the public.

How can we do this? Professional engineers and surveyors should make their presence known in all spheres of public life. Be active in your communities. Make public statements in your professional capacity. Give interviews when approached by the media. Make young people aware of the outstanding opportunities that await those who choose to study engineering and surveying and begin the path toward licensure.

In that same speech, Steinman said, “We have heard much talk about professional recognition, but I say that before a profession can expect recognition it must be recognizable.” Professional engineers and surveyors have as much, if not more, impact on the daily lives of average Americans as any other learned profession. We also have met the very highest standards of professional knowledge and competence—standards that will continue to be raised appropriately, as evidenced by the Council’s recent show of increased support for additional education requirements for licensure.

As licensed engineers and surveyors, it remains our job to remind society of our unique role in preserving the public well-being. If we do our job well, the licensed engineers and surveyors of the next generation will receive even greater professional recognition.

*W. Gene Corley, Ph.D., P.E., S.E.  
NCEES President*



*W. Gene Corley, Ph.D., P.E., S.E.  
NCEES President*

# UPDATE

## Council welcomes experience in new positions



Jerry T. Carter  
NCEES Executive Director

As 2007 comes to a close and we look forward to a new year, I am very pleased to announce some noteworthy changes to the Council staff.



In November, Susan Whitfield was named associate executive director. Susan has been a valuable member of Council staff for 26 years and has served as director of ELSESES since it began operations in 2000. As associate executive director, Susan is now involved in implementing the initiatives of the Board of Directors and in overseeing many of the Council's internal operations. She will also be involved with the Member Boards on a regular basis. As many of you already know, Susan brings to this role a wealth of experience and knowledge about NCEES operations.

Pam Powell has stepped into the role of director of ELSESES. Pam has been with the Council since 1986 and has been ELSESES logistics manager for almost five years. She is very familiar with the special challenges that accompany the administration of our exams, and I am confident ELSESES will continue to thrive under her supervision.



Another change to ELSESES staff is the appointment of Tracy Snyder as ELSESES logistics manager. Tracy has been a member of Council staff for almost a decade and most recently served as ELSESES logistics

coordinator. Her responsibilities now include overseeing the ELSESES exam sites, coordinating the ELSESES chief proctors, and organizing ADA and religious accommodations for exam candidates.

### New evaluators for Center

I am also pleased to announce the addition of two new evaluators to the staff at the Center for Professional Engineering Education Services in Miami. The Center now has six full-time evaluators. Gaby Espiridon will evaluate credentials for Center applications arriving from India and the Middle East. Elfa Shabashvili will evaluate applications arriving from Russia and Eastern Europe.

The demand for the Center's services has exceeded our most optimistic predictions, and the number of applications continues to grow each month. Gaby and Elfa will help deal with the challenges of this growth and shorten the amount of time required to provide Member Boards and applicants with thorough and accurate evaluations.

For more information on the Center's activities, see *Center Bulletin*, a newsletter for NCEES Member Boards. Each issue is sent electronically to all MBAs, and previous issues can be read at [www.cpees.org/bulletin](http://www.cpees.org/bulletin).

### Foreign interest in NCEES examinations

On October 28, NCEES successfully completed its first PE exam administration in Tokyo, with 38 candidates sitting for the exam. The FE exam is still being successfully administered in Tokyo as well, with 194 candidates at the October administration. The exams are administered in conjunction with the Japan PE/FE Examiners Council.

The Council continues to receive requests from foreign entities expressing interest in NCEES examinations. In October, Jeannie van der Zalm, the Council's finance director,

visited Seoul, South Korea, to meet with the Korean Professional Engineers Association (KPEA) to discuss the possible future use of NCEES exams by KPEA. Considerations such as testing facilities, candidate numbers, and security were reviewed.

In January, President Corley and I will visit Egypt to meet with the Egyptian Engineering Syndicate to hold similar discussions concerning administering NCEES exams at the American University in Cairo. This assessment is one of a number of steps necessary before requesting the Council's final approval.

### **Successful October 2007 administration**

We have recently completed another successful exam administration. NCEES staff traversed the country to observe during the October 26–27 administration. Orders for all exams were greater than budgeted, and we are encouraged that the Council's promotional efforts appear to be attracting greater numbers of candidates for licensure.

### **Focus on committees**

As 2008 approaches, we move toward the time of year when committees and task forces meet to discuss their charges for 2007–08. They are addressing a number of important issues,

including combining the NCEES Constitution and Bylaws into one document, further defining the bachelor's plus 30 requirement, and combining the Structural I and II exams into a single 16-hour exam. For more information on the 2007–08 committee charges, see "Committee Update" beginning on page 6.

The committees and task forces will update Member Board members on their progress at the zone interim meetings in the spring (see "Upcoming Events" on page 11 for dates and locations). These meetings provide an excellent opportunity to learn about the committees and task forces and the motions and recommendations they will present at the Annual Meeting. I encourage you to attend.

### **2006–07 audit report**

We have received a favorable audit report for the 2006–07 fiscal year, and the financial health of the Council remains strong. This year, we are taking steps to implement modifications to the budget process to provide greater transparency and to improve our ability to forecast revenue and expenses. You will be able to read about this and more in the 2006–07 Annual Report, which will be mailed to all Member Board members in January.

*Jerry T. Carter*  
*NCEES Executive Director*

## UPDATE

## NCEES committees, task forces gear up for 2007–08

The winter months are typically active for members of NCEES committees and task forces, and 2007–08 is set to be no different. This year, 14 committees and task forces made up of more than 150 board members and Member Board staff experts will meet in various locations throughout the country to address their charges.

Committee and task force charges determine the areas in which the Council will focus its efforts for the year. The charges are created by the NCEES president with the input of the Board of Directors, the Member Boards, and NCEES staff. Here is a brief overview of each committee and task force, along with some of the charges likely to be discussed at the 2008 zone interim meetings and Annual Meeting.

### Advisory Committee on Council Activities (ACCA)

*Chair: Kenneth Vaughn, P.E.*

*Board liaison: Gene Corley, Ph.D., P.E., S.E.*

*Charges: 9*

*Members: 9*

According to the NCEES Bylaws, the ACCA “will act as a principal advisor to the President and the Board of Directors on such specific non-recurring problems or plans as the President may explicitly assign to the committee.” It also periodically reviews the Council’s Strategic Plan and *Manual of Policy and Position Statements* and suggests revisions to be submitted for Council vote.

The ACCA will address nine charges in 2007–08, including a charge to recommend a plan for compiling a comprehensive national registration database for licensed engineers and surveyors. It will also investigate Member Board practices related to accepting foreign degrees without requiring equivalency evaluations. Other charges include examining the *Model Law* definition of the practice of engineering for possible overlap with architecture and providing recommendations on how Member Boards can designate associate members to represent them at Council meetings.

### Bachelor’s +30 Task Force

*Chair: Michael Conzett, P.E.*

*Board liaison: Joe Timms Jr., P.E.*

*Charges: 5*

*Members: 8 (plus 6 resources and 1 ex-officio member)*

The Bachelor’s +30 Task Force is one of two new special task forces added to the 2007–08 committee and task force list. It was created by President Corley to address implementation of the requirement that applicants complete an additional 30 credits of acceptable coursework to be eligible to take the PE examination. The language for the requirement was added to the *Model Law* in 2006 and upheld by the Council in 2007; as it is currently worded, it will go into effect in 2015.

The task force’s charges are designed to clarify the requirement to allow easier implementation by NCEES Member Boards. Charges include defining approved credits and approved course providers and proposing revisions to make the *Model Rules* consistent with the *Model Law* revisions concerning the bachelor’s plus 30 requirement.

“The task force must work through a number of challenging issues while always keeping in focus the mission of the Member Boards and NCEES to protect the health and safety of the public we serve,” said Mike Conzett, P.E., chair of the Bachelor’s +30 Task Force.

“I consider our work to be more of a marathon than a sprint. We will work to attain some degree of measurable progress during our first year. It will be important to reach consensus early on with aspects of the *Model Rules* where task force members share common ground while we deliberate the ‘stickier issues’ over a longer period of time,” he added.

### Committee on Awards

*Chair: Donald Hiatt, P.E.*

*Board liaison: Gene Corley, Ph.D., P.E., S.E.*

*Charges: 2*

*Members: 5*

The Committee on Awards collects nominations for NCEES awards to be presented during the Annual Meeting and then provides

recommendations to the Board of Directors for award recipients. It is made up of past Board of Directors' members who have received the Distinguished Service Award.

### **Committee on Examination Audit**

*Chair: Peter Hutchison, P.E., P.L.S.*

*Board liaison: Henn Rebane, P.E.*

*Charges: 4*

*Members: 5 (and 3 consultants)*

The Committee on Examination Audit is responsible for conducting an annual review of all aspects of the NCEES examination program. It examines the development process to ensure the use of proper psychometric standards, audits exam administrations, and reviews its own audit procedures.

### **Committee on Examination Policy and Procedures (EPP)**

*Chair: Roy Entz, P.E., P.L.S.*

*Board liaison: David Whitman, Ph.D., P.E.*

*Charges: 7*

*Members: 9 (and 2 consultants)*

The NCEES Bylaws state that the EPP Committee "shall be responsible for reviewing the effectiveness of the examinations and recommending policies, specifications, and procedures consistent with the trends in the engineering and surveying professions."

The EPP Committee typically is charged with proposing changes to the Council's exam administration and exam development policies. It also recommends examination dates for future administrations and provides the Board of Directors with its recommendations for the approved calculator list.

This year, the EPP Committee is charged with amending Exam Administration Policy 2 to provide for a system of approval for changes to scheduled exam dates. It is also charged with recommending a new policy outlining the treatment of exam scores older than one year and recommending language that further defines the attributes of Group I and Group II exams.

### **Committee on Examinations for Professional Engineers (EPE)**

*Chair: Bill Dickerson, P.E.*

*Board liaison: Henn Rebane, P.E.*

*Charges: 10*

*Members: 13*

The EPE Committee will once again have an active year, with 10 charges that include its recurring oversight of exam specifications, content, and scoring for the FE and PE exams.

As they do every year, committee members will also be involved in reviewing exam scores and making cut score recommendations.

"As a result of recommendations made by the Cut Score Task Force, the EPE chair and vice chair will be attending future cut score meetings as observers. In addition, NCEES staff and our psychometric consultant have prepared an online training video that must be reviewed by all participants and observers of cut score meetings prior to attending the meeting," said committee chair Bill Dickerson, P.E.

Other charges direct the committee to make recommendations for incorporating item difficulty training into the exam development process and to combine the Structural I and II exams into a single, 16-hour exam.

### **Committee on Examinations for Professional Surveyors (EPS)**

*Chair: Gilbert Chavez, P.S.*

*Board liaison: Gene Dinkins, P.E., P.L.S.*

*Charges: 3*

*Members: 13*

The EPS Committee supervises the preparation of surveying exam specifications and is responsible for the content and scoring of all FS and PS exams. As part of its recurring charges, it reviews exam scores and makes cut score recommendations. This year, the EPS Committee is also charged with providing recommendations for item difficulty training for surveying item writers.

"Together with about 40 subject-matter experts and resource consultants, the EPS Committee is charged with assembling future examinations, writing and reviewing items, and maintaining the item bank," said Gilbert Chavez, P.S., the EPS Committee chair.

"In the next few months, we will review pass rate and exam performance with psychometric consultants," Chavez added. "We'll meet at NCEES headquarters in Clemson January 17-19 and June 26-28."

### **Committee on Finances**

*Chair: Elaine Fink*

*Board liaison: Larry Smith, P.E.*

*Charges: 8*

*Members: 9*

The Committee on Finances has eight charges for 2007-08. It will review the results of the 2006-07 financial audit and assist NCEES leadership in compiling an income and expense budget for 2008-09. It will also review exam revenue and recommend increases in exam prices, if necessary.

*(continued on page 8)*

## **MISSION**

The Mission of NCEES is to coordinate with domestic and international organizations to promote licensure of all engineers and surveyors.

NCEES Strategic Plan

2007–08 committees, task forces  
(continued from page 7)

Other charges include evaluating travel stipends for the president and president-elect and membership fees for jurisdictions with smaller examinee pools.

“In recommending income and expense budgets for the following year, we work closely with the president-elect, treasurer, and executive director,” said Elaine Fink, the committee’s chair.

“We also have additional charges, including reviewing Financial Policy 10 to consider the limit for unbudgeted expenditures authorized by the Board of Directors and reviewing Position Statement 15 concerning the percent of the annual operating budget as reserve funds. We’ll also review PS 15 to determine if there should be an additional amount budgeted as a contingency fund in the event of an exam breach.”

### **Committee on Law Enforcement**

*Chair: Rick Huett*

*Board liaison: Don Rathbone, Ph.D., P.E.*

*Charges: 10*

*Members: 9 (and 3 consultants)*

The Committee on Law Enforcement recommends ways for Member Boards to better enforce existing laws in engineering and surveying licensure. It also promotes interstate cooperation and the use of technology in enforcing licensure laws. It provides recommendations for updates to the *Investigation and Enforcement Guidelines*.

Among its charges for 2007–08 is one directing the committee to study the feasibility of developing a training program for enforcement staff and Member Board members and administrators. Other charges involve studying methods used by Member Boards in investigating crimes committed by licensees and candidates and in investigating complaints about plan stamping and practicing outside areas of competence.

“The committee presented a motion to remove testimony from the definitions of the practice of engineering and surveying at the Annual Meeting, and it narrowly failed. President Corley charged the committee to continue to monitor this issue and to provide any appropriate recommendations,” said Rick Huett, the Law Enforcement Committee chair.

“This year, the committee will also conduct a study to determine the criteria used by Member Boards to determine if a licensee can exercise responsible charge over non-licensed, non-employee contractors who perform engineering or surveying services. An additional aspect of this charge is to determine if engineering or surveying services provided to firms that are exempt from licensure require the contractors and subcontractors to be licensed,” said Huett.

### **Committee on Nominations**

*Chair: Lou Raimondi, P.E., L.S.*

*Charges: 2*

*Members: 5 (and 4 alternates)*

The Committee on Nominations submits the names of candidates for the NCEES offices of president-elect and treasurer. The committee’s chair is the immediate past president of the Council, and the committee consists of one member and one alternate from each of the four zones. This year, it will solicit nominations from the Western Zone for the office of president-elect for 2008–09.

### **Committee on Uniform Procedures and Legislative Guidelines (UPLG)**

*Chair: Skip Harclerode II, P.E.*

*Board liaison: Joe Timms Jr., P.E.*

*Charges: 5*

*Members: 13 (and 2 consultants)*

The UPLG Committee studies and recommends changes that strengthen the licensure process, including proposing amendments and revisions to the *Model Law* and *Model Rules*.

Every five years, the UPLG conducts a comprehensive review of the *Model Law* and *Model Rules* for possible needed revisions. It will carry out that review this year.

“The review of the *Model Law* and *Model Rules* will consume most of our time,” said Skip Harclerode, P.E., the UPLG Committee chair. “We have two attorneys on the committee this year, and they will be a tremendous help.”

Other charges include developing language that revokes Model Law status for engineers and surveyors disciplined by a Member Board, adding a provision to the *Model Rules* allowing for the grandfathering of *Model Law* engineers and surveyors in the event of subsequent additions to licensure qualifications, and clarifying the *Model Rules* section on the offering of engineering or surveying practice, particularly regarding the use of business cards or correspondence.



## **Computer-Based Testing (CBT)**

### **Task Force**

*Chair: David Curtis, P.E.*

*Board liaison: Gene Dinkins, P.E., P.L.S.*

*Charges: 2*

*Members: 13 (and 1 consultant)*

The CBT Task Force was created by President Corley to investigate the possibility of pursuing computer-based testing methods of exam administration. It will examine the existing CBT plan to determine if past impediments to CBT implementation have been addressed. The task force will then provide recommendations and, if deemed appropriate, a proposed plan for CBT implementation.

“The Computer-Based Testing Task Force has an important job before it,” said David Curtis, P.E., the task force chair. “The members and consultants on the task force need to become familiar with the background of previous work on CBT within NCEES, learn about the experiences of other professions that have chosen the path of CBT, and learn about developments in CBT. The recommendation on whether to go forward with CBT will have long-lasting effects on NCEES and the future of testing in engineering and surveying.”

### **Special Task Force on Governance**

*Chair: Dale Jans, P.E.*

*Board liaison: Gene Corley, Ph.D., P.E., S.E.*

*Charges: 4*

*Members: 11 (and 3 consultants)*

The Special Task Force on Governance was created by Past President Raimondi in 2006–07 to evaluate and recommend any necessary changes to the Council’s governance structure. At the 2007 Annual Meeting, the Council passed the task force’s motion to merge the NCEES Constitution and Bylaws into a single document. This year, the task force is charged with assisting NCEES legal counsel in completing this task.

“The Governance Task Force has already started working on combining the Constitution and Bylaws into one document,” said Dale Jans, P.E., the task force chair. “We will conclude our face-to-face meeting in January and at that time will be able to send out some preliminary information to all the boards for their review and input prior to our zone meetings.”

“Based on the direction we were given at the Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, we anticipate developing a document that addresses our charges and allows us to ensure that NCEES continues to be relevant and responsive to our members.”

Among its other charges, the task force will investigate and recommend, as deemed appropriate, modifications to specify that only engineering members vote on engineering issues and only surveying members vote on surveying issues at Council meetings.

### **Structural Exam Task Force**

*Chair: Nancy Gawlin, S.E.*

*Board liaison: Gene Corley, Ph.D., P.E., S.E.*

*Charges: 5*

*Members: 8*

The Structural Exam Task Force was created by Past President Raimondi in 2006–07 to evaluate the Council’s structural engineering exam program. At the 2007 Annual Meeting, the Council passed the task force’s motion to combine the Structural I and Structural II exams into a single examination of two 8-hour components for use in all jurisdictions with structural engineering licensure.

This year, the task force is charged with assisting the EPE Committee in creating this merged structural exam ahead of its scheduled April 2011 implementation date. It is also charged with reviewing the Institute of Structural Engineers’ credentialing system for the Chartered Structural Engineer designation to determine the equivalency to the NCEES Model Law Structural Engineer, investigating the potential acceptance of state-prepared FE exams for MLSE qualification, and evaluating the potential for creating an 8-hour structural engineering exam for PE licensure in some jurisdictions that do not have structural engineering licensure.

# NEWS

**Alabama**

- ◆ William C. Ulrich Jr. is a new appointee to the board. The term of Charles Haynes, Ph.D., P.E., has expired.

**Arkansas**

- ◆ Tommy Bond, P.E., P.S., and Barbara Smith are new appointees to the board. The terms of Doyle Cook and David Knowles, P.E., P.S., have expired. William Fletcher, P.E., P.S., is the new board chair.

**Kentucky**

- ◆ David Atwell, P.E., P.L.S., is a new appointee to the board. The term of James Riney, P.E., P.S., has expired.

**Rhode Island LS**

- ◆ Thomas Drury Jr., P.L.S., is a new appointee to the board. Alfred DiOrion, P.L.S., has been reappointed to the board.

**Tennessee PE**

- ◆ Brenda Wood is a new appointee to the board. Robert Campbell, P.E., Dennis Henderson, P.E., and David Schuermann have been reappointed to the board. The term of Sharon Byrd has expired.

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## NCEES announces revisions to approved calculator list, FE reference handbook

NCEES has announced a revision to its calculator policy effective beginning with the April 2008 exam administration. The approved calculators are as follows:

**Casio:** All **fx-115** models. Any Casio calculator must contain **fx-115** in its model name.

**Hewlett Packard:** The **HP 33s** and **HP 35s** models, but no others

**Texas Instruments:** All **TI-30X** and **TI-36X** models. Any Texas Instruments calculator must contain either **TI-30X** or **TI-36X** in its model name.

NCEES has also published the eighth edition of the *Fundamentals of Engineering Supplied-Reference Handbook*. This new edition will be supplied to FE examination candidates beginning with the April 2008 administration.

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## Walter LeFevre Award announced

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) has announced a new award to recognize actions in promoting licensure, ethics, and professionalism. Endowed by E. Walter LeFevre, Ph.D., P.E., the Walter LeFevre Award is open to academic institutions offering EAC/ABET-accredited civil or related undergraduate engineering programs. LeFevre is an emeritus member of the Arkansas Board and a past recipient of the NCEES Distinguished Service Award.

Criteria for judging the award include the percentage of graduates in a particular academic year who took the FE examination while enrolled in the program, the percentage of those graduates who passed the exam while enrolled in the program, and the percentage of eligible faculty who are licensed in a U.S. jurisdiction. Two awards are available annually: one for programs with over 50 graduates and one for programs with 50 or fewer.

The deadline for nominations for the inaugural Walter LeFevre Award is January 15, 2008. The nomination form is available at [www.asce.org/files/pdf/LeFevre.pdf](http://www.asce.org/files/pdf/LeFevre.pdf).

# EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
February 17–23 . . . . .	National Engineers Week	
February 22–23 . . . . .	Board of Directors' Meeting . . . . .	Naples, Florida
April 3–5 . . . . .	Northeast Zone Interim Meeting. . . . .	Boston, Massachusetts
April 11–12 . . . . .	Exam Administrations	
May 1–3 . . . . .	Southern Zone Interim Meeting. . . . .	San Juan, Puerto Rico
May 14–15 . . . . .	Board of Directors' Meeting . . . . .	Bismarck, North Dakota
May 15–17 . . . . .	Central/Western Zone Joint Interim Meeting. . . . .	Bismarck, North Dakota

## Congress to consider incentive-laden bill promoting engineering licensure

Responding to the growing shortage of engineers, Congressman Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO) has introduced “GI Bill style” legislation featuring incentives for young people entering the engineering profession.

If passed, the bill would create new scholarships and loan forgiveness for engineering students who are working toward their P.E. license. It has been referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.

The Congressman has developed this legislation in consultation with ACEC.

“My district is home to some of our nation’s largest engineering firms. I have heard from them first hand about the desperate need to fill hundreds of vacancies with qualified engineers. Recent infrastructure catastrophes have brought home what we all already knew; engineers play a vital role in keeping us all safe,” said Congressman Cleaver.

“America’s young minds are the future. This legislation will help support engineering students as they complete an education for an

industry that will always be in demand. This is an investment that will benefit our country for decades.”

According to the National Science Foundation, the number of people earning bachelor’s degrees in engineering has declined dramatically since the early 1980s. In addition, over one-quarter of the science and engineering workforce is older than 50 and expected to retire in the next 15 years.

Former ACEC Chairman Ed Mulcahy, who worked closely with the Congressman’s staff in developing the legislation said: “Congressman Cleaver is taking a critical leadership role in addressing a serious problem that hurts both the industry and the nation’s economy. The entire industry needs to rally behind him when this important legislation is introduced.”

*This article originally appeared in the September 20, 2007, edition of Last Word, the weekly newsletter of the American Council of Engineering Companies.*

Send letters to *Licensure Exchange* editor at NCEES, PO Box 1686, Clemson, SC 29633 or [dmcguint@ncees.org](mailto:dmcguint@ncees.org).

Please include your name and state of residence on the letter. Letters may be edited for clarity, brevity, and readability.

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W. Gene Corley, Ph.D., P.E., S.E.  
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# NCEES aims to inspire future engineers, surveyors during EWeek

The Council is preparing to resume its role in what has become a winter tradition—National Engineers Week, scheduled for February 17–23. This will be the ninth year the Council has sponsored the event, which enjoys the support of more than 75 corporations, professional societies, and government agencies.

EWeek is a series of engineering-related events and initiatives—many of them year-round—designed to generate interest in the profession among students in elementary, middle, and high schools throughout the country. The 2008 EWeek will be the first since the Council passed a motion at the Annual Meeting in Philadelphia to pursue serving as a future society-sponsor chair. The co-chairs for 2008 are IBM and the Chinese Institute of Engineers–USA.

One of the highlights of the EWeek Foundation's initiatives is the return of *Design Squad* for a second season. The reality-based show, which debuted last February, is produced by WGBH–Boston and airs on public television affiliates nationwide. Targeted at preteens, the show stars teams of adolescents competing on engineering projects and also features profiles of engineers at work. A major component of *Design Squad* is an outreach

effort in which volunteers bring projects inspired by the show to local schools and community organizations. Recent research has shown that the show increases students' understanding of the design process and positively impacts students' interest in learning more about the profession. NCEES is a major sponsor of *Design Squad*.

Other highlights of EWeek include:

- ◆ The Future City Competition, in which student teams from across the country work with engineering mentors to design and present planned cities. NCEES will once again sponsor the competition's Best Land Surveying Practices award. (February 18–20)
- ◆ Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day, which teams women engineer mentors with girls and young women from kindergarten through high school to share firsthand their experiences in the engineering profession. (February 21)
- ◆ Discover Engineering Family Day, which is held at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. The event regularly breaks public attendance records for the museum with its hands-on, family-friendly exhibits. (February 16)

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