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for the exchange of information, opinion, and ideas regarding the licensure of professional engineers and land surveyors.

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Expectation for one-day comity exceeded



J. R. Cottingham, PE., P.L.S.
NCEES President

At the beginning of my year as your President, I laid out several primary goals. One was to improve mobility, and part of that goal was a vision of online/one-day comity licensure for engineers. I anticipated that achieving online/one-day comity would be a long-range, multiyear process, but

my expectations have been exceeded. We are practically there today. The marvelous progress has been the result of your support and the great work by the staff of the Member Boards and NCEES. Over 30 boards have procedures in place for improved "fast" comity for Model Law Engineers (MLEs). NCEES Director of Information Technology Phyllis Fenno and her staff have the hardware and software in place to allow electronic access of transmittal information. A pilot program involving six to eight boards took place in July. You will all have the opportunity to participate in a workshop concerning online access and electronic transmittal of records at the 2001 Annual Business Meeting. The concept of "National Registration—State Licensure" has arrived.

Proof of the success of National Registration—State Licensure will be easily measured over the next few years as we monitor participation in the NCEES Records Program. We presently have about 9,000 participants out of an estimated 500,000 licensed engineers in the United States. My guess is that fewer than half of our licensees need multistate licensure, so I don't have expectations of full participation; however, as the concept of National Registration—State Licensure catches on, the number of participants in the Records Program will be considerably higher.

Another expectation which has been significantly exceeded is the enthusiastic acceptance by all stakeholders of the Engineering Licensure Qualifi-

cations Task Force (ELQTF). Our licensure model (basically the MLE definition) has worked well, and I was concerned that it was considered to be such a "sacred cow" that merely considering a change might be viewed by members of our Member Boards as heresy. But to the contrary, stakeholders have fully embraced the process and have come forward, strongly indicating that changes are needed to ensure the relevance of licensure in the future.

One potential change to the licensure model which seems to be getting almost unanimous support is offering all technical exams required for licensure during or immediately after university studies. Most stakeholders think that the Principles and Practice of Engineering exam is largely academic in nature, and by offering it immediately after graduation, we would not lose the large number of engineers who for various reasons do not take the exam four or more years later.

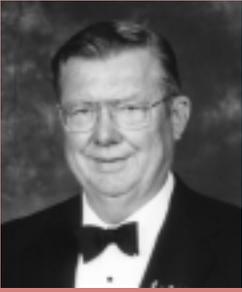
Many other programs and activities exceeded my expectations, too. I don't have room in this column to write about all of them, but two of those are ELSEs and use of the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam as an outcomes assessment tool. NCEES Director of FE Exam Development Mike Shannon and the Committee on Examinations for Professional Engineers have just reported that 225 institutions in 43 states will be receiving outcomes assessment data directly from our testing consultant—I encourage all of you to continue the promotion of this program. The success and growth of ELSEs, Engineering and Land Surveying Examination Services, is largely due to the dedication and hard work of NCEES Director Susan Whitfield. ELSEs provides both a needed service for Member Boards and another revenue stream for the Council.

The year has been a truly rewarding experience for me, and I sincerely appreciate all the support you have provided.

*J. Richard Cottingham, P.E., P.L.S.
NCEES President*

Please distribute to those who are interested:

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Ted C. Fairfield, P.E.
NCEES President-Elect

President-Elect Fairfield shares his vision of NCEES in the year 2002

Prior to writing this article—the last during my tenure as President-Elect—I dusted off and reviewed the article I wrote a year ago for the August 2000 issue of *Licensure Exchange*, when I was the nominee for President-Elect. The lead paragraph in that article states that I intended to use the ensuing year “to continue increasing my knowledge and experience in preparation for assuming the presidency a year from now.”

Well, the year has come and gone, and I am confident that I am “ready” to become President. On the other hand, one of the things I have learned during this past year is that knowledge is being generated faster than it can be absorbed by anyone. Yet, NCEES must continue to absorb—and even attempt to predict—this new knowledge and deal with the change that is triggered by it, in spite of the fact that NCEES consists of 70 independent Member Boards, most of which are dealing with differing priorities and problems, with differing levels of knowledge of “the issues.” The inherent tension between these circumstances is a key factor in defining the President’s role and in potentially limiting his expectations for “change.” But the future must be accommodated, and it is the President’s duty to be an informed advocate for the Council’s ability to anticipate, deal with, and thrive in that future.

I won’t make any predictions about how the Council will look and act a year from now. If past is truly prologue, then perceived changes will be small but meaningful and hopefully move the Council in the right direction. It is my hope that in a year from now NCEES will be:

- ◆ On the road toward quick and assured comity for most individuals and businesses,
- ◆ Looking and acting more like a true council of

licensing boards—with vision and mission statements to support that goal,

- ◆ More actively and constructively pursuing promotion of licensure,
- ◆ Operating a much more active and popular Records Program,
- ◆ Well on the way toward defining proposed changes (if any) in the engineering licensure model,
- ◆ In the midst of updating the model law for surveying,
- ◆ Establishing its role(s) in the field of continuing professional competency, and
- ◆ Resolving some of the conflict and confusion currently being expressed by structural engineers (in their licensure/identification).

Certainly, I acknowledge that such changes will evolve incrementally, but I also hope and expect that the increments will be visible on an annual basis. Much of this progress was set in motion by President Cottingham; some will be added and “tweaked” by me this coming year, and yet more will remain to be done by the new President-Elect during his subsequent tenure as President. Of course, such progress is almost entirely the product of the Council’s many committees and task forces that will be responding to the charges presented to them by the President.

I hope to see you in Little Rock, in August. Please feel free to send me your suggestions and questions anytime, anyhow.

*Ted C. Fairfield, P.E.
NCEES President-Elect*

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Annual Business Meeting has arrived

After much anticipation and planning, the NCEES 80th Annual Business Meeting has finally arrived. We have checked and rechecked business-session details, rehearsed PowerPoint presentations, solidified times and dates for the social agenda—and feel confident that this year will be the smoothest annual meeting yet.

We were very pleased with the feedback you gave us on last year's annual meeting survey. Many of you commented on the lack of problems, loose ends, and "rumples in the rug" that often cause consternation and stress with a large assembly of meeting delegates. We hope to raise the bar of success even higher this year. During the 2001 Annual Meeting, please make mental notes of the things that you appreciate and the things that we can continue to improve upon and mention those items in the 2001 Annual Business Meeting survey. Our goal is to provide the most conducive environment for delegate discussion, debate, and consensus building, so that NCEES continues to move forward in accomplishing its mission and vision.

To improve member services further, you will have the opportunity in Little Rock to provide feedback on your communication and travel experience with the NCEES travel agency, Travel, Inc. Please make time at the Annual Business Meeting to fill out this important survey. Your flight to Little Rock has the potential to set the tone for your entire NCEES meeting experience, so we want to make sure your travel is as uneventful as possible.

I encourage you to take a few minutes to check out the new Web site of the United States Council for International Engineering Practice (USCIEP),

found at www.usciep.org. The Web site was developed at NCEES headquarters and provides background information on USCIEP as well as admission requirements and applications for the International Registry for Professional Engineers. The registry does not relax any of the NCEES Model Law requirements for licensure as a professional engineer—and has the potential to positively influence international mobility of U.S.-licensed engineers.

I am confident that you have familiarized yourself with the *NCEES Action Items and Conference Reports* and are prepared to make educated voting decisions during the 2001 Business Sessions. The meeting materials this year are enclosed in an easy-to-use three-ring binder with tabs. If you left your notebook at home, we have a limited number of copies available on site. We hope that the new format of the convention report, which includes action items for the first time, has aided you in your meeting preparations. I am pleased to say at last, welcome to Little Rock. I look forward to seeing you at the Welcome Reception on Wednesday.

Betsy Browne
NCEES Executive Director



FOR INTERNATIONAL
ENGINEERING PRACTICE

"Check out the new Web site of the United States Council for International Engineering Practice (USCIEP) at www.usciep.org."

NCEES OPERATING SUMMARY

For the Period Ended June 30, 2001

INCOME	Year-to-date	Budget Year-to-date	Budget Variance	2000-2001 Total Budget
Member Board Revenue	614,346	599,171	2.53%	871,900
Examination Revenue	3,148,105	3,057,300	2.97%	5,116,000
Study Materials Revenue	473,693	353,604	33.96%	610,600
Records Revenue	636,795	544,000	17.06%	725,000
Exam Administration Service Revenue	73,925	33,750	119.04%	67,500
Total Income	4,946,864	4,587,825	7.83%	7,391,000
EXPENSES				
Member Board Expenses	1,015,046	1,195,183	-15.07%	1,675,522
Examination Expenses	2,941,404	3,004,464	-2.10%	4,088,075
Study Materials Expenses	403,891	414,757	-2.62%	603,852
Records Expenses	335,153	300,170	11.65%	408,163
Exam Administration Service Expenses	113,444	101,526	11.74%	126,588
Total Expense	4,808,938	5,016,100	-4.13%	6,902,200
NET OPERATING INCOME (DEFICIT)	137,927	(428,275)	-132.21%	488,800

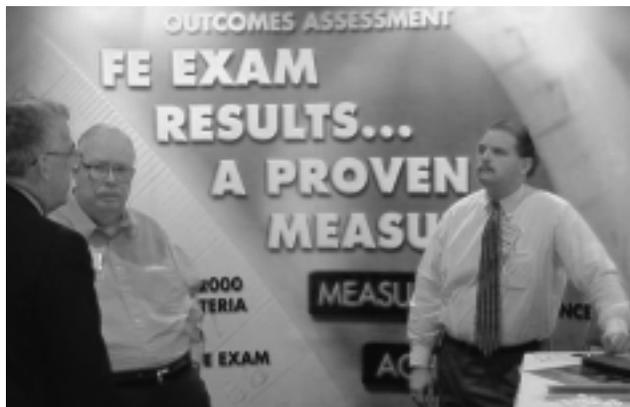
“Almost 200 people representing various engineering programs across the United States left their names and addresses at the display booth.”

Use of the FE for outcomes assessment promoted at ASEE Annual Meeting

At the 2001 Annual Meeting of the American Society for Engineering Education, NCEES representatives promoted the use of the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam for outcomes assessment with a technical presentation and a display booth. Walt LeFevre, Ph.D., PE., John Steadman, Ph.D., PE., and Ken White, Ph.D., PE., authors of the NCEES white paper, “Using the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) Examination to Assess Academic Programs,” spoke to over 80 engineering educators in a technical presentation about their experience using the FE in their respective university programs. “After the presentation,” says NCEES

Director of FE Exam Development Mike Shannon, “we encouraged attendees to visit our display booth in the exposition center, meet the authors of the white paper, and ask questions. Almost 200 people representing various engineering programs across the United States left their names and addresses with us. We were able to speak with most of them one-on-one. They said things like,

“Great presentation, but this is my situation. . . . We were able to give them additional information, talk about the new format of the Report 5, and address their questions.” Shannon deems the FE promotional effort at the ASEE meeting, “a great start in reaching engineering educators.”



At the ASEE Annual Meeting, Walt LeFevre (left) and Mike Shannon (right) made use of a display booth to engage engineering educators in dialogue about the use of the FE exam.

April 2001 score rosters complete

A total of 1,559 candidates took the Fundamentals of Land Surveying examination and 49% passed. A total of 1,000 candidates took the Principles and Practice of Land Surveying examination and 56% passed. The Structural II examination had 169 examinees take both the morning and afternoon portions and 31% passed. Forty-nine examinees took only the morning portion and 82% passed. The same number of examinees took only the afternoon portion and 94% passed.

Fundamentals of Engineering (EAC/ABET)			Principles and Practice of Engineering		
Discipline	Examinees	Pass Rate*	Discipline	Examinees	Pass Rate*
Chemical	854	87%	Chemical	322	69%
Civil	3,620	77%	Civil	8,238	62%
Electrical	1,493	79%	Electrical	1,453	46%
Industrial	393	64%	Environmental	421	80%
Mechanical	1,367	85%	Mechanical	2,091	34%
General	9,262	78%	Structural I	567	72%
			Naval Architecture/ Marine Engineering	21	46%
*First-time takers					

NOMINEE Q&A



President-Elect Nominee

Robert C. Krebs, P.E., L.S.

Member and Chair, Vermont Board of Land Surveyors; Member and President, Vermont Consulting Engineers Council; Member and President, Vermont Society of Land Surveyors; President, Colonial States Boards of Land Surveyor Registration; NSPS Board of Governors; Chair, Committee on Examinations for Professional Surveyors, NCEES Northeast Zone Vice President. Active for 20 years on local zoning board and rescue squad. Worked in private engineering practice since early 1970s. Owned firm since 1978.

What do you plan to focus on during your term as NCEES President-Elect? What are your goals for the next two years?

My primary focus for the next year will be to broaden my understanding of Council activities and to further prepare myself for the commitment necessary to lead the Council. Part of this preparation will include fostering a close working relationship with President Fairfield and establishing a united front that advances the Council's vision and mission. There will certainly be a need for Council leadership to continue to liaison with Member Boards, various societies, educators, and similar policy-making organizations in foreign countries. This continuation of vital institutional knowledge is a necessity of Council leadership.

My primary goal for the next two years has two interwoven parts. First I would like to facilitate and bring to a conclusion some of the initiatives brought forward by Presidents Cottingham and Fairfield. My secondary objective is to strive for more consensus between the academic community, regulators, those who measure and assess competency and employers. Achieving consensus appears to be a simplistic goal, but it has proven to cause more division and disagreement than one would imagine.

Much of what I expect and hope to see implemented is still being evaluated by the broad coalition pulled together to form the Engineering Licensure Qualifications Task Force (ELQTF). The results and conclusions of the task force may cause the Council to debate and possibly adopt some very fundamental changes in our various models and procedures, as well as our examination process. As an aside, I would encourage all members to participate and actively contribute to this dialogue and most of all to keep an open mind. The end result of such debate will be for Member Boards to "take home" a consensus position for which they can advocate implementation at their state level. Without some genuine but

not perfect consensus, we may at a minimum jeopardize our efforts at real-time comity.

The 2000 Strategic Planning Survey asked participants to respond to questions about the proliferation and splintering of exams, the addition of practice questions to exams, and the possibility of offering exams in an à la carte format rather than in the current modular format. How do you feel about these issues? What changes do you think need to be made to NCEES exams?

There is a continuing concern by some Member Boards and by individual members of Member Boards that the engineering profession is splintering and becoming too specialized. This logically leads toward a proliferation of examinations necessary to assess these "new" areas of practice. In addition, there is some preliminary data that indicates that more than a majority of public complaints are related to ethics, communications, and business practices rather than technical competence.

These issues need to be addressed, and most appropriately by the Committee on Examinations for Professional Engineers, the Committee on Examination Policy and Procedures, and possibly the Committee on Finances. Two criteria seem to command the most attention. First and foremost and regardless of Member Board requests, our exams must be psychometrically reliable and defensible and must meet those psychometric standards espoused and codified by the Council. As the candidate population for various discipline examinations diminishes relative to the number of different examinations administered, the reliability and validity of these exams may possibly lessen, the ability to equate examinations may diminish, candidate pass rates may fluctuate inordinately, and the ability to define an appropriate level of minimum competency for each discipline may be reduced to unacceptable standards.

As "new" disciplines (and exams) are introduced, it will become more difficult for the Council to develop (or draw from) reliable item banks, to validate test blueprints, and to maintain the exam security that is vital. It also must be remembered that the lack of a large candidate population does not necessarily mean a "bad" exam.

The second issue related to the (potential) proliferation of exams is the cost to the Council to develop and score each exam administration. All but a few of the current more specialized Council exams result in a negative impact on the budget. I feel it should be a Council-wide decision, not an individual or Board decision, to continue (discontinue) such exams and

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*—Robert C. Krebs,
P.E., L.S.*

NOMINEE Q&A

“Our primary focus should continue to be assessment of competency, mainly through our exams. However, reality dictates that the Council must provide other services regardless of their individual financial impact, if the Council is to remain viable.”

*—Robert C. Krebs, P.E.,
L.S.*

to allow the profitable exams or other Council income resources to support the more specialized exams.

Consequently, I don't see any need to change the NCEES exams at this time. The financial issues should not be reviewed by those who are involved in exam preparation or by those wishing new exams. The findings of the ELQTF and other evaluations may cause us to revisit these positions and to change our current policies.

In what promotional efforts do you support the Council pursuing and/or participating?

I tend to be conservative when considering promotional efforts by the Council. Our primary focus should continue to be as that of a partner in the assessment process of minimum competency, mainly through our exams. However, reality dictates that the Council must function in other capacities and must provide other services, not the least of which is the advancement of the licensure concept. These functions and services may or may not have a financial impact, but should be logically advanced if the Council is to remain economically viable. As another aside, I will continue to encourage and advocate to the Council and the Board of Directors that we “advance” rather than promote whatever issues we agree on.

What efforts do you believe the Council should undertake to improve license mobility and mobility of firms?

The strong efforts by current President Cottingham and President-Elect Fairfield over the last years have significantly improved the comity process. This progress, of course, is the end result of the response by, and willingness of, Member Board Administrations and Member Boards to take a critical look at their procedures and rules. There has been a concerted effort to recognize a lowest common denominator, such as the Model Law Engineer, as a designation worthy of comity. In addition, the Mobility Task Force has identified some of the more critical impediments to comity and has issued white papers on both individual and business mobility (i.e., comity).

I will certainly continue to encourage and support comity/mobility that is less restrictive, without sacrificing the rights of individual boards to adequately assess each comity applicant. However, it is essential that Member Boards voluntarily seek to remove nonessential impediments to comity. The electronic age has shrunk our jurisdictional boundaries, and the increase in interstate commerce within a truly global economy will necessitate true mobility. The Council

and the Member Boards need to keep moving forward and need to be proactive with their legislatures to eliminate artificial impediments and to prevent erosion of the licensure process.

You have served as Northeast Zone Vice President for two years. What was the most important thing you learned about the Council while serving as a Vice President? How did your vice presidency prepare you for the position of President-Elect of the Council?

Serving as the Northeast Zone Vice President has truly been a privilege as well as a learning experience. I am continually impressed by the high caliber and dedication of committee volunteers and the collective comprehensive outreach of those in leadership positions. I have become acutely aware of the necessity of becoming an integral part of the Council leadership team (the Board of Directors). This team of course is anchored by Betsy Browne and her staff, providing the support, insight, encouragement, and other necessary resources for each year's new Board of Directors. I have learned that in general terms, the base consistency and professional nature of the Council comes from Executive Director Browne and her staff. Each President and then President-Elect takes his/her turn at steering the ship, but the keel is at Council headquarters. I have also learned that there are many approaches to problem solving and that it is necessary to participate in the process in order to learn how to facilitate a solution and achieve reasonable consensus.

While serving as Zone Vice President, one accretes leadership experience, by mere contact and interaction with current leaders and Council staff and by actively contributing to the Board of Directors' agenda. For me this has been a gradual learning process and has helped to reinforce the knowledge and experiences I've gained in leadership roles in other organizations. Of course, I've also benefited from the real life experience of presiding at zone meetings, being a liaison to or chair of Council committees, and attending various meetings as a representative of the Council.

Serving as NCEES President-Elect will be a very humbling opportunity, but it has been said that you miss all of the shots you never take. My expectations are hopeful but real, my commitment is genuine and positive, and my admiration of the people of the Council is sincere. I will certainly work to enhance and strengthen the trust between Member Boards and the Board of Directors and when change is necessary, strive to make it positive. I am grateful to those who have encouraged and supported me.

NOMINEE Q&A



Treasurer Nominee

Elaine M. Fink

Public member, Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice Chair, Minnesota State Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, and Landscape Architecture; Member, Special Committee on PAKS Land Surveying; Chair, Committee on Communications and Publications; Member/Consultant, Committee on Land Surveying, Advisory Committee on Council Activities, Committee on Examination Audit; Central Zone Vice President; NCEES Treasurer (2000–2001); Recipient, Central Zone Award for Outstanding and Dedicated Service; NCEES Distinguished Service Award; co-owner, clothing store.

The 2000–2001 fiscal year has been a positive one financially for NCEES. What should the Council do to continue this trend? Should the Council aggressively pursue sources of income other than exams?

The strong 2000–2001 fiscal year has been a result of many factors. We have higher revenues in all our budget categories than anticipated, and we have adhered to our anticipated expenses. We have developed new products and services, and our sales of study materials have increased in volume. The Records Program, exam administration services (ELSES), and foreign evaluation programs have also grown faster than we expected. Certainly the Council should continue to aggressively pursue the above mentioned sources of income in addition to the revenue received from examinations. Exams still remain our major source of income, and we hope that this source of income will have additional positive impact with the publicizing and encouraging of the use of the Fundamentals of Engineering exam for outcomes assessment.

In the 2000 Strategic Planning Survey, respondents indicated that public protection should be the driving factor when making decisions about exams. However, a notable percentage of respondents indicated that cost recovery should also be a factor in the decision-making process. How much consideration do you think should be given to cost recovery?

Our first responsibility is the protection of the public, and we do this by producing and providing relevant and quality exams. Cost recovery, however, is an important element and should be considered. For this reason, next year we will continue to examine the current low-usage exams which do not generate enough revenue to cover their costs, in hopes of eventually making them

financially self-sufficient. We are also taking a look at the cost impact of producing new exams and the current guidelines that we now have for proceeding with the development of new exams. There are also other factors we need to consider in the exam development decision-making process, such as exam validity and reliability.

You have been NCEES Treasurer for the past year. What was the most important thing you learned while serving as Treasurer?

I have found that every position that you take as a national officer, a zone officer, a member/officer of a state board, or member/chair of a committee brings with it an added amount of learning, insight, and responsibility. This year, serving as NCEES Treasurer brought me a large amount of all three! I started by attending an NCEES budget meeting with Betsy and her senior staff in early fall, in order to get a better working knowledge of our line-by-line budget items. Over the next few months, I attended another budget meeting, conferred with our CPA audit firm, and attended a Finance Committee meeting. I presented the NCEES budget report at the Board Presidents/MBA Assembly and at several zone meetings. Certainly one of the things that I learned was that the members of the Council are truly interested in the budget and are pleased to have it presented to them in a way that they could relate to and be able to ask questions about. Personally, being Treasurer, helped me to better understand the relationship of the issues that we face now and in the future and how they relate to the financial well-being of the Council.

You have been involved with NCEES for many years and have served on the NCEES Board of Directors for three years. What compels you to continue to give your time in the service of NCEES?

I cannot truly express how privileged I feel to have been a member of the Minnesota Board, NCEES, and the NCEES Board of Directors. I am very proud to be associated with the professions of engineering and surveying and to be a part of their commitment to the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare. I will be forever grateful to the membership for their trust in me and for their friendship over the years. It would be my honor and pleasure to be able to serve them next year as the NCEES Treasurer.

“The strong 2000–2001 fiscal year has been a result of many factors. We have higher revenues in all our budget categories than anticipated, and we have adhered to our anticipated expenses. We have developed new products and services, and our sales of study materials have increased in volume.”

—Elaine M. Fink

NOMINEE Q&A

“The Engineering Licensure Qualifications Task Force should develop a strategy to promote the importance of licensure (and the attendant recognition of credentials) as a requisite for engineering professionalism.”

—Melvin Hotz, P.E.



Northeast Zone Vice President Nominee

Melvin Hotz, P.E.

Member, Chair, Maryland State Board of Professional Engineers; Member, Committee on Examination Audit,

Committee on Uniform Procedures and Legislative Guidelines, Committee on Finances, Committee on Publications, Committee on Education, Assessment, and Qualification, Engineering Licensure Qualifications Task Force; Northeast Zone Secretary-Treasurer; Senior Life Member, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE); Chair, IEEE Baltimore Section; Member, National Society of Professional Engineers; Recipient, NCEES Northeast Zone Distinguished Service Award, IEEE Centennial Medal, IEEE Millennium Medal; Retired after 35 years with Westinghouse Electric Corporation managing programs and producing electronic countermeasures and radar systems to protect US Air Force aircraft.

What do you plan to focus on during your term as Vice President? What are your goals for the next two years?

The foremost objective of NCEES is to continue the evolution and viability of high-quality examinations and to maintain its current fiscally responsible state. As a member of the Board of Directors and Northeast Zone Vice President, my goals for the next two years include helping to increase attendance at zone meetings and development of model licensure applications. Several Northeast Zone Boards already utilize the Washington Accord country curriculum listings in the ABET International Yearbook to help evaluate foreign education. Another major goal will be the development (partly with ABET) of equitable evaluation criteria for a candidate's foreign education and work experience.

What issues should the Engineering Licensure Qualifications Task Force address in its review of the current licensure process?

The Engineering Licensure Qualifications Task Force should develop a strategy to promote the importance of licensure (and the attendant recognition of credentials) as a requisite for engineering professionalism. Currently, only 15% of engineers graduating from an EAC/ABET-accredited curriculum become licensed. The task force must strive to develop a formula that will enhance the importance of licensure as a vehicle for engineering professionalism.

In the 2000 Strategic Planning Survey, nearly half of all respondents agreed that adding more practice

questions to exams—questions related to project management, cost accounting, or contract law, for example—would enhance the relevancy of NCEES exams. How do you feel about changing the content of exams? Are there other changes that NCEES needs to make to its exams?

The NCEES examinations are the product of many years of evolution. Candidates are required to prove years of experience as a condition for licensure. Accordingly, the examination content should be more reflective of practice issues. NCEES examination committees might help localities improve the viability of examinations by preparing “practice” segments which could apply to specific (locality) issues, e.g., earthquakes, flood zones, hurricanes, and reliability. There is a difference between technical and practice issues; the examination could explore more of the applicant's practice knowledge.

Being Vice President of a zone requires a great deal of time and energy. What compels you to serve as an officer of the NCEES?

Since retiring in 1988 after 35 years in the development and production of electronic circuitry, I have devoted much of my time and energy to licensing board and NCEES activities. Working to help improve the status of the engineering profession and working with engineers from all over the country is an extremely compelling endeavor. I hope to be able to contribute my experience to help NCEES continue as the leader in promoting licensure not only as a safeguard for the public welfare but also as a professional benefit.



Southern Zone Vice President Nominee

Jon D. Nelson, P.E.

Member, Chair, Oklahoma State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors; Chair, Engineering Licensure Qualifications Task Force; Member, Committee on Education, Assessment, and Qualification, Special Committee on Experience Evaluation; Item writer, EPP Civil/Environmental Subcommittee; Recipient, Southern Zone Distinguished Service Award; Member, Vice President, President-Elect, President, Past President, Oklahoma Water Environment Association; Chair, two OWEA committees; Member, National Society of Professional Engineers, Oklahoma Society of Professional Engineers, American Society of Civil Engineers; Private practice for 23 years.

NOMINEE Q&A

What do you plan to focus on during your term as Vice President? What are your goals for the next two years?

During the first year, I will focus on running the Southern Zone effectively and learning about the management and governance of the Council. As ELQTF Chair, I will focus on moving the Engineering Licensure Qualifications Task Force forward. In the second year I hope to advocate for some initiatives within the Southern Zone. I feel improved mobility is critical for the future of licensure. So far we have addressed some key enhancements in some states' rules, such as the Model Law Engineer designation and fast comity provisions. The next steps are probably going to be more difficult, requiring changes in state statutes. It seems to me that most Member Boards are not well equipped to deal with their legislatures. Perhaps an initiative in this direction would be worthwhile.

What issues should the Engineering Licensure Qualifications Task Force address in its review of the current licensure process?

I think the task force needs to affirm the value of licensure and its relevancy in all areas of engineering. This is a very fundamental issue that must be addressed since it is apparent that large segments of our profession do not see its value or its relevancy. We tend to sell licensure as a valuable credential, but it is much more. I believe it is a fundamental part of the definition of a profession. The public expects a professional to be licensed whether it is in medicine, law, accounting, or engineering. It tells them that an individual meets a standard that is set by the profession. That's much more than an individual who simply completes an educational program (regardless of its quality). I also believe licensure is effective in protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public. I agree that our system is not perfect and its effectiveness is difficult to quantify, but I firmly believe in licensure. Somehow we need to convince the profession as a whole of its importance and perhaps make some improvements to the system to respond to licensure concerns.

I think we must figure out a way to get buy-in by education. If education is antagonistic or even indifferent about licensure, the concept is behind at the start. The licensure promotion initiative of the Council is a great start in this direction. The task force must also address this issue within the framework of the licensure process.

In the 2000 Strategic Planning Survey, nearly half of all respondents agreed that adding more practice questions to exams questions related to project management, cost accounting, or contract law, for example—would enhance the relevancy of NCEES exams. How do you feel about changing the content of exams? Are there other changes that NCEES needs to make to its exams?

This is also part of what the ELQTF is looking at. My tendency is to include practice exams for engineers who provide services directly for the public, but I am less inclined to favor such exams for those that "practice" in industry. I have difficulty visualizing a "one size fits all" exam format, if we are to include the entire profession in licensure.

The exam timing changes and repackaging (modularization) ideas that have been discussed by President Cottingham interest me. I think they have merit in that they preserve much of the current licensure concept while addressing many of the concerns of non-licensed engineers and educators. I am also interested in the idea of adding specialty certifications to basic licensure, to address various areas of expertise and emerging fields. Perhaps the NCEES could develop the specialty certification exams and be the clearinghouse for all engineering exams whether basic or specialty. We're operating in that direction now though not completely.

Being Vice President of a zone requires a great deal of time and energy. What compels you to serve as an officer of the NCEES?

I feel privileged to be of service to a profession that I love and that has been good to me. Being involved in one's profession at this level is something few are able to experience. Prior to becoming an Oklahoma Board member, I worked quite a bit with a technical society but not very much in the professional societies. I have enjoyed my work at the Oklahoma Board and the NCEES and am happy to have the opportunity to continue to work on the professional side of engineering.

"The exam timing changes and repackaging (modularization) ideas that have been discussed by President Cottingham interest me. I think they have merit in that they preserve much of the current licensure concept while addressing many of the concerns of non-licensed engineers and educators."

—Jon D. Nelson, P.E.

Member Board
NEWS

Idaho

- ◆ Gary L. Young is a new appointee to the board, and Scott McClure is the new board chair. The term of Larry J. Hodge has expired, and he has been elected an emeritus member of the board.

Indiana LS

- ◆ Christine Arnold is a new appointee to the board.

Missouri

- ◆ Michael D. Gray is a new appointee to the board. The term of Richard J. Barr has expired.

New Jersey

- ◆ James D. Kelly is the new board chair.

Oklahoma

- ◆ George Vogler is the new board chair.

Oregon

- ◆ Susanna M. Laszlo is a new appointee to the board, and Joe G. Smith is the new board chair. The term of Richard H. Zbinden has expired. Yolanda Furan-Postlethwaite has resigned from the board.

Puerto Rico

- ◆ Benjamin Pomales, Jose R. Rodriguez Perazza, Renan L. Lopez de Azua, and Pedro J. Colon are new appointees to the board.

South Dakota

- ◆ Warren L. Fisk is the new board chair.

Tennessee LS

- ◆ The term of K. Max Billingsley has expired.

Tennessee PE

- ◆ Granville Taylor is the new board chair. The terms of Bob Fisher, Vance Travis, and Ted Wynne have expired.



William "Bill" A. Kruger, P.E., L.S

William "Bill" A. Kruger, P.E., L.S., died on June 30, 2001, at his home in Champaign, Illinois, after fighting a lengthy battle with cancer.

Kruger was appointed to the Illinois Professional Engineering Board in November 1982. He served as vice chair from 1992–1995 and chair from 1996 to present. Kruger was an active participant in NCEES, serving as member and chair of numerous committees. At the time of his death, he was the chair of the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws. In recognition of his service to the engineering and surveying professions, the Illinois Board, and the NCEES, the Council awarded Kruger the Distinguished Service Award in 1992. He was a professional civil engineer for Zurheide-Herrmann and received his MS in civil engineering from the University of Illinois at Champaign. Kruger was a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Institute of Transportation Engineers, the Society of American Military Engineers, the American Society for Testing and Materials, and the Illinois Professional Land Surveyors Association.

He is survived by a brother, Arthur Kruger of St. Louis, Missouri, and preceded in death by his wife Carole Hofer and his parents.

Ohio certificate of authorization law comes in line with NCEES Model Law

Substitute Senate Bill 77, recently passed by the Ohio Legislature, will bring Ohio's law, relative to the requirements for obtaining a Certificate of Authorization, into accord with the NCEES Model Law and the laws of approximately 46 of the 50 U.S. states. The bill, sponsored by Senator Kevin Coughlin, was requested by the Ohio Board and supported by the Consulting Engineers Council of Ohio (CECO), the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE), and the Professional Land Surveyors of Ohio (PLSO). The new law deletes previous requirements for majority ownership by Ohio registrants but retains a requirement that a

director, manager, partner, or the like, who is a professional engineer or professional surveyor in Ohio be designated as in responsible charge of engineering or surveying activities for the company. The previous requirements were among the strictest in the country and overly burdensome without any demonstrable benefit to the public. In addition, the previous requirements were also a huge impediment to mobility of engineering and/or surveying firms that wanted to perform services for Ohio projects and were a very serious problem for companies planning ownership transitions.

Maryland enacts scope-of-practice legislation

The 2001 session of the Maryland General Assembly saw the enactment of legislation of interest to licensed or certified design professionals. The following legislation has been signed by Governor Parris N. Glendening and will take effect on October 1, 2001.

House Bill 147 Design Boards—Scope of Practice

This bill acts in three significant areas: 1. Establishes uniform provisions relating to design coordination in the licensing law of each profession. The Maryland licensed professional will be able to coordinate a project or portion of a project if the professional "has adequate experience in and understanding of achieving the purpose of the project or portion of the project being coordinated." 2. Clarifies the scope of practice provision for architects, certified interior designers and professional land surveyors, establishes the scope of practice for professional engineers and makes substantive changes to the scope of practice for landscape architects. 3. Eliminates the term "incidental practice" from the architect's and landscape architect's laws. The boards view the term as one without precise definition and believe that statutes without this term serve the professions more appropriately. Each board will act through its disciplinary powers to monitor conduct and act against licensees who cross practice lines inappropriately.

Upcoming **EVENTS**

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
2001-2002 BOD Meeting	August 4	Little Rock, AR
EPE Committee Meeting	August 24-25	Atlanta, GA
Labor Day	September 3	Office Closed
BOD Orientation	October 5-6	Clemson, SC

Licensure **EXCHANGE**

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this Council shall be to provide an organization through which State Boards may act and counsel together to better discharge their responsibilities in regulating the practice of engineering and land surveying as it relates to the welfare of the public in safeguarding life, health, and property. The Council also provides such services as may be required by the boards in their mandate to protect the public.

Constitution Article 2, Section 2.01

In Case You MISSED IT

Canadian Council and Microsoft Corp. agree on use of “engineer” title

After discussions with Canada’s engineering profession, Microsoft Corp. will advise Canadian holders of its MCSE certification not to call themselves engineers or use the full title Microsoft Certified System Engineers.

Microsoft’s decision should prevent Canadian holders of the MCSE certification from inadvertently breaking provincial and territorial laws, which protect the public by restricting the use of the titles “engineer” and “engineering” and the practice of engineering in Canada to licensed professional engineers. It should also ensure that the engineering profession’s licensing bodies will not be required to take enforcement action against MCSE holders who mistakenly use the title engineer or otherwise hold themselves out as having been qualified to practice engineering.

“We are very pleased by Microsoft’s decision,” said Marie Lemay, P.Eng., CEO of the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers (CCPE). “Microsoft has demonstrated corporate leadership by acting in the best interest of the MCSE community. Holders of the MCSE certification are not licensed or regulated by the engineering profession. If they mistakenly use the titles “engineer” and “engineering” the provincial or territorial engineering associations/order would have to take enforcement action against them. Its decision is good for the information technology industry, good for MCSE holders, and good for the engineering profession.”

The engineering profession, represented by CCPE and several provincial engineering regulatory associations, met with Microsoft in Seattle late last

year to explain the legal issues surrounding the use of the title “engineer” in Canada, and to ask the corporation to stop referring to holders of the MCSE credential as engineers. Canadian MCSEs have received certification as Microsoft Certified Systems Engineers, which could lead them to mistakenly misuse the title “engineer.”

“We are very pleased to have reached an agreement with the engineering profession and to support it,” said Anne Marie McSweeney, the acting Director of Microsoft Certification and Skills Assessment. “It opens the door for closer cooperation among all organizations in the information technology industry and the engineering profession in Canada. As the Microsoft credentials continue to evolve, it is our goal to ensure they maintain the highest level of relevance to the industry and represent leaders in cutting-edge technology.”

Microsoft is currently researching alternatives for the MCSE credential worldwide, which could result in a new name for the credential later this year.

CCPE is the national organization of the provincial and territorial associations/order that govern the practice of engineering in Canada and license the country’s 157,000 professional engineers. Established in 1936, CCPE serves the associations/order, which are its constituent and sole members, through the delivery of national programs which ensure the highest standards of engineering education, professional qualifications and ethical conduct.

*Terence Davis, CCPE Communications Manager
CCPE News Release, May 11, 2001*

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