Licensure **EXCHANGE**

An official NCEES publication for the exchange of information, opinions, and ideas regarding the licensure of engineers and surveyors

NCEES sponsors project-based learning experience for students

IN AN ONGOING EFFORT TO introduce K–12 students to the surveying profession, NCEES sponsored the recent DiscoverE Future City Competition.

NCEES is a longstanding sponsor of the Future City Competition. The Future City Finals Awards and the Special Awards Ceremony were held on February 21.

The NCEES Best Practices in Land
Surveying Award was presented at
both the regional and national Future
City Competitions. The competition
challenges middle school teams to design and build
cities of the future.

The theme for 2023 was Climate Change Challenge, and students were tasked with finding creative solutions to construct healthy and sustainable living environments.

NCEES volunteers served as judges for the special award. Forty surveyors participated as special award judges at regional competitions in January. Two NCEES volunteers also judged the national award at the finals on February 19: Kevin Bishop, P.S., and Scott Bishop, P.S. NCEES Immediate Past President



NCEES outreach volunteers Kevin Bishop, P.S., and Scott Bishop, P.S., ask a Future City team about surveying practices in their city design.

Brian Robertson, P.E., participated in the overall judging for the initial round of national competition.

By offering this special award at the finals and 37 regional competitions this year, NCEES helped more than 40,000 middle school students learn more about the surveying profession and how it is critical to their communities now and in the future.

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ENFORCEMENT BEAT



KARL TONANDER, P.E.

NEW MEXICO BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS

Why are some boards apprehensive to consider ethical violations?

AN ALLEGATION WAS RECENTLY MADE IN AN EMAIL by an outside, third-party consultant that involved a firm principal (who was a member of the jurisdiction's licensing board) and several management employees at the firm, all of whom are professional registrants.

The consultant alleged that the firm principal had used a position on the board to profit from a poorly designed project and helped the firm avoid other damages resulting from improper design that would necessarily lead to project failure, specifically targeting the outside consultant for disciplinary review. The consultant made several other scurrilous charges, several of which suggested illegal activity.

The email, along with the long list of allegations, was the first contact that the firm principal, the management employees, or anyone else had received on the subject, and it was sent only to the management employees at the firm. The firm principal was not directly copied.

This jurisdiction, like many other jurisdictions, has a code of conduct including language very similar to that contained in the NCEES Model Rules.

Model Rules Section 240.15.C.3. states,

Licensees shall not injure or attempt to injure, maliciously or falsely, directly or indirectly, the professional reputation, prospects, practice, or employment of other licensees, nor indiscriminately criticize other licensees' work.

Model Rules Section 240.15.C.4. states.

Licensees shall make a reasonable effort to inform another licensee whose work is believed to contain a material discrepancy, error, or omission that may impact the health, safety, or welfare of the public, unless such reporting is legally prohibited.

The firm principal filed a complaint with the licensing board and provided specific, factual evidence refuting each point of the allegations. The firm principal alleged in the complaint to the board that by sending the email to senior employees within the firm, the outside consultant had violated those portions of the jurisdiction's rules that matched the *Model* Rules noted previously.

As the firm principal was still active on the licensing board and the regular investigator was familiar with the firm principal, an independent investigator was engaged to review the facts of the case, and an outside group of former board members was convened to review the investigator's report. Despite having no apparent evidence supporting the allegations of the outside consultant, the specially convened group of board members did not conduct a formal hearing and determined that there had been no violation. No further explanation was provided.

Ironically, this was the second time that essentially the same complaint had been leveled against this outside consultant by another professional registrant. The other case was just a few years earlier when the outside consultant had posted comments on a professional society's bulletin board alleging that a third consultant had been engaged in plan stamping and had incorrectly designed a project. Just like the most recent case, the public post made by the outside consultant was the first time that such comments were made to the third consultant.

That complaint, which also went through investigation, uncovered no evidence of improper design or plan stamping

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by the third consultant. Nevertheless, the board members at that time, on a split vote, elected not to pursue further action against the outside consultant. The debate at the time centered around the severity of damage that may have been done to the third consultant by the public posting, and without evidence of damage to reputation, there wasn't a will to pursue action.

The facts appear clear in both circumstances, yet two groups of board members elected to take the same

path and avoid disciplinary action for the false public statements. Is it because ethical violations carry less weight than technical violations due to the potential impact to the public? Is it a disservice to the profession and the public not to take action? These are questions to think about when investigating ethical violations.

Tonander is a member of the New Mexico board and a member of the 2022–23 NCEES Committee on Uniform Procedures and Legislative Guidelines.

NCEES preparing to select winners for 2023 Engineering and Surveying Education awards

ENTER THE COMPETITION AND COMPETE FOR A prize. NCEES is preparing to choose winners for the 2023 Engineering Education and Surveying Education awards.

Engineering award

Entries for the NCEES Engineering Education Award are due by May 1. EAC/ABET-accredited programs from all engineering disciplines are invited to compete for

■ Grand prize: \$25,000

■ Up to seven prizes: \$10,000 each

Each program entering the competition will select which of the following categories best fits the intent and spirit of its project:

- Community enhancement projects
- Device/design/prototype projects
- Energy and sustainability projects
- Freshman/sophomore design projects
- Innovation projects
- International projects
- Public welfare and health services/care projects

For more information on competing for this award, visit ncees.org/award.



New Mexico State University Geomatics/Surveying Engineering students promote their program at a New Mexico Professional Surveyors event. The program was the \$25,000 grand prize winner of the 2022 NCEES Surveying Education Award.

Surveying award

Entries for the NCEES Surveying Education Award are due by May 1. NCEES invites all surveying/geomatics programs to compete for

Grand prize: \$25,000

■ Three awards: \$15,000 each

■ Three awards: \$10,000 each

For more information on competing for this award, visit neces.org/surveyingaward.

MEMBER BOARD BRIEF



LARRY KARNS KANSAS STATE BOARD OF TECHNICAL PROFESSIONS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NCEES provides tools to educate the public and policymakers

THERE IS A TREND IN SOME STATES TO LOWER THE standards for licensing engineers and others in highly technical professions. Decades ago, legislatures enacted laws requiring minimum standards for licensure to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Recently, those standards have been challenged.

A few states have adopted laws that treat professions requiring advanced degrees and technical training the same as occupations without these requirements. Treating the licensing requirements for highly educated and experienced engineers like the licensing requirements for individuals practicing non-technical professions fails to take into account the basic differences between these professions and general occupations. Applying licensing standards globally does not recognize the higher risks and liability that come with work in more complex and technical areas.

Proposing legislation

Legislation has been proposed in many states that would put in place the least restrictive requirements for licensure. Jurisdictions would be required to recognize licenses for reciprocity from states with lesser licensing requirements. These licensing requirements may be lower than the ones required for original applications for licensure from in-state residents.

As such legislation is being considered, it is paramount that a balance be maintained that adheres to the need to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public and reasonable mobility of licenses. Legislators need to keep in mind that the protection of the public is not just a mantra. It is the underlying reason for licensing technical professions.

One solution is to educate the public and the policymakers about the benefits and value of licensure for the citizens of your state.

Facing the challenges

When faced with these challenges, what action can be taken to address legislation that devalues the standards for licensure? One solution is to educate the public and the policymakers about the benefits and value of licensure for the citizens of your state. Boards, however, may lack the resources needed to effectively undertake the education process. Fortunately, NCEES and other national councils have developed value-of-licensing campaigns with useful materials that differentiate and support professional licensing.

At the 2022 NCEES annual meeting in Carlsbad, California, NCEES staff discussed the tools available through the organization. These tools include geofencing social media campaigns on engineering and the value of licensure and professionally produced videos promoting engineering and the value of licensure.

Following the meeting, I reached out to NCEES. Staff quickly responded and agreed to include our state in an NCEES social media campaign to support the value of licensure. The campaign was directed to specific geographical locations in Kansas. The targeted areas include heavily populated cities and counties. The goal was to reach

the public and the policymakers with positive messages about licensing.

The NCEES Public Affairs Department also provided links to videos it has produced to promote the value of engineering licensure. These links were added to our website and posted in our newsletter. The NCEES videos were also sent to the professional societies in our state for their use.

NCEES provided us with the tools and expertise and the educational campaign needed to effectively promote and educate policymakers and the public regarding both the engineering profession and the value of professional licensing. The tools can be tailored to your state and implemented when needed.

For more information on tools or educational campaigns, email outreach@ncees.org. For videos on the value of licensure, visit the NCEES YouTube channel at youtube.com/nceesmedia.

Karns is the executive director of the Kansas board and a member of the 2022–23 NCEES Committee on Member Board Administrators.

FUTURE CITY

continued from cover

NCEES has sponsored this award at the national level since 2004 and at the regional level since 2013.

"The Future City experience was fantastic. Teams seemed to be overwhelmed with the opportunity they now had to be able to take part in planning for a future society where they could find solutions to some of our current struggles and problems," said NCEES volunteer and national award judge Kevin Bishop, P.S.

"As a first-time judge of the competition, I found the students' passion for their projects to be contagious. It was enjoyable to be around young students with this much excitement, energy, and commitment centered around helping to develop a society that offered a better and more enjoyable experience for all who would visit there."

National winners were announced at the conclusion of the national competition. Warwick Middle School in Pennsylvania won the NCEES special award for Best



Judge and NCEES Immediate Past President Brian Robertson, P.E., listens as a Future City team describes its project.

Practices in Land Surveying and the overall grand prize this year.

The team's Future City Odesa was praised by the judges for demonstrating a strong understanding of the role land surveyors play in resolving boundary disputes, riparian rights, and topographic planning in the layout of a city.

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE



DAVID COXNCEES CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

State of the Council series continues to keep member boards informed

WE BEGAN THE STATE OF THE COUNCIL VIRTUAL meetings in March 2021 to engage with our member boards and keep them up-to-date on Council activities while we were unable to meet in person. NCEES State of the Council meetings are continuing with five installments currently scheduled for 2023.

Upcoming State of the Council meetings



May 10 | 2:00-3:30 p.m. (EDT) June 7 | 2:00-3:30 p.m. July 12 | 2:00-3:30 p.m.

October 18 | 2:00-3:30 p.m.

March and May updates

The first State of the Council meeting was held on March 8. Chief Operating Officer (COO) Davy McDowell, P.E., provided a general update from headquarters, and Chief Communications Officer Nina Norris previewed what to expect at the upcoming 2023 combined zone interim meeting set for April 27–29 in Houston, Texas.

There was also an update from COO McDowell and NCEES Committee on Uniform Procedures and Legislative Guidelines (UPLG) Chair Iarelis Hall, P.S.M., on the work performed this year by UPLG as it completed a five-year review of the *Model Law* and *Model Rules*.

The next State of the Council meeting is scheduled for May 10 from 2:00–3:30 p.m. EDT. Topics covered will

Highlights—definitions in *Model Law*

- Why define both engineers and professional engineers? Remove "engineer" definition.
- Revise definition of engineering to include commissioning of engineered systems and revise what is meant by "surveying incidental to the practice of engineering"





The NCEES Committee on Uniform Procedures and Legislative Guidelines Chair Iarelis Hall, P.S.M., and NCEES COO Davy McDowell, P.E., discuss the five-year review of the Model Law and Model Rules.

include a recap of the combined zone interim meeting and an update on exams and exam development activities.

Future updates

The meetings in June and July will focus on important and timely topics as the Council prepares for the annual meeting. The October meeting will serve as a kickoff for the new fiscal year and include an update on NCEES mission initiatives.

Recordings and registration

You can find recordings of past State of the Council meetings posted in the Board Resources section of MyNCEES (ncees.org/resources). Future recordings will be posted here as well.

Registration for upcoming sessions is required and is by invitation. If you do not receive an invitation and would like to register for the next event, send a request to meetings@ncees. org. Please include your name and board affiliation.

I hope that the Council will continue to find this series useful for keeping informed about NCEES activities.

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Volunteer opportunities provide valuable experience

BRADLEY ROBERTS, P.L.S. | NCEES OUTREACH VOLUNTEER

AS A YOUNG ADULT, I WAS LOOKING for a career that would enrich not only my life but the lives of those around me. I thought that was anything but surveying. As a young man, I spent my summers working on a field crew in south Louisiana. As I matured, I felt the tug of familiarity. Surveying was familiar, and I excelled at it. It was my future.

Louisiana requires a four-year degree plus four years of progressive experience under a licensed surveyor to qualify for licensure. The Fundamentals of Surveying (FS) and the Principles and Practice of Surveying (PS) exams were my Everest.

I was licensed to practice surveying in the state of Louisiana in 2013 at the age of 26. Licensure is important. It is the gold standard for the occupation, but I wanted to keep going.

Giving back through service

My next steps were in the form of service to others. The calling to give back to a profession that had given me purpose was strong. NCEES answered the call.

In 2015, I joined 12 other young adults as a member of the NCEES Emerging Engineers and Surveyors Group. The group was tasked with reviewing the licensure process and offering opinions about it. Serving on the Emerging Engineers and Surveyors Group opened doors to me on national and local levels. The work shaped the future of surveying and continues to do so.



NCEES outreach volunteer Bradley Roberts, P.L.S., shares the Augmented Reality
Sandbox (AR Sandbox) with participants at the DiscoverE Family Day.

I currently serve as an NCEES volunteer on the PS exam development committee. For many years, I've served as a judge for the Future City Competition at the national level. Service is a way to give back and shape the future of our professions. Our actions decide what that future will be.

Later this year, NCEES will launch an online resource hub that will provide materials, activity ideas, lesson plans, exhibit materials, videos, tutorials, giveaway items, and more to volunteers looking to inspire the next generation of surveyors.

Measuring success in service is all but impossible, but then again measuring success is not the goal. The goal is to strengthen our professions and share our valuable experiences with the next generation of engineers and surveyors.

Roberts is an NCEES outreach volunteer and PS exam development committee volunteer.

FROM THE **PRESIDENT**



CHRISTOPHER DUHAMEL, P.E., P.L.S. NCEES PRESIDENT

NCEES leadership focuses on work to support the vision and mission

NCEES LEADERSHIP IS WORKING ON PARTNERSHIPS that support the organization's vision and mission. Our work has been diligent in strengthening those partnerships and continuing to keep safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of the public at the forefront of all decisions we make. I am excited to share some highlights with you.

Board of directors updates

The 2022-23 board of directors held its third meeting in Tucson, Arizona, February 17-18. We discussed interim committee report progress and how to advance the draft reports to the full Council. The board wanted to provide sufficient time for member boards to review the charges and to enable a meaningful discussion.

The Committee on Uniform Procedures and Legislative Guidelines is on track to complete the five-year review of the Model Law and Model Rules. The Engineering Licensure Model Task Force will present a draft rubric and a proposal on the creation of a standing committee on licensure for Council approval.

Final approval of any motion will require a Council vote at the annual meeting this year in Boston, Massachusetts, August 15-18.

This year's budget includes funding to protect public health, safety, and welfare by the advancement of licensure through funding for the Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing (ARPL), licensing support for military personnel and their families, and introduction of the FE Ambassador program.

Funding for ARPL will include research to quantify the economic impact of licensure and its benefits. An additional program supported by the board was finalized in a onetime partnership with the National Society of Professional Engineers Education Foundation to fund \$39,000 in scholarships awarded during this academic year.

The 2023-24 budget draft will consider expansion of the FE Ambassador program beyond the initial pilot program of five schools.

The board of directors has budgeted time and funding to allow for visits and presentations to member boards. My engineering board in Rhode Island requested that CEO Cox present the advantages and disadvantages of decoupling the PE exam from the required years of experience. CEO Cox attended our meeting virtually, along with West Virginia State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers Executive Director Lesley Rosier-Tabor, P.E.

The meeting generated discussion that identified the support NCEES would provide, which resulted in a high level of comfort to initiate the decoupled application process. I encourage all member boards to reach out to your zone vice presidents to schedule a tailored presentation on how NCEES staff can support your board.

ICOR leadership updates

I attended the Interorganizational Council on Regulation (ICOR) leadership meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, along with NCEES President-Elect Laura Sievers, P.E., NCEES CEO Cox, and NCEES Chief Operating Officer Davy McDowell, P.E.

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NEWS

NCEES seeks metallurgical and materials engineers' professional expertise and advice

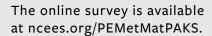
NCEES IS CURRENTLY SEEKING LICENSED

metallurgical and materials engineers to participate in a professional activities and knowledge study, or PAKS, for the PE Metallurgical and Materials exam. The results of this online survey will be used to update the content of the PE exam, which is used throughout the United States for licensing purposes.

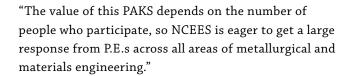
NCEES requires a cross section of licensed professional engineers practicing metallurgical and materials engineering—including those working in industry, consulting, the public sector, and academia—to complete the online survey in order to update exam content and specifications. The survey will help determine the knowledge and skills required of a licensed metallurgical and materials engineer with four to six years of experience to practice in a manner that safeguards the health, safety, and welfare of the public. The survey can be completed in 20–40 minutes.

"These studies help NCEES ensure its licensing exams remain relevant to current professional practice," explained Chief Officer of Examinations Jason J. Gamble, P.E.

PE Metallurgical and Materials PAKS Survey



Open until May 8



The online survey will be available at ncees.org/PEMetMatPAKS until **May 8, 2023.**For more information, contact NCEES Exam Development Engineer John (Andy) Bindewald, P.E., at abindewald@ncees.org.



NCEES DUTREACH

The following are recent and upcoming NCEES outreach activities to promote engineering and surveying licensure. For the latest outreach news, follow NCEES on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. Visit neees.org for links to its social media pages.

Clemson University NSBE Chapter Licensure Presentation | February 22

NCEES Project Manager of Exam Services Lehmon Dekle, P.E., gave a presentation on the benefits and path to licensure at a student chapter meeting of the National Society of Black Engineers in Clemson, South Carolina.

NSBE Annual Convention | March 22-26

NCEES will participate in the 2023 National Society of Black Engineers convention in Kansas City, Missouri. Staff and volunteers will answer questions on the value of licensure and the process of becoming a professional engineer.

iMAGINE Upstate STEAM Festival | April 1

NCEES is a sponsor for the 2023 iMAGINE Upstate STEAM festival in Greenville, South Carolina. Staff will lead hands-on activities to promote engineering and surveying to children and their families.

ABET Symposium | April 20-21

NCEES will participate in the 2023 ABET Symposium in Nashville, Tennessee. Volunteers will give a presentation on using the FE exam as an outcomes assessment tool.

IISE Annual Conference | May 20-23

NCEES will participate in the 2023 Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers (IISE) Annual Conference and Expo in New Orleans, Louisiana. Volunteers will staff the booth and answer questions on the value of licensure and the process of becoming a professional engineer.

FIG Working Week | May 28-June 1

NCEES will participate in the 2023 International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) conference in Orlando, Florida, to promote licensure and answer questions about surveying.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

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In addition to NCEES, ICOR consists of state regulatory boards. Those boards are the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB), the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB), and the Council for Interior Design Qualification (CIDQ).

Representatives from each organization shared updates with a focus on how best to protect public health, safety, and welfare. All councils reported ways to improve on diversity, equity, and inclusion with member boards

and with registrants. Discussion on providing member board training and best practices for member boards was considered important support.

An underlying theme was how to find and eliminate barriers to licensure for qualified registrants. A commitment with ICOR leadership was made to support the newly formed Practice Overlap Task Force, which will be a multiyear effort to advocate for public health, safety, and welfare protection.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming combined zone interim meeting in Houston, Texas.

MEMBER BOARD

NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

ALABAMA

Emeritus member Thomas Talbot passed away on November 1, 2022, at the age of 92. He was a long-serving member and consultant of NCEES' EPP and Exam Audit committees.

CONNECTICUT

Robert Dahn is a new appointee. Raymond Redniss and Curtiss Smith are no longer members.

DELAWARE PS

James Bielicki is a new appointee. Danny Simmons is no longer a member.

IDAHO

Sondra Miller is a new appointee. George Murgel is no longer a member.

KENTUCKY

Kyle Chism and James Knoth are new appointees. Chris Gephart and Ryan Griffith are no longer members.

MARYLAND PE

Justin Williams is no longer a member.

NEW JERSEY

Magdy Hagag, Lisa Peterson, and Tam Sillick are new appointees. Michael Kelly, Richard Smith, and Edward Vernick are no longer members.

PUERTO RICO

Ricardo Garcia-Cana and Wigberto Rivera Nieves are new appointees.

TENNESSEE PE

Jason Carder, James Collins, Ashraf ElSayed, and Jeff Nalley are new appointees. Ben Brychta, Richard Bursi, Stephen King, and Kathryn Ware are no longer members.

UTAH

Arthur LeBaron is a new appointee. Brad Kenison is no longer a member.

VIRGINIA

Frederick Townsend is a new appointee. Christopher Stone is no longer a member.

ASSOCIATE

The NCEES board of directors approved the following associate members at its February 2023 meeting. Connecticut: Cynthia Clavette and Jane Hardy; Illinois PE, PS, and SE: Ronald Almiron; Kentucky: Jake Miller; Louisiana: Cheron Seaman and Janet Lindsey; New Jersey: Keith Miller; South Dakota: Sherrie Dyer, Carrie Kerr, and Kimberly Haibeck; Texas: Edward Brannan; West Virginia PS: Carla Williams

EMERITUS

The NCEES board of directors approved the following emeritus members at its February 2023 meeting. **California:** Mohammad Qureshi; **Kentucky:** Ryan Griffith; **New Hampshire:** Masoud (Alex) Azodi-Kazeroony; **New Jersey:** Michael Kelly, Richard Smith, and Edward Vernick; **New Mexico:** Ronald Bohannan and Walter Gerstle; **Ohio:** Bert Dawson

April 13-15

PE Structural Exam Meeting Greenville, South Carolina

April 21-22

PE Civil Exam Meeting Greenville, South Carolina

PE Electrical and Computer: Power Exam Meeting Virtual

April 27-29

Combined Zone Interim Meeting Houston, Texas

April 29-May 1

Board of Directors Meeting Houston, Texas

May 5-6

PE Architectural Exam Meeting Virtual

PE Chemical Exam Meeting Greenville, South Carolina

May 15-17

ICOR Task Force Subcommittee Meeting Greenville, South Carolina

May 16-17

PE Petroleum Exam Cut Score Meeting Greenville, South Carolina

May 31-June 2

PE Structural Exam Scoring Virtual

2022–23 NCEES BOARD OF DIRECTORS/OFFICERS

Christopher Duhamel, P.E., P.L.S. *President* Rhode Island

Laura Sievers, P.E. President-Elect Iowa

Brian Robertson, P.E. Immediate Past President Colorado

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Mohammad Qureshi, Ph.D., P.E. Western Zone Vice President California

David Cox Chief Executive Officer South Carolina

Licensure **EXCHANGE**

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Comments or questions can be directed to editor@ncees.org.

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NCEES annual report and Squared now available





The 2022 NCEES annual report explores the organization's accomplishments and growth over the last fiscal year. The annual report and Squared are posted at nees.org/annualreport.

NCEES released two publications in March to tell the story of 2021–22.

The 2022 annual report provides an overview of the organization's accomplishments and growth over the past fiscal year.

The annual report theme is "Evolve," and it focuses on the organization's ability to adapt and continue to provide innovative solutions to meet its mission. The report details efforts to progress and improve in three broad areas: ensuring licensure's public protections, supporting the professions of engineering and surveying, and inspiring future generations of professional engineers and surveyors.

NCEES has also released a new edition of *Squared*. This publication tells the story of 2021–22 through numbers: How many people took the PE exam? What is the average age of examinees by exam type? With statistics related to NCEES exams, services such as the Records program, and engineering and surveying licensure, *Squared* focuses on answering these questions and more.

NCEES Chief Executive Officer David Cox said, "We want *Squared* to be a resource that helps you better understand licensure and its importance. It serves as an account of our year through numbers."

Explore the annual report and Squared online at ncees.org/annualreport.