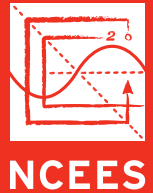


Licensure EXCHANGE

OCTOBER 2019
Volume 23, Issue 5



Delegates debate the issues at 98th NCEES annual meeting

Key actions include proceeding with development of divisions for PS exam

DELEGATES ATTENDING THE 2019 NCEES ANNUAL meeting addressed a range of issues related to the organization and to engineering and surveying licensure. The following summarizes key actions taken at the August 14–17 meeting in Washington, D.C. Full details of the meeting will be included in the official minutes, which will be published later this year.

NCEES member licensing boards passed a motion to approve restructuring the Principles and Practice of Surveying (PS) exam into the following separately scored divisions:

- Core PS
- Boundary
- U.S. Public Land Survey System (PLSS)
- Mapping science
- Incidental drainage design

As a result of the motion, NCEES President Dean Ringle, P.E., P.S., has charged the 2019–20 Committee on Examinations for Professional Surveyors to develop and implement a plan to restructure the PS exam to include these divisions.



A representative of the Utah board debates the merits of a motion at the third business session of the 2019 NCEES annual meeting.

The PS exam is used for the licensing of professional surveyors across the United States. Currently, it has no divisions or depth modules, although most individual jurisdictions require separate state-specific exams. The new divisions will give member boards the option to select which divisions are needed for surveying licensure in their specific jurisdiction.

NCEES has been working on this issue for several years. Delegates at the 2017 annual meeting initially approved authorizing the development of new PS exam modules. Task forces have been studying the issue for the last two years, evaluating the existing exam specifications and considering the impacts on mobility and safeguarding the public, as well as the exam volumes that would be required to sustain psychometric viability and economic feasibility.

continued on page 4

FROM THE PRESIDENT



DEAN RINGLE, P.E., P.S.
NCEES PRESIDENT

Being the same while changing

IT'S OFTEN SAID THAT THE ONLY THING CONSTANT is change. In fact, engineering by its own nature is creating something new built on the foundations of scientific principles. And therein lies the importance of our engineering and surveying professions: having set principles that give us a firm foundation. What's really cool about both professions is how we build on established knowledge and technology to expand our abilities, allowing us to create new technology to use and build on for future engineers and surveyors. We can—and must—embrace change, while at the same time remembering and perpetuating our foundational truths and purpose.

After 99 years, NCEES has a great history behind us, and we have a great history ahead of us. We've tried to be a constant through the years of change: assisting member licensing boards in protecting the public and promoting uniformity and excellence in laws, licensing standards, and ethical practice. Fifty-four years ago, we produced the first national Fundamentals of Engineering exam, and other exams soon followed. Five years ago, we modified the Fundamentals of Engineering exam to become the first computer-based test, and other exams are following. While we change in technique, we are constant in mission.

Where do we go from here?

We are working on many focus areas in this upcoming year: the development of Principles and Practice of Surveying exam modules; efforts to improve licensure mobility; public outreach to future engineers and surveyors; public outreach to legislators and policy makers on the role of professional licensure in public safety; threats to public protection; and the many facets of exam development. A plateful for sure—NCEES will be addressing these issues and more, not only this year but into the future.

We can—and must—embrace change, while at the same time remembering and perpetuating our foundational truths and purpose.

NCEES President-Elect Christopher Knotts, P.E., and I have started discussing how we can have better continuity and stability through the rotating years of service of our organization's presidents. Having initiatives and programs lasting longer than the single year of each president's term would seem to promote a stronger and healthier organization. With a foundation of safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of the public, well-considered plans and direction will better benefit our members and the professions. We will discuss this issue at our upcoming board of directors meetings.

Working together

Many other engineering and surveying associations are facing some of the same issues, even if from a different vantage point. We have made strides in keeping the lines of communication open with them and will continue to do so, remembering that the reason licensure was created in the first place was for public protection. And we will continue to promote uniformity in our *Model Law* and other guidelines, while recognizing the rights of individual jurisdictions to regulate the professions.



Dean Ringle, P.E., P.S., introduces the incoming board of directors and outlines his vision for the year ahead as he begins his 2019–20 term as NCEES president. Ringle accepted the presidency at the conclusion of the organization’s 2019 annual meeting, which was held August 14–17 in Washington, D.C.

I am very thankful for all who make up and support this professional organization. I am thankful for our NCEES staff. Their desire for excellence in every facet, whether exam development, financial wellness, or quality conferences and committee meetings, is a testament to their commitment.

I am thankful for all of our member board members and staff who take time out of their schedules to travel to meetings and serve on committees. I sincerely thank all who volunteered to serve on standing committees and task forces this year, including those who have agreed to serve as members and as chairs. And I also appreciate the hundreds and hundreds of professionally licensed engineers and surveyors who volunteer to serve on various positions of exam development and review.

Most importantly, I offer a huge thanks to all our families who support us in our professional activities, and for letting us serve.

Since our recent annual conference was held in Washington, D.C., it seems appropriate to finish this column with a 1916 quote from Herbert Hoover, 31st president of the United States, who was also an engineer:

“Engineering is a great profession. There is the fascination of watching a figment of the imagination emerge through the aid of science to a plan on paper. Then it moves to realization in stone or metal or energy. Then it brings jobs and homes to men and women. Then it elevates the standards of living and adds to the comforts of life. That is the engineer’s high privilege.”

ANNUAL MEETING

continued from cover

“This is an ongoing initiative for NCEES to ensure that our exams continue to meet the needs of surveying licensure,” NCEES Chief Executive Officer David Cox explained.

Moving ahead with changes to model documents

Among other actions taken at the annual meeting, delegates voted to refer to the Committee on Uniform Procedures and Legislative Guidelines several changes to the NCEES model documents regarding requirements for engineering and surveying licensure. The committee will work on incorporating these changes into the *Model Law* and *Model Rules* in the coming year, and the Council will take a final vote on the amendments at the 2020 annual meeting.

Two of the changes involve modifying the *Model Rules* to better differentiate between delivery methods for continuing education courses, to set a limit on how many professional development hours (PDHs) a licensee can obtain in a 24-hour period, and to better define contact hours for PDHs.

CEO Cox noted that if these changes are made to the NCEES model documents, which are best-practice manuals for licensing laws and rules, they would still be subject to implementation at the state level. “Each jurisdiction would decide whether to incorporate these changes into their own statutes and policies,” he said.

Changes to committee membership

Delegates also approved amendments to the *Bylaws* to change the makeup of several standing committees. These changes include requiring that one member of the Advisory Committee on Council Activities be a member board administrator (MBA) and that the Committee on Examination Policy and Procedures include the chairs of the Committee on Examinations for Professional Engineers and Committee on Examinations for Professional Surveyors as consultants. The changes also require that all members of the Committee on



Top: Delegates discuss ethics in professional practice at a professional development workshop at the 2019 NCEES annual meeting. Bottom: MBAs use their Thursday forum to confer with each other on topical issues. NCEES offered workshops and forums on Wednesday and Thursday for delegates to learn about and discuss issues affecting the professions of engineering and surveying.

Examinations for Professional Surveyors be professional surveyors and that the Committee on Member Board Administrators chair be an MBA and that its members include at least two MBAs from each zone.

MEMBER BOARD BRIEF



KATHY HART

OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD OF LICENSURE
FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND
SURVEYORS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MBA Committee proposes resolution of cooperation

AT THE 2019 NCEES ANNUAL MEETING, THE COMMITTEE on Member Board Administrators (MBA) introduced a resolution of cooperation to the membership in an effort facilitate mobility of licensure.

The resolution originated from a charge given to the 2018–19 MBA Committee. The charge stated, “Work with NCEES staff to develop a communications plan and long-term strategy that would promote actions to increase licensure mobility and reduce barriers to licensure. Develop a timeline for the plan that would culminate during the 100th anniversary of NCEES at the 2020 annual meeting.”

Each member board has its own statutory authority and regulations that may, at times, have the unintended consequence of hindering licensure mobility and creating barriers to licensure. The purpose of the resolution of cooperation is to request that each member board review its statutes, rules, and policies to

- Identify potential perceived hindrances and barriers
- Determine if they are necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public, and if they are not
- Determine if the state board has the authority to revise the regulations within the jurisdiction to remove the hindrances to mobility and barriers to licensure

This process is something that could easily be done on a regular basis and could be a productive practice for boards to engage in during strategic planning exercises. At times, we all get entrenched in historical practices without considering if those practices are still relevant and necessary. Boards may leave themselves open to criticism by outside entities and face legal challenges if not prudent in providing defensible regulations.

Being a signatory of the resolution of cooperation is simply a public affirmation by a board that it recognizes the importance of participating in this strategic review practice

The proposed Professional Engineering and Surveying Interstate Resolution of Cooperation is available online at ncees.org/resources (click on Board Resources, Publications and Presentations).

and is dedicated to ensuring the value and necessity of the regulations. This type of resolution can also be reported to higher authorities when member boards are going through sunset review or other types of legislative review in which occupational licensing is being scrutinized. As MBAs, we recognize the importance of these types of reportable exercises. The resolution of cooperation is a formalized document that shows we are a part of the solution and not a part of the ongoing perceived problem regarding occupational licensing.

After much discussion among its members, the MBA Committee drafted this document and distributed it to MBAs to present to their board members for review and comment this fall. By the end of the year, we will have a revised document that member boards can sign at the zone interim meeting in April 2020. Show support to facilitate professional licensing mobility and promote uniformity of the U.S. licensure processes by being a signatory of the resolution of cooperation.

The resolution is posted in the Member Resources section of the NCEES website (see Board Resources/Publications and Presentations/Other).

Hart is executive director of the Oklahoma board and a member of the 2019–20 MBA Committee.

NCEES recognizes distinguished service

AT ITS 98TH ANNUAL MEETING, NCEES HONORED several individuals for their dedicated service to the organization and the engineering and surveying professions. The 2019 NCEES service award winners are

- **Howard Harclerode II, P.E.**, member of the Maryland State Board for Professional Engineers, and **Gary Thompson, P.L.S.**, emeritus member of the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors, who received the Distinguished Service Award with Special Commendation
- **Michael Conzett, P.E.**, NCEES past president and emeritus member of the Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects, and **David Widmer, P.L.S.**, NCEES past president and emeritus member of the Pennsylvania State Registration Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists, who received the Distinguished Service Award
- **John Greenhalge**, executive director of the Ohio State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors, who received the Meritorious Service Award
- **David Johnston, Ph.D., P.E.**, of North Carolina; **George Murgel, Ph.D., P.E.**, member of the Idaho Board of Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors; and **Sonja Sparks, P.L.S.**, of Wyoming, who received the Distinguished Examination Service Award



Representatives of the Ohio board congratulate John Greenhalge on winning the NCEES Meritorious Service Award. Greenhalge, who has been executive director of the Ohio board since 2006, was recognized at the 2019 NCEES annual meeting for his service to NCEES and the professions of engineering and surveying.

- **Charles Prewitt, P.E.**, of Louisiana, who was posthumously honored with the Distinguished Examination Service Award

The winners were honored at the NCEES annual meeting, held August 14–17, 2019, in Washington, D.C. Read more about the 2019 winners at ncees.org/service-award.

Nominations open for 2020 NCEES service awards

THE NCEES COMMITTEE ON AWARDS IS NOW ACCEPTING nominations for the following: the Distinguished Service Award, the Distinguished Service Award with Special Commendation, the Meritorious Service Award, and the Distinguished Examination Service Award. These awards will be presented at the 2020 annual meeting in Chicago.

The deadline for nominations is January 31, 2020. Nomination materials have been sent to member board administrators. They are also available in the Member

Resources section of ncees.org or by contacting Executive Assistant Sherrie Dyer (sdyer@ncees.org). Nominations for the DSA, DSA with Special Commendation, and MSA must be made by a member board. Nominations for the Distinguished Examination Service Award may be made by a member board, an exam committee, or the NCEES board of directors. The criteria for these awards are specified in Administrative Policy 12, which can be found in the *Manual of Policy and Position Statements* (available on the NCEES website).

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE



DAVID COX
NCEES CHIEF
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

NCEES provides improved exam volunteer experience

NCEES PROVIDES MANY SERVICES TO MEMBER BOARDS, licensees, students, exam applicants, and others; however, no service is more important than our exams. Exam services is vital to NCEES and comprises 69 percent of our revenues.

Every year, licensed engineers and surveyors—some of the best and brightest in their fields—come to NCEES headquarters to write and evaluate exam questions. For many, it is a great chance to strengthen their profession while meeting colleagues from a variety of professional backgrounds and potentially earning professional development hours. Last fiscal year, we conducted 51 exam development meetings, with 772 volunteers and 24,176 volunteer hours. Without these volunteers, NCEES exams would not exist.

When I visit with other organizations who develop exams, they are always impressed with the number of volunteers we have. Many of these organizations struggle to reach the minimum number of volunteers they need. We are blessed with the number of volunteers we have and with their extensive expertise.

It is important that our volunteers know that they are appreciated and valued. Any time I am at headquarters when an exam development committee meets, I like to spend a few minutes with the volunteers to offer my thanks and discuss anything going on at headquarters, such as our upcoming move to Greenville, South Carolina.

One of the driving reasons behind our headquarters relocation is to provide better exam volunteer space and an improved experience. Most of the first floor of our new building will be retrofitted specifically for our exam volunteers' needs. We will have five separate computer labs with 20 permanent working stations each, including large monitors to better replicate the computer-based testing environment. Two of the labs will have air walls so that they



Volunteers with the Fundamentals of Engineering Exam Development Committee collaborate on writing new exam items.

can seat anywhere from 20 to 40 volunteers. In addition, a large area seating over 100 volunteers will be available for initial meetings before breaking out into smaller work groups. The same area will be used during lunch for seating. This means no more eating lunch at a workspace.

The building is a short 15-minute ride from the Greenville-Spartanburg airport. Our main hotel will be less than a half mile from the building, so it is very walkable. In addition, the hotel has a golf course, tennis courts, and bicycle rentals.

The local Swamp Rabbit Trail, described as a rails-to-trails program, is being extended and will border our property and provide opportunity for walking or cycling before or after meetings or during breaks.

Hopefully, these improvements will encourage more people to volunteer and will show our existing volunteers how much we value their work. We always need new volunteers, and it is important that we add younger professionals into the mix. How can you become an NCEES exam volunteer? It's easy. Get started with a few simple questions at ncees.org/volunteer.



MARC BARTER, P.E., S.E.

ALABAMA BOARD FOR ENGINEERS
AND LAND SURVEYORS MEMBER

Area of expertise

The following is adapted with permission from an article in the Alabama Board for Engineers and Land Surveyors BELS Bulletin, second quarter 2019 issue

AT THE LAST BOARD MEETING, A DISCUSSION WAS held regarding the practice of a single licensee placing his or her seal on documents of more than one discipline of engineering. Alabama's law provides for a professional engineer license, mandating that licensees practice within their area of expertise. The process of becoming licensed requires that individuals demonstrate this expertise through submission of the appropriate education credentials, successfully passing both a Fundamentals and a Principles and Practice exam in the discipline of their choosing, and the accumulation of experience in their chosen discipline of engineering.

After the appropriate education is attained, the PE exam is passed, and the four years of experience is accumulated, the individual is licensed to practice engineering as a professional engineer. Most licensees understand their limitations and only seal documents within their chosen field of practice.

Unfortunately, too many people are indicating through their actions that they can practice more than one discipline. Building officials notice this in their review of construction documents submitted for permitting and have approached the board for guidance.

Absent a formal complaint being filed, the board is powerless to investigate. But letting these incidents go unchallenged could put the public at risk, which is not a good situation. I don't think we want chemical engineers practicing civil engineering based on the fact that both disciplines begin with the letter "c" or mechanical engineers

The Alabama board is determined to stop the practice of plan stamping and to support other agencies' efforts in assuring the public that the seal on documents used in the construction of their project is that of a competent individual.

practicing electrical because the HVAC systems they design run on electricity. And we surely do not want aeronautical engineers practicing structural engineering because airplanes have frames and buildings do too. The disastrous 1981 Harbor Cay Condo project in Brevard County, Florida, demonstrated the flaw in that line of thinking (with 11 killed, 23 injured).

In sealing drawings of several disciplines, the licensee jeopardizes his or her own license by potentially violating competency requirements. We see this happen many times when a multidiscipline firm from outside the state decides that having one person licensed in Alabama checks the box on legally practicing.

This is not a new problem, but it is one that has recently been brought to our attention via a complaint.

Building officials and agencies tasked with reviewing construction documents are the first line of defense against incompetent practice and in the case of plan stamping, unethical behavior. The Alabama board has decided to provide these agencies with the necessary assistance they need to check this practice.

In the future, if licensees in Alabama seal documents in more than one discipline, they may very well receive a letter requesting documentation supporting their claim of competency in those disciplines. Education at the undergraduate and graduate level is evidence as well as continuing education and the P.E. exam that they passed to become licensed.

Many engineers have the education and the experience to practice related disciplines. When I graduated from college, my coursework at the bachelor's level educated me to practice civil as well as structural engineering, which I did in a limited amount early in my career. With the reduction in the credits required for the baccalaureate and the expansion of the building codes, however, it is a challenge to sustain the knowledge in one specialty, much less two.

Therefore, when an engineer's seal appears on more than one discipline's construction documents, it can raise

concerns about whether the individual is practicing outside his or her area of expertise.

The Alabama board is determined to stop the practice of plan stamping and to support other agencies' efforts in assuring the public that the seal on documents used in the construction of their project is that of a competent individual. To this end, the board will be providing assistance and, in some cases, encouraging the filing of complaints when warranted.

The best way for licensees to avoid being the subject of a complaint is to seal only work that they are competent to practice and that they were responsible for and to promptly answer any inquiry when they seal the work of more than one discipline.

Texas engineering and surveying boards merge

ON JUNE 16, 2019, TEXAS GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT signed legislation to merge the regulation of the practices of engineering and surveying into one board. Effective September 1, the two boards for engineering and surveying were combined into the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

The address for the Texas board is now 1917 S. Interstate 35 Austin, Texas 78741. The board's new website is pels.texas.gov, and its email addresses will use the suffix [@pels.texas.gov](mailto:pels.texas.gov). The membership of the new combined board will include the original members of the engineering board plus a professional surveyor member. Lance Kinney, Ph.D., P.E., originally executive director of the Texas engineering board, is executive director of the new combined board.



The Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors unveiled a new logo for the combined board. The Texas engineering and surveying boards merged September 1, 2019.

Regarding NCEES governance, the Council now moves to 69 member boards. The combined Texas board will receive one vote at NCEES zone and annual meetings. The associate and emeritus members for the Texas engineering board remain the same under the combined board (the Texas surveying board did not have any current emeritus members).

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION

1. **Publication title:** Licensure Exchange
2. **Publication number:** 606-300
3. **Filing date:** September 17, 2019
4. **Issue frequency:** Bimonthly
5. **Number of issues published annually:** 6
6. **Annual subscription price:** None
7. **Complete mailing address of known office of publication:** NCEES, P.O. Box 1686, Clemson, SC 29633
8. **Complete mailing address of headquarters or general business office of publisher:** NCEES, P.O. Box 1686, Clemson, SC 29633
9. **Full names and complete mailing addresses of publisher, editor, and managing editor:** Publisher: David Cox, NCEES, P.O. Box 1686, Clemson, SC 29633.
Editor: Jennifer Williams, NCEES, P.O. Box 1686, Clemson, SC 29633. Managing Editor: Keri Anderson, NCEES, P.O. Box 1686, Clemson, SC 29633
10. **Owner:** National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying, P.O. Box 1686, Clemson, SC 29633
11. **Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1% or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities:** None
12. **Tax status:** The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes has not changed during preceding 12 months
13. **Publication title:** Licensure Exchange
14. **Issue date for circulation data below:** August 2019
15. **Extent and nature of circulation:**

	Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months	No. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date
a. Total number of copies (net press run)	2,867	3,000
b. Paid circulation		
(1) Mailed outside-county paid subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541	0	0
(2) Mailed in-county paid subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541	0	0
(3) Paid distribution outside the mails including sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales, and other paid distribution outside USPS	0	0
(4) Paid distribution by other classes of mail through the USPS	0	0
c. Total paid distribution (sum of 15b 1, 2, 3, 4)	0	0
d. Free or nominal rate distribution		
(1) Free or nominal rate outside-county copies included on PS Form 3541	0	0
(2) Free or nominal rate in-county copies included on PS Form 3541	2,587	2,629
(3) Free or nominal rate copies mailed at other classes through the USPS	0	0
(4) Free or nominal rate distribution outside the mail	158	200
e. Total free or nominal rate distribution (sum of 15d 1, 2, 3, 4)	2,745	2,829
f. Total distribution (sum of 15c and e)	2,745	2,829
g. Copies not distributed	122	171
h. Total (sum of 15f and g)	2,867	3,000
i. Percent paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)	0	0

I certify that all information stated above is true and complete. Jennifer Williams

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 4–5

PE Industrial and Systems Exam Meeting and PE Structural Engineering Exam Meeting
Clemson, South Carolina

October 8–9

PE Petroleum Exam Meeting
Clemson, South Carolina

October 11–12

EPS Committee Meeting
Providence, Rhode Island

October 15

PE Nuclear and PE Petroleum CBT Exam Administration

October 17–18

Public Outreach Task Force Meeting
Portland, Oregon

October 18–19

FE Exam Meeting
Clemson, South Carolina

October 25–26

Pencil-and-Paper Exam Administration

October 28–29

PE Agricultural and Biological Exam PAKS Meeting
Dallas, Texas

October 29

PE Naval Architecture and Marine Exam Meeting
Tacoma, Washington

November 1–2

Board of Directors Meeting
Tucson, Arizona

November 8–9

PE Mechanical Exam Meeting
Clemson, South Carolina

November 15–16

PE Civil Exam PAKS Meeting
Greenville, South Carolina

November 19–20

MBA Committee Meeting
Savannah, Georgia

November 21–23

EPE Committee Meeting
Atlanta, Georgia

MEMBER BOARD NEWS

ALABAMA John Averrett, Donald Vaughn, and Elaine Walton are new appointees. Richard Grace and Elisabeth Hyde are no longer members.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Michael McKenna is a new appointee. Compton Vyfhuis is no longer a member.

FLORIDA PS Amanda McKibben is the new board prosecutor, replacing Erik Saylor.

GUAM Catherine Gutierrez is now interim executive board administrator. She replaces Ray Borja, who has retired.

KENTUCKY Christopher Gephart is a new appointee. James Donald Pedigo is no longer a member.

MARYLAND PS Tammy Rollins is a new appointee.

MICHIGAN PE James Hollandsworth, Brett Karl, and Deveron Sanders are new appointees. Roland Brand, Cary Junior, and Troy Naperala are no longer members.

MICHIGAN PS Jennifer Myers is a new appointee. Kenneth VanTine is no longer a member.

MINNESOTA Terry Groshong and Dennis Martenson are no longer members.

MISSISSIPPI Patrick Martino and Michael Thornton are new appointees. Joe Byrd and Shannon Tidwell are no longer members.

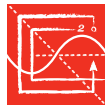
WEST VIRGINIA PE Emeritus member William (Bill) Pierson passed away August 26, 2019, at the age of 71. Pierson's service to NCEES included serving four terms each as a member of the Committee on Examinations for Profession Engineers and the Committee on Education. He was a volunteer with the Fundamentals of Engineering Exam Development Committee for almost 30 years and was a past chair, vice chair, and electrical engineering subcommittee chair. He received the NCEES Distinguished Examination Service Award in 2016 in recognition for his service to the engineering profession.

WEST VIRGINIA PS Lantz Rankin is a new appointee. Michael Shepp is no longer a member.

EMERITUS The board of directors approved the following emeritus members at its August 2019 meeting. **Florida PE:** Michelle Roddenberry; **Mississippi:** Joe Byrd and Shannon Tidwell

NCEES OUTREACH

- **OCTOBER 10–12** | Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers National Conference and STEM Career Fair
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- **NOVEMBER 7–9** | Engineers Without Borders USA Conference
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- **NOVEMBER 7–9** | Society of Women Engineers Expo
Anaheim, California



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Licensure **EXCHANGE**

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

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ISSN NO. 1093-541X

VOLUME 23, ISSUE 5

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POSTAL NOTICE

Licensure Exchange is published bimonthly by
NCEES, 280 Seneca Creek Road, Seneca, SC
29678-9214.

Periodicals postage paid at Clemson, SC 29633



Standing (l-r): Lingerfelt, Robertson, Vogt, and Duhamel. Sitting (l-r): Rickborn, Knotts, Ringle, and Purcell.

NCEES installs 2019–20 board of directors

Dean Ringle, P.E., P.S., began his term as 2019–20 NCEES president at the conclusion of the organization's annual meeting, held August 14–17 in Washington, D.C. He replaces outgoing president James Purcell, P.E., who will remain on the NCEES board of directors as immediate past president.

During the annual meeting, NCEES members elected Christopher Knotts, P.E., president-elect for the 2019–20 term. Also, NCEES welcomed newly commissioned Northeast Zone Vice President Christopher Duhamel, P.E., P.L.S., and Southern Zone Vice President Timothy Lingerfelt, P.L.S., as they began the first year of their two-year terms.

Completing the board of directors are three members serving the final year of their terms: Timothy Rickborn, P.E., returns as treasurer for 2017–20; Marlon Vogt, P.E., returns as Central Zone vice president for 2018–20; and Brian Robertson, P.E., continues as Western Zone vice president for 2018–20.