

AN OFFICIAL NCEES PUBLICATION FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION, OPINIONS, AND IDEAS REGARDING THE LICENSURE OF ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS

FEATURE STORY

NCEES CLOSING BOOK ON PENCIL-AND-PAPER FE, FS

Registration for computer-based exams now open

NCEES and its member licensing boards reached a milestone on October 26—the last administration of the FE and FS exams in pencil-and-paper format. More than 27,000 examinees sat for the format's final offering with NCEES test booklets, answer sheets, and mechanical pencils.

Since 1965 and 1973, respectively, the FE and FS exams have been offered twice a year at university campuses and

civic centers across the country. NCEES member boards voted in 2010 to convert these exams to computer-based testing (CBT). NCEES exam development volunteers, boards, and staff have worked since that time to make the transition a reality.

On November 4, registration opened for the computer-based

FE and FS. Examinees can schedule exam appointments at Pearson VUE test centers across the country, with the first appointments available January 2. The exams will be administered during four testing windows: January–February, April–May, July–August, and October–November. Registration will be open year-round.

In 2012, NCEES voted to move the PE and PS exams to CBT. For now, though, the administration of these exams remains the same—they are given via pencil-and-paper

Examinees can schedule exam appointments at Pearson VUE test centers across the country, with the first appointments available January 2.



Registration is now open to take the FE and FS exams at Pearson VUE testing centers throughout the country. The new exams are shorter and allow for faster results, improved security, and year-round testing.

in April and October. Registration for the April 2014 PE, SE, and PS exams opens December 17.

New format

The FE and FS exams have new specifications beginning January 2014. These are available online at ncees.org/cbt.

The content of the FE exam is changing significantly. Instead of taking a common morning portion and a discipline-specific afternoon portion, examinees will now take one of seven individual exams that include content from areas common to that discipline's curriculum. For example, all exams will include questions on mathematics, but the electrical engineering exam will not include dynamics. The freestanding FE exams are Chemical, Civil, Electrical and Computer, Environmental, Industrial, Mechanical, and Other Disciplines.

Both the FE and FS exam will consist of 110 questions. Examinees will have a total of 5 hours and 20 minutes to

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PATTY MAMOLA, P.E.
NCEES PRESIDENT

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Making progress on the year's key goals

In my last *Licensure Exchange* article, I talked about my focus for the upcoming year as president: the what, the who, and the where of engineering and surveying. By that, I mean what it is we do as engineers and surveyors and how we communicate it simply to the public, who is and can be an engineer or surveyor and the diversity within our professions, and where we work and the borders we cross to do our work, or mobility.

I challenged each member of the Council to join me in the effort. Change can't happen if each of us isn't taking some action to make it happen. Periodically in the articles I write for this publication, I will share with you steps that are taken toward progress.

Encouraging diversity

At my first NCEES board of director's meeting, which followed our annual meeting in San Antonio, we were challenged by the National Society of Professional Engineers to join them in their work with the Society of Women Engineers to increase the number of women in engineering. A lot of money and effort have been spent over the years on this effort. NSPE feels strongly that we need to take a fresh look and develop a new approach. I agree. But we need to look at not only the recruiting of women but also of different ethnic groups and young people in general.

I truly believe that diversity increases the pool of possibilities of what can be created,

of what can be engineered. I also believe that anyone can be an engineer if they are willing to apply themselves.

We will continue to have discussions with NSPE and see what develops. As things evolve, we will keep you informed.

The challenges of encouraging diversity and promoting the profession to different audiences also apply to surveying. For many reasons, we are seeing the numbers entering the surveying profession dwindle. It's time that we take a fresh look at what's happening and see if a new approach is needed. Even though the basic tenets of the profession remain the same, surveying is a rapidly evolving field. And with a rapidly evolving field, the approach to promotion probably needs to change, too.

The National Society of Professional Surveyors will need to lead this charge, but NCEES is ready and willing to assist. Recently, we held discussions with NSPS regarding assisting it with promoting National Surveyors Week. With our recent National Engineers Week experience, we are a great resource for NSPS.

Promoting the professions

Promoting the engineering and surveying professions is a charge that has been given to the Public Outreach/Communications Task Force. I am excited that they will be fleshing out the details of a public outreach event

for next year's annual meeting in Seattle. My thought is that we have a significant presence in a city each year for the annual meeting. Why not leverage that presence and work with that location's state board to sponsor events that promote our professions in simple terms that the public can relate to? The event would be focused on our goals to encourage boys and girls of all ethnicities to consider engineering and surveying and to promote the value of licensure to the public.

Supporting mobility

Facilitating professional mobility has probably been a part of every strategic plan we've had as an organization. It's one of the main reasons that our organization was formed. Ninety-three years later, we are still working on mobility issues. But in recent years, we've begun talking about mobility in an international context. The world is becoming a smaller place, and we must be part of the dialogue on international mobility. Otherwise, as a nation, we could find ourselves sitting on the sidelines while the rest of the world plays ball.

Recently, I was excited to hear that the states of Kentucky, North Carolina, and Texas, with the help of NCEES staff, have come to an agreement with the Japan PE/FE Examiners Council regarding licensure for Japanese professional engineers. This is similar to the agreements that several states have made with Engineers Canada. In these tough economic times, many state governments

$$F = Q_B \rho V_B - Q_C \rho V_C = \rho \frac{\pi D_B^2}{4} V_B^2 - \rho \frac{\pi D_C^2}{4} V_C^2$$

are recognizing the importance of the global marketplace and the positive impact it could have on their state's economy.

With its international relationships, NCEES is a great resource in helping state boards with international mobility issues.

As a result of input from a number of states, I created a task force this year to study the evaluation of foreign experience and recommend best practices for member licensing boards. Boards have had a recent influx of applications from foreign applicants

who have passed the professional practice exam and are seeking a U.S. engineering license. Boards have also struggled with consistency in evaluating experience earned outside the United States for foreign engineers seeking comity licensure in this country. I am hopeful that the work of this task force will shed some light on defining the issues and challenges and provide recommendations that we can consider implementing.

I realize it's going to be a busy year with all that I'd like to accomplish. But I am

excited about the prospects and am hopeful that you will join me in these efforts. It is because of our great base of volunteers—the volunteers who work on our exams and the volunteers who are members of our Council—that we are able to do so many things and realize so many of our goals. Thank you for your service.

FE AND FS EXAMS

continued from cover

complete them. An additional 40 minutes is allotted for a tutorial, a scheduled break, and a brief survey.

Exam preparation materials

The new *FE Reference Handbook* and *FS Reference Handbook* are now available.

Examinees can purchase a hard copy or download a free PDF at ncees.org/cbt to use for exam preparation. A searchable onscreen electronic version will be provided during the actual exam.

Computer-based practice exams are now available for purchase online. Each practice exam consists of 50 questions and functions much the same as the actual exam.

For more information

Visit ncees.org/cbt for the latest details on the computer-based FE and FS exams, to find the closest Pearson VUE test center, and to download educator resources.

A comprehensive guide to CBT exams is available for download at ncees.org/cbt. The *NCEES Examinee Guide* includes detailed information on how to register and schedule an exam, how and when examinees will receive their results, and what they are allowed to take into the test center, as well as copies of the *NCEES CBT Exam Rules* and *Nondisclosure Agreement*. During registration, all examinees are required to attest that they have read the guide and agree to comply with the rules and policies in it.

NCEES has launched CBTuesdays, a series of videos to help explain different aspects of taking the FE and FS exams at Pearson VUE test centers. The first video, released November 19, gives an overview of a typical exam-day experience, including how the check-in process works, what examinees can bring into the exam room, and how they can request breaks. Six shorter videos will follow weekly—one each Tuesday. Each video focuses on a specific part of taking the exams, such as how to flag questions for review, what the reusable booklet for scratch work is like, and how to search the electronic reference handbook. The videos will be featured on the NCEES Facebook and Twitter pages and on the NCEES YouTube channel under the CBTuesdays section.

National Engineers Week Foundation becomes DiscoverE

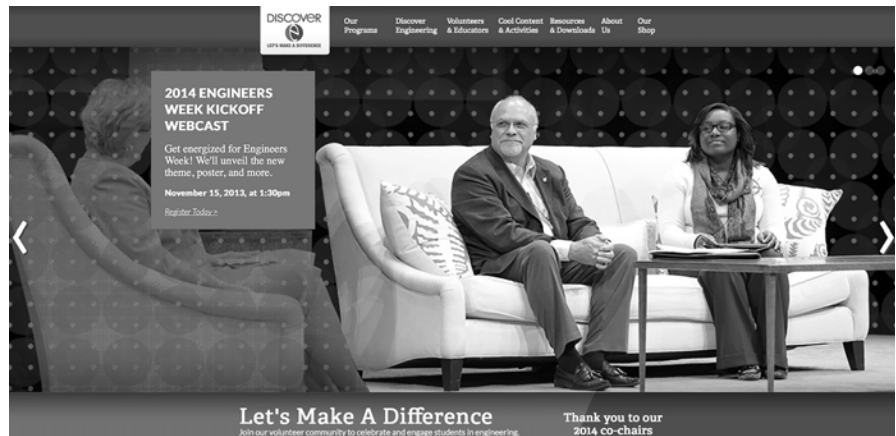
New name reflects increased activism, expanded programs

As it prepares for the 63rd Engineers Week celebration in February, the National Engineers Week Foundation is reintroducing itself as DiscoverE. The name change is part of a larger rebranding initiative for the foundation, whose outreach programs include Engineers Week, Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day, and the Future City Competition.

The new name reflects the organization's evolution from sponsoring one signature program—Engineers Week—to broadening its slate of programs, collaborations, and role in addressing national capacity and capability issues. Each of the organization's programs is getting a makeover as well, including a new logo, to fit with the overall DiscoverE brand.

A new tag line, Let's Make a Difference, highlights DiscoverE's mission of celebrating and advancing the critical role engineers play in the country's innovation economy. It also serves as a call to action to volunteers and educators to encourage and support the next generation of engineers and technicians.

Accompanying the new name and look is a new online volunteer center to support the engineering and education communities. DiscoverE programs, online workshops, and resources are all now housed together at DiscoverE.org.



The new DiscoverE website is an online resource for volunteers, educators, parents, and students. All of the DiscoverE programs, including Engineers Week and Future City, are included on the site.

“The new name and website are really outcomes of the work by our terrific partners for many years,” said Leslie Collins, executive director of DiscoverE. “The name DiscoverE captures the potential, promise, and possibilities of engineering. It perfectly articulates who we are today.”

Major funding for the rebranding initiative and website comes from longtime partner Bechtel Corporation. Stephen Bechtel Jr., the first honorary Engineers Week chair, issued the first formal call at large to the engineering community to volunteer in classrooms under the name DiscoverE.

About DiscoverE

The mission of DiscoverE is to sustain and grow a dynamic engineering profession through outreach, education, celebration,

and volunteerism. DiscoverE supports a network of thousands of volunteers in its partner coalition of more than 100 professional societies, major corporations, and government agencies. They work together to introduce students, parents, and educators to engineering; engage them in hands-on engineering experiences; and make science and math relevant.

“The name DiscoverE captures the potential, promise, and possibilities of engineering. It perfectly articulates who we are today.”



NINA NORRIS
NCEES DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NCEES prepares for DiscoverE Engineers Week

Volunteers, members, and staff can make a difference

Let's make a difference. It's not just a tag line—it's a call to action. NCEES is eager to make a difference with DiscoverE Engineers Week 2014, which will be held February 16–22. Below are just a few ways that we'll be participating in this national celebration and promoting both the engineering and surveying professions.

New Faces of Engineering

NCEES is again the primary sponsor of New Faces of Engineering, College Edition. This national initiative recognizes the best and brightest 3rd-, 4th-, and 5th-year engineering students, whose academic successes and experiences in the engineering field have positioned them to start making an impact.

All the entries have been submitted, so now we're looking forward to congratulating the nominees in February.

Future City Competition

NCEES will also be sponsoring the Best Land Surveying Practices special award at both the regional and national levels.

This award recognizes the design that employs the best land surveying practices, taking into consideration the high standards used by surveyors to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare. Teams should be able to demonstrate the skills and resources surveyors provide in the design,

development, and maintenance of their future city.

NCEES has sponsored this award at the national competition for 10 years, and this is our second year offering it at the regional level. By expanding into the regional competitions in 2013, we were able to introduce 2,200 teams to the surveying profession. That's a total of 35,000 middle-school students and 2,200 middle-school teachers.

In order to repeat our success, we need volunteers to serve as judges at the regional competitions that will take place across the country in January. If you'd like to share your enthusiasm for the surveying profession by serving as a judge at a regional competition, contact Sara McGee, NCEES marketing analyst, at smcgee@ncees.org. She will provide you with everything you need to serve as a volunteer judge.

Small steps to make a big difference

Many individual programs are celebrated during Engineers Week, and that means there are many opportunities for you to volunteer and make a difference in your local community.

Outreach efforts don't have to be on a grand scale to make a real impact. You can celebrate Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day on

February 20 simply by bringing girls to your office to see the work you do everyday as an engineer.

I encourage everyone to take part in DiscoverE Engineers Week and other outreach initiatives throughout the year. We have an important role to play in increasing the public's awareness of the many ways that engineers and surveyors protect our health, safety, and welfare every day. Join me, and together we will make a difference in 2014.

Many individual programs are celebrated during Engineers Week, and that means there are many opportunities for you to volunteer and make a difference in your local community.

NCEES committees and task forces begin work on 2013-14 agenda

A full list of charges and the membership of each group is available on the MyNCEES section of the NCEES website.

With its committees and task forces addressing more than 80 charges, NCEES has a full range of issues to consider in 2014. President Patty Mamola, P.E., has assigned the 12 standing committees charges focusing on areas such as exams, law enforcement, and education. She has also appointed a special committee on *Bylaws* and four task forces to study special topics.

The following is an overview of the issues they will address this year. A full list of charges and the membership of each group is available on the MyNCEES section of the NCEES website. Each committee and task force will present its preliminary findings at the zone interim meetings this spring and get feedback from NCEES delegates. The groups will then submit their final reports, and the Council will vote on any resulting motions at the annual meeting in August 2014.

Advisory Committee on Council Activities

Chair: Patrick Tami, P.L.S.
Board of directors liaison: Patty Mamola, P.E.
Staff liaison: Donna Moss, PHR

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

This year, the committee will look at several issues involving member engagement. It will consider the cost and benefits of allowing remote participation in NCEES meetings. It will produce a synopsis of paths to leadership positions to guide interested individuals and a synopsis of the NCEES *Bylaws* to introduce new members to this document. Its other charges include surveying member boards on their position on creating a separate licensure system for structural engineers.

Committee on Awards

Chair: Quentin Ford, P.E.
Board of directors liaison: Patty Mamola, P.E.
Staff liaison: Sherrie Holcomb

The Committee on Awards will collect nominations for NCEES service awards to be presented during the 2014 annual meeting and recommend recipients to the board of directors.

Committee on Education

Chair: Roger Helgoth, P.E.
Board of directors liaison: Michael Conzett, P.E.
Staff liaison: Davy McDowell, P.E.

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

$$F = Q_B \rho V_B - Q_C \rho V_C = \rho \frac{\pi D_B^2}{4} V_B^2 - \rho \frac{\pi D_C^2}{4} V_C^2$$

The committee will address several charges related to CPC requirements for licensure renewal and the master's-or-equivalent requirement for engineering licensure, which is set to go into effect in the *Model Law* in 2020, including developing a framework for a universal CPC certificate. It will also consider the use of the NCEES education standard for defining substantially equivalent programs that are not ABET accredited and explore outreach to deans of engineering and surveying programs to help them understand the importance of licensure.

Committee on Examination Audit

Chair: Larry Smith, P.E.

Board of directors liaison: Gary Thompson, P.L.S.

Staff liaison: Tim Miller, P.E.

The Committee on Examination Audit conducts regular audits of the NCEES exam program. This year, it will review the development process of the PS exam and the following PE exams: Industrial, Software, Mechanical, and Agricultural.

Committee on Examination Policy and Procedures

Chair: Christy VanBuskirk, P.E.

Board of directors liaison: David Widmer, P.L.S.

Staff liaison: Tim Miller, P.E.

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

In 2013–14, the committee will develop criteria to govern how the performance of examinees outside the United States is used to establish exam cut scores. It has several charges related to computer-based testing (CBT), including evaluating the audit process and sources that will be required for CBT exams. It will also review the exam administration policy on the release and use of exam results and recommend changes to address how member licensing boards will release results for computer-based exams.

Committee on Examinations for Professional Engineers

Chair: Robert Zahl, P.E.

Board of directors liaison: David Widmer, P.L.S.

Staff liaison: Tim Miller, P.E.

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

The committee has several charges related to moving PE exams to CBT, which was approved by the Council in 2012. These include determining what resources exam committees need to develop appropriate reference materials for CBT exams and providing input on the earliest date possible for converting PE exams to CBT.

The committee will also review exam development procedures to ensure the PE exams remain practice-based exams that are relevant to current practice.

Committee on Examinations for Professional Surveyors

Chair: Ivan Hoffman, P.S.

Board of directors liaison: Von Hill, P.S.

Staff liaison: Tim Miller, P.E.

The EPS Committee oversees the development and scoring of the FS and PS exams. It reviews item performance, monitors the training of exam development volunteers, and recommends changes to exam policies and procedures as needed.

Like the EPE Committee, this group has several charges related to moving NCEES exams to CBT, including reviewing the proposed CBT development process. It will also provide input on the earliest date possible for converting the PS exam to CBT and develop a draft milestone schedule for conversion. Additionally, the committee will work with the Committee on Member Board Administrators to study how state-specific exams will be administered when the PS exam moves to CBT.

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Committee on Finances

Chair: George Gibson, P.E.

Board of directors liaison:

Gary Thompson, P.L.S.

Staff liaison: Betsy Pearson, CPA

The Committee on Finances studies the financial needs of NCEES and recommends sources of income and ways and means of securing adequate funds for its operation. The committee will review the results of the 2012–13 audit and the organization’s current financial condition and work with NCEES leadership to recommend an income and expense budget for 2014–15.

Its other charges for this year include determining revenue and cost trends of FE and FS exams for the past three years and tracking trends for 2014 to identify any anomalies associated with CBT. It will also review the financial policy on zone contributions to determine if NCEES monetary contributions should be equal between zones holding a joint interim meeting or prorated by the percentage of attendees from each zone.

Committee on Law Enforcement

Chair: Theresa Hilliard Hodge, P.E.

Board of directors liaison: James Purcell, P.E.

Staff liaison: Bob Whorton, P.E.

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

which are best practice manuals for enforcement activities and training. It also conducts a law enforcement program at the NCEES annual meeting and writes the column “Enforcement Beat” for *Licensure Exchange*.

This year, the committee’s other charges include continuing to develop a training program for investigators and researching reciprocal disciplinary actions taken by member boards to develop guidelines for consistency in such actions. It will also study methods used to monitor compliance with board orders or settlement agreements regarding disciplined individuals and firms and provide recommendations for boards to monitor compliance.

Committee on Member Board Administrators

Chair: Andrew Ritter

Board of Directors liaison:

Daniel Turner, Ph.D., P.E., P.L.S.

Staff liaison: Steven Matthews

The Committee on Member Board Administrators is responsible for coordinating meetings for MBAs at the NCEES annual meeting and zone interim meetings. The committee facilitates cooperation among MBAs and assists with member board efforts to address licensure processes and practices. It also writes a *Licensure Exchange* column, “Member Board Brief.”

The committee’s charges for 2013–14 include exploring the feasibility of a regional shared pool of questions for state-specific surveying exams and reviewing the definitions of “inactive” and “retired” to determine if clarification between the two statuses needs to be included in the *Model Law*.

Committee on Nominations

Chair: Gene Dinkins, P.E., P.L.S.

Staff liaison: Jerry Carter

The Committee on Nominations submits the nominations for officers for the next administrative year. This year, the committee will solicit a nomination from the Central Zone for president-elect for 2014–15 as well as a Nominations Committee member and alternate member from each of the four zones.

Committee on Uniform Procedures and Legislative Guidelines

Chair: Randall Long, P.E.

Board of directors liaison: Von Hill, P.S.

Staff liaison: Keri Anderson

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

The committee’s charges for 2013–14 include conducting a comprehensive review

of the *Model Rules* and proposing any necessary revisions. The committee will work with the EPS Committee to review the intent, content, and placement of the Grandfathering of Photogrammetry section in the *Model Law* and recommend revisions as needed. It will also implement the *Model Law* revision to remove the prerequisite that the required four years of progressive engineering experience be earned *before* taking the PE exam, which the Council approved at its 2013 annual meeting.

Definition of Engineering Task Force

Chair: David Whitman, Ph.D., P.E.

Board of directors liaison: Michael Conzett, P.E.

Staff liaison: Jerry Carter

The task force will review the *Model Law* definition of engineering and recommend revisions as needed to make the definition inclusive of all areas of engineering activities and exclusive of all non-engineering activities.

Foreign Experience Evaluation Task Force

Chair: Joseph Timms, P.E.

Board of directors liaison: Patty Mamola, P.E.

Staff liaison: Stef Goodenow

The task force will study and provide recommendations for processes that NCEES can develop to assist member boards with evaluating experience gained outside the United States.

Mobility Task Force

Chair: Daniel Parker, P.E.

Board of directors liaison:

Gene Dinkins, P.E., P.L.S.

Staff liaison: Pam Powell

The task force will continue work on a concept proposed by the 2012–13 Mobility Task Force to make mobility among jurisdictions simpler and faster for Model Law Engineers. It will consider potential impacts on NCEES regarding staffing, revenue and costs, marketing opportunities, risks, and liabilities. The task force will also work with the Committee on Education to develop a plan to promote the adoption of common standards for continuing education requirements to promote consistency and improve mobility.

Public Outreach/Communications Task Force

Chair: Douglas Cooley, P.E.

Board of directors liaison:

Gene Dinkins, P.E., P.L.S.

Staff liaison: Nina Norris

The task force will draft a position statement affirming NCEES' ability to promote the value of licensure to all audiences. Its other charges include considering initiatives NCEES could pursue to clear misconceptions about who can or cannot qualify for licensure and identifying potential new tactics to promote licensure and the engineering and surveying professions to the audiences identified in the NCEES integrated marketing plan. The task force

will also assist NCEES staff with planning a public outreach event to promote the engineering and surveying professions in Seattle, Washington, during the 2014 NCEES annual meeting.

Special Committee on Bylaws

Chair: Norman Bennion, P.E.

Board of directors liaison: David Widmer, P.L.S.

Staff liaison: Davy McDowell, P.E.

President Mamola convened the Special Committee on Bylaws this year to amend the *Bylaws* to require that the president-elect has been a member of NCEES for at least three years, pending approval at the annual meeting, and to incorporate development of the annual meeting consent agenda. The committee will also propose reinstating the Northern Mariana Islands as an NCEES member board.



JERRY CARTER
NCEES CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

The process of great leadership

The great passion and professionalism of the hundreds of individuals who have served in leadership positions within NCEES have ensured that the organization has stayed true to its mission and vision and has been able to advance the licensure process for the engineering and surveying professions.

According to a study to define the characteristics of great leadership, exemplary leaders do the following:

- Establish standards for how to treat others and pursue goals and set the example for others to follow
- Envision the future and enlist others to help make it a reality
- Look for opportunities to improve the organization and challenge the status quo
- Foster collaboration and build effective teams
- Recognize the contributions of others and celebrate their accomplishments

It is heartening to know that NCEES has been blessed with great leadership and vision during its 93-year history. The great passion and professionalism of the hundreds of individuals who have served in leadership positions within NCEES have ensured that the organization has stayed

true to its mission and vision and has been able to advance the licensure process for the engineering and surveying professions.

The picture below is of 15 of the 18 NCEES past presidents who attended this year's annual meeting. Each dedicated their time and energy to advance initiatives of the day and keep NCEES navigating a true course. Each was also responsible for leading the NCEES board of directors, including setting agendas, facilitating discussions, seeking consensus, and sometimes serving as referee. Each made his own indelible mark on NCEES, and we remain indebted to them for their service.

I am glad to report that the current NCEES board of directors includes eight individuals who possess the above-listed traits, along with great enthusiasm for the need to be strategic in considering how NCEES should navigate the changes that are required for the organization to remain valid.



*Eighteen past presidents of NCEES attended the organization's 2013 annual meeting in August. Standing (l-r): Richard Cottingham, Jon Nelson, Dale Jans, Dave Whitman, John Steadman, Joe Timms, Dennis Meyer, Dale Sall, and Skip Lewis
Sitting (l-r): Sam Wainwright, Charles Kimberling, Henn Rebane, Mort Fine, Paul Munger, and Dave Sellards
Not pictured: Al Kersich, Bob Krebs, and Lou Raimondi*

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$$110,288 - 27,712$$

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During a recent meeting, the board of directors conducted a comprehensive review of the current NCEES strategic plan to assess the goals listed and the strategies assigned to each. In this review, the board affirmed that the six goals listed are still the most significant areas that need to be pursued but agreed that the top two issues are exploring additional opportunities to educate the public about the importance of licensure and the need to educate the NCEES member boards about the need to think more globally in terms of licensure.

The strategic plan and a progress report can be found on the NCEES website under the About NCEES tab. I encourage everyone to review these documents to stay abreast of the efforts of the board of directors to keep advancing the goals of the organization.

An open invitation

During the past year, we have received several invitations for either a member of the NCEES board of directors or a senior member of staff to attend the meeting of a member licensing board to discuss ongoing initiatives and services provided by NCEES. If your board is interested in having a member of the NCEES leadership attend a future meeting to discuss a specific issue or to make a presentation about NCEES, please let me know. As the schedule allows, NCEES will provide a current member of leadership to appear at a board meeting at no cost to your member board. We have found such presentations

to be extremely beneficial since they allow us to respond to any issues or concerns that a board may have and to receive feedback about NCEES services and suggestions for how we may improve them.

Celebrating our history

Many of you who have been around the Council for some time remember Earl Herndon, P.E., who served as director of examinations for NCEES from 1987 to 1996. While Earl was at NCEES, his wife, Jackie, crafted a quilt depicting the four regional zones that make up NCEES. The twirling pattern with four squares attached represents

the complexity of giving exams around the world. The squares in the middle signify the grounding organizations of NCEES headquarters in Clemson. The quilt was displayed in Earl's office until his retirement.

Jackie and Earl recently donated the quilt to NCEES. It has been framed with an inscription detailing its history and is now proudly on display again at NCEES. When you're at headquarters, stop by and take a look at this beautiful artwork.



Former NCEES director of examinations Earl Herndon views the new display of the quilt made by his wife to symbolize NCEES. The framed quilt now hangs in the new meeting space at NCEES headquarters.



Timing board investigations with litigation

The focus of the discussion centered on what action the board would take. Would it continue its investigation or hold it in abeyance until the litigation was complete?

A question was recently posted on the NCEES law enforcement listserv that concerned procedures a board would use if a complaint were filed with the board and the parties were also involved in civil or criminal litigation relative to the same matter. The focus of the discussion centered on what action the board would take. Would it continue its investigation or hold it in abeyance until the litigation was complete?

Prior to 2008, the policy of the Alabama board was to not investigate complaints that were also involved in litigation. (That being said, if there was a risk to public safety, then the investigation would proceed regardless of the litigation.) Once the litigation concluded, the complaint investigation would begin.

In October 2002, the board received a complaint that alleged two professional land surveyors had created separate surveys of the same property that contained violations of the standards of practice. The complaint information indicated that litigation was ongoing, and as a matter of policy, the complaint was placed on hold pending the outcome of the litigation. It was noted at the time that one of the professional land surveyors had been appointed by the court to produce a survey of the property in question.

In April 2003, the court issued its order, which did not favor the complainant, and an appeal of that decision was filed. In 2005, after two years of little

litigation activity, a couple of attorney changes, and pushed hearing dates, the investigative staff determined it would start periodically checking with the complainant to determine if the litigation was continuing. Also in 2005, one of the professional land surveyors named in the complaint retired and allowed his professional land surveyor license to lapse.

In late 2008, since there continued to be little litigation activity, the board's investigative committee met with the complainant and determined the investigation would proceed regardless of the pending appeal. The complainant notified the committee at this meeting that her current attorney had been suspended by the Alabama Bar Association and she was now seeking new legal representation.

The investigation began and a review of the survey prepared by the now-retired professional land surveyor found that it contained violations of the standards of practice for land surveying in Alabama. The review of the second professional land surveyor's work did not reveal any violations. The retired professional land surveyor was offered a settlement agreement, which he accepted, and the agreement was finalized in March 2009. The court-appointed professional land surveyor was notified in July 2009 that the board would take no action related to the matter.

As a result of this case, the board changed its policy regarding litigation. Complaint investigations now

proceed regardless if litigation is ongoing or anticipated.

The West Virginia board staff provided a helpful response to the listserv question that outlined questions to consider when determining whether an investigation should proceed when litigation is pending or ongoing. The questions included the following:

- Which was filed first?
- Does the matter involve an issue where immediate board investigation and action are necessary to protect the public?
- To what extent are the issues separate? The board may wish to proceed on certain issues regardless of the pending court action.
- Will the discovery and other investigation in the lawsuit, including possible expert reports, be helpful to the board?
- How long is the civil action expected to take, and will the outcome to some extent determine the outcome of the administrative matter before the board?

An additional consideration is that your statute may require you to resolve complaint investigations within a specified time frame. This may require the board to proceed with the investigative process regardless of the litigation status.

Pending criminal matters may also need to be looked at differently than civil matters. It would not be unusual for a law enforcement agency to

request that a board not proceed with its investigation during an ongoing criminal investigation. The side note to this is that once the criminal action has been completed, the board may be able to use the criminal conviction as grounds for its disciplinary action.

All of these points were provided by members participating in the NCEES law enforcement listserv discussion. This is a great communication tool and can be even better if more members participate. The NCEES law enforcement listserv is available to all members and associate members and simply requires requesting to be added to the group. On the issue discussed here, the individual posed a question and received numerous responses very quickly from members who had been through similar situations with their agency. I continue to benefit from these discussions and believe you will also. Please consider adding your insight and experience to the discussion.

NCEES suspends exam administration in Egypt

To protect exam security and the safety of exam administration observers, NCEES will not offer exams in any format in Egypt until further notice.

In response to the continued political and social unrest in Egypt, the NCEES board of directors has suspended the offering of NCEES exams at the American University in Cairo. To protect exam security and the safety of exam administration observers, NCEES will not offer exams in any format in Egypt until further notice.

The U.S. Department of State currently advises against nonessential travel to the country. Its travel warning states that political unrest, which includes violent protests and armed attacks, shows “little sign of abating.”

NCEES has temporarily suspended offering exams in Egypt before, most recently for the October 2013 administration.

Exam item costs set

The NCEES board of directors has approved the following values for each exam item for fiscal year 2013–14, which began October 1:

- FE exam item cost: \$2,483
- PE exam item cost for Group I exams: \$2,687
- PE exam item cost for Group II exams: \$2,100
- SE exam item cost for multiple-choice items: \$2,687
- SE exam item cost for essay items: \$19,905
- FS/PS exam item cost: \$2,226

Each year, NCEES assesses the potential financial damages associated with an exam breach and sets a cost to replace an exam item, or question, if it can no longer be used. NCEES considers travel expenses, subject-matter experts’ time,

psychometric costs, and office and personnel costs when establishing the dollar value of each exam item. Item costs for Group II exams do not include the travel expenses that sponsoring technical societies pay for their volunteers, who write items and assemble these exams.

SE, PE Civil design standards revised

The SE exam and the structural and transportation modules of the PE Civil exam have revised design standards, beginning with the April 2014 administration. The new standards are posted on the NCEES website (ncees.org/exams).

Calculator list approved

The NCEES board of directors recently approved the calculator models that can be used on NCEES computer-based and pencil-and paper exams in 2014:

- Casio: All fx-115 models (Any Casio calculator must have 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 have TI-30X or TI-36X in its model name.)

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

$$1000 \frac{\pi 15^2}{4} 7.9^2 - 1000 \frac{\pi 3^2}{4} 1.98^2$$
$$110,288 - 27,712$$
$$\frac{kg}{m^3} m^2 \left(\frac{m}{s} \right)$$

DECEMBER 5-7 SE Exam Scoring Workshop, Clemson, South Carolina

DECEMBER 6-7 Foreign Experience Evaluation Task Force Meeting, Tampa, Florida

DECEMBER 13-14 Definition of Engineering Task Force Meeting, Education Committee Meeting, and Mobility Task Force Meeting, Scottsdale, Arizona

JANUARY 2-4 PE Electrical and Computer Exam Meeting, Clemson, South Carolina

JANUARY 7-8 MBA Committee Meeting, Tampa, Florida

JANUARY 10-11 SE Exam Meeting, San Francisco, California

JANUARY 11 Law Enforcement Committee Meeting, Charlotte, North Carolina

JANUARY 17-18 ACCA Meeting, Tampa, Florida; PE Civil Exam Meeting, Clemson, South Carolina; UPLG Committee Meeting, San Diego, California

JANUARY 23 EPS Committee Meeting, Clemson, South Carolina

JANUARY 24-25 PE Control Systems Exam Meeting, Houston, Texas; Surveying Exam Meeting, Clemson, South Carolina

JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 1 EPP Committee Meeting and Mobility Task Force Meeting, San Diego, California; FE Exam Meeting, Clemson, South Carolina

Member Board News

Alaska John Kerr is a new appointee.

Iowa The board office has moved to 200 E. Grand, Suite 350, Des Moines, IA 50309.

Kentucky Member Richard Howerton passed away October 14.

Massachusetts Daniel Caron is a new appointee. Robert Figuerido is no longer a member.

New Hampshire PS Kevin McEaney is a new appointee. Earl Sandford is no longer a member.

New York Emeritus member Frank Hutchinson passed away October 19. He was an exam development volunteer for 20 years, working with the FE and PE Environmental exams. He received the NCEES Distinguished Service Award in 2009 for his contributions, which include serving on the EPE Committee.

Pennsylvania Matthew Karnell and Robb Keith are no longer members.

Tennessee PE Laura Reinbold is a new appointee. Alton Hethcoat is no longer a member.

Washington Lisa Brown is no longer a member.



P.O. Box 1686
(280 Seneca Creek Rd)
Clemson, SC 29633 USA
864-654-6824

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**Jerry T. Carter, Chief Executive Officer
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**Keri B. Anderson, Manager of
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NCEES publishes 2013 Engineering Award Book, opens 2014 competition

Engage. Enrich. Inspire. NCEES has published the 2013 NCEES Engineering Award Book to urge engineering educators and professional engineers to do just that for the next generation of P.E.s. The latest NCEES publication features the six engineering programs recognized this year for excellence in connecting professional practice and education.

The book describes each winning project, which involved collaborations with students, faculty, and professional engineers. The book also includes interviews with the Cleveland State University Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, which won the \$25,000 grand prize for its project, *Design, Funding, and Construction of the August Pine Ridge School/Hurricane Shelter in Belize*.

2014 call for submissions

As it celebrates the 2013 winners, NCEES is also preparing for the 2014 award cycle. EAC/ABET-accredited programs from all engineering disciplines are invited to compete for

- Grand prize: \$25,000
- Five awards: \$7,500 each

The deadline to enter is May 5, 2014. More information on the award, including entry forms, is available at ncees.org/award. Also, go online to download a PDF of the NCEES Engineering Award Book or to request copies.

The deadline to enter is May 5, 2014. More information on the award, including entry forms, is available at ncees.org/award.