



NCEES

advancing licensure for
engineers and surveyors

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NEWS RELEASE

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NCEES honors W.Va. professional engineer William Pierson for service

William Pierson, Ph.D., P.E., of Scott Depot, West Virginia, has been awarded the NCEES Distinguished Examination Service Award for his dedicated service to NCEES and the engineering profession. Pierson received this award at the organization's 95th annual meeting, held August 24–27, 2016, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

A dedicated supporter of the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam, Pierson is a past chair and vice chair of the committee as well as past chair of the electrical engineering subcommittee. In addition to writing exam items since the early 1990s, Pierson has worked on preliminary item analyses to assess the quality of exam items. He has also worked on the subcommittee to select approved calculators for use on NCEES exams and assisted with the development of the *FE Supplied Reference Handbook* and exam preparation materials.

In the 26 years that Pierson has volunteered with the FE Exam Development Committee, the FE exam has undergone substantial changes. It moved from a single pencil-and-paper exam for all disciplines to a breadth-and-depth exam with common and discipline-specific sections and then to a computer-based exam offered in seven disciplines.

Pierson was a member of the West Virginia State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers from 2006 to 2016 and is now an emeritus member. During his board tenure, he served four terms each as a member of the NCEES Committee on Examinations for Professional Engineers and the Committee on Education. He also served as a member of the NCEES Engineering Education Award jury and as the NCEES alternate representative to the ABET board of directors.

Pierson is committed to advancing intern certification and P.E. licensure. As a member of the West Virginia engineering board, he met with engineering deans at various state colleges and universities to discuss the effectiveness of the FE exam as an outcomes assessment tool. He also gave presentations on NCEES licensing exams, including the FE exam's transition to computer-based testing.

A licensed professional engineer since 1975, Pierson is professor emeritus at Marshall University's Weisberg Division of Engineering. He earned a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from West Virginia Institute of Technology, a master of science degree in electrical engineering from West Virginia University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Missouri–Rolla.

ABOUT NCEES

The National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying is a nonprofit organization made up of engineering and surveying licensing boards from all U.S. states and territories and the District of Columbia. Since its founding in 1920, NCEES has been committed to advancing licensure for engineers and surveyors in order to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the U.S. public.

NCEES helps its member licensing boards carry out their duties to regulate the professions of engineering and surveying. It develops best-practice models for state licensure laws and regulations and promotes uniformity among the states. It develops and administers the exams used for engineering and surveying licensure throughout the country. It also provides services to help licensed engineers and surveyors practice their professions in other U.S. states and territories. For more information, please visit ncees.org.