

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



From the President

Exploring the past and future of engineering licensure: What is competency and how is it measured?

ANDREW ZOUTEWELLE, P.L.S. | NCEES PRESIDENT

NCEES WAS FOUNDED 104 YEARS AGO TO address the increasing needs of state engineering boards in protecting the public. These early state boards quickly recognized the inconsistent evaluation of engineers' competency by different boards.

Some industrialized states required a higher bar than other less-industrialized states. In the post-World War II period, standards for evaluating engineering applicants became more consistent among member boards. More engineers practiced across state lines, as a result of the expansion of America's railroads, highways, and airports. The Council wrestled with how to measure competency in that growing world. Three ways of measuring competency arose.

Education

In 1926, Council President P.H. Daggett reviewed the school catalogs of a number of engineering colleges and compiled a tentative list of acceptable schools. The standard for this list was simple: the engineering school must require that its students possess "the equivalent of a high school or preparatory school diploma" and then must provide and require "the equivalent of a four year's course in engineering for graduation."

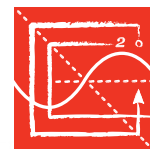
In 1933, the Council, in conjunction with the major engineering societies, formed the Engineers' Council for Professional Development. One might recognize its current name—ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology). ABET fulfills the Council's need to ensure the quality of higher education programs. Furthermore, since 2006 NCEES has provided Credentials Evaluations for graduates of non-ABET schools and international university programs.

Examination

After 20 years of considering the examination process, in 1954 our Council's committees recommended that oral examinations by the various state boards be discontinued in favor of a nationalized written examination. Interestingly, one of the leaders of this discussion, Col. William M. Spann, did not believe that written exams could ever be the final and only measure for qualifying an engineer as being competent. Nonetheless, the first uniform Fundamentals of Engineering exam was administered in the Northeast Zone in 1955.

Ten years later, the Council administered the first national FE exam, which

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ENFORCEMENT BEAT

Member boards share how they address enforcement challenges

The NCEES Committee on Law Enforcement asked member board members, associate members, and investigators a series of questions related to enforcement challenges. This is the first part of a two-part series.

This installment includes answers from Bob Herbert, chief special investigator for the Alabama State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors, and Roy Cepero, senior design investigator for the Illinois engineering, surveying, and structural engineering boards. The responses have been lightly edited for clarity.

What are your board's biggest enforcement challenges, and how are you addressing them?

Herbert: In Alabama, we have several, but here are a few:
1.) Unlicensed practice—we investigate and go after them with civil action. We have in the past also filed criminal felony charges against those individuals due to additional evidence that they are also committing forgery/fraud.
2.) Multidisciplinary sealing and signing of design plans—we investigate and go after them with civil action. The fines are typically on the heavy side, as we don't want this to continue.
3.) Unlicensed firms not getting a Certificate of Authorization (CA) to offer engineering or land surveying services in the state—we investigate, and the firms are then fined, and the majority come into compliance and get a CA.

Cepero: We have more consistent enforcement disciplines against licensees and firms in reference to unlicensed practice and theft of seal discoveries on technical submissions in the local permit jurisdictions. We are doing this by addressing these major reoccurring problems with more effective communication between appropriate civil and

criminal agencies (i.e., A/G's Consumer Advocacy Units, Asst. State's Attorney, and City/County/Village Code Enforcement Officials).

Would your board consider taking disciplinary action based on another board's consent order/settlement agreement for an individual/firm licensed in your state? When is it appropriate to take that disciplinary action?

Herbert: We do take action against individuals who have had disciplinary action, to include suspension/revocation/or turning in one's license in lieu of disciplinary action. We may take similar action that the prior jurisdiction has decided on. We do not fine for this violation.

Cepero: PE, SE, and LS boards always consider taking additional action on Sister State Disciplines received in our complaint investigation and enforcement process based upon the actual violations. Usual criteria that the boards consider for Illinois enforcement action are generally violations like below minimum standards workmanship, multiple violations involving continuing education/PDH credits, and unprofessional conduct.

How does your board handle noncompliance with continuing education? What sanctions are appropriate? Should continuing education violations impact a licensee's Model Law Engineer (MLE) or Model Law Surveyor (MLS) status?

Herbert: We do a pre-audit during the renewal process. If the licensee is short hours or we disallowed hours of continuing education, then the individual will not be allowed to renew until the required 30 PDHs are completed. In the past when

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MEMBER BOARD BRIEF



JOHN GREENHALGE

OHIO STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION
FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND
SURVEYORS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Consistency in evaluating engineering experience

WHEN I TALK TO LEGISLATORS AND OTHER INTERESTED parties about the importance of the engineering and surveying professions and how they affect public health, safety, and welfare, the discussion often turns to licensure requirements, particularly the experience requirement.

I am often asked how we know that engineers and surveyors are competent and qualified to perform such important work. I explain the education requirement and the Fundamentals and Principles and Practice exams, but also our thorough evaluation of qualifying experience. I compare it to how a medical student obtains their qualifying medical experience. The medical student works under the supervision of a doctor, learning their specialty of medicine during an internship. This ensures that the medical student is obtaining the requisite experience to practice and provide competent care to future patients. This is very similar to how professional engineers and surveyors obtain their qualifying experience.

During the license application process, most, if not all, NCEES member boards require two types of information from individuals familiar with the applicant to verify the experience, character, and professionalism of the applicant. There is the personal reference, which typically attests to the applicant's professionalism and character. Then there is the supervisor's certification of the applicant's experience, which attests to the quality of the applicant's experience and verifies that the applicant has completed four or more years of progressive work experience that demonstrates the applicant's ability to be in responsible charge of engineering or surveying work.

There are several ways qualifying experience is evaluated. An applicant's experience is either evaluated by the board that grants their initial license or by NCEES if the applicant has an NCEES Record. Each subsequent state that the applicant applies to should have a record of the applicant's qualifying experience that meets that jurisdiction's requirements. Jurisdictions rely on these initial evaluations of the applicant's experience. Since the experience is so vital to assessing the

applicant's competency, it is important that the initial evaluation of the experience is performed by a professional engineer or professional surveyor who is familiar with the applicant's work and can attest to its quality. A human resources employee or an unlicensed coworker who works in marketing with no engineering background, for example, is not qualified to evaluate the engineering experience for a license application. It is also important that this experience evaluation is applied consistently among NCEES member boards, ideally in accordance with NCEES *Model Law*.

In cases where the applicant has worked in a sector of engineering that is exempt from registration, the person attesting to the applicant's experience should have supervised the applicant and must have the necessary credentials to assess the quality of the applicant's experience. An unlicensed supervisor working in an exempt sector of engineering (such as in the design and fabrication of manufactured products) should have the engineering education and background to indicate that the supervisor's knowledge and experience is substantially equivalent to that of a professional engineer. The unlicensed supervisor should be a graduate engineer, preferably with additional education and many years in the design and supervision of meaningful engineering work.

It is also a good idea to have the applicant provide an explanation of why they believe the experience claimed is exempt from registration and cite the specific code identifying the exemption. An applicant should never be permitted to self-certify their experience or obtain experience credit in violation of the board's practice act.

A uniform and thorough evaluation of engineering and surveying experience during the initial application will make it much easier for the applicant to obtain licenses in other jurisdictions without the need to provide additional information or to contact previous supervisors from years ago.

Greenhalge is executive director for the Ohio board and chair of the 2024–25 Committee on Member Board Administrators.

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE



DAVY MCDOWELL, P.E.

NCEES CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Reviewing 2023–24 and focusing on 2024–25

EACH YEAR AFTER THE ANNUAL MEETING, BUT BEFORE the fiscal year kicks off, senior staff meets to plan the “above-and-beyond” projects for the next year. We take what we learned from the annual meeting, including the charges for the coming year, and then formulate a plan of work. The CEO then maps it to our strategic goals to make sure everything is in alignment.

But before we start planning the year ahead, we always reflect on the successes achieved and the lessons learned from the past fiscal year. Here are just a few highlights from 2023–24:

- Established the NCEES Foundation
- Finalized the United Kingdom mutual recognition agreement
- Developed online interactive practice exams for the FE exams
- Completed the transition of all exams to computer-based testing when the PE Structural exam transitioned in April 2024
- Advanced the FE Ambassador Program and the FE and FS graduation honor cords

While staff worked toward these accomplishments, the day-to-day business of the Council kept on going. NCEES delivered nearly 90,000 exams in 2023–24, transmitted over 50,000 Records, completed 3,500 Credentials Evaluations, and answered 90,000 chats or help tickets. Our Meetings Department organized nearly 90 in-person meetings. Considering we typically meet on weekends (and throwing out the holidays), that is about two meetings per week for NCEES volunteers and staff.

Financially, NCEES finished the year strong. Revenue will exceed budget by nearly 6 percent, with expenses only exceeding budget by 2 percent.

So, what does 2024–25 have in store? We will continue to focus on the core business of NCEES: developing and

administering exams and assisting member boards in the licensing of engineers and surveyors. Here are a few of the above-and-beyond projects slated for this year:

- Support the NCEES Foundation in its first year of operation
- Create an online ethics course for licensees to use for continuing education
- Update and implement the NCEES Document Retention Policy
- Continue the development of the Exam and Licensure Verification System
- Develop a strategy to strengthen relationships with engineering and surveying faculty

The mission of NCEES is to advance licensure for engineers and surveyors in order to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public. This mission is supported through its member boards, board of directors, staff, board administrators, and volunteers by

- Providing outstanding nationally normed examinations for engineers and surveyors
- Providing uniform model laws and model rules for adoption by the member boards
- Promoting professional ethics among all engineers and surveyors
- Coordinating with domestic and international organizations to advance licensure of all engineers and surveyors

You can see the NCEES mission reflected in all our efforts, including our short-term and long-term goals and initiatives. And you can probably tell, I am proud of our staff and how we serve member boards.

So, as we move forward into the 2024–25 fiscal year, please reach out to the NCEES staff if there is anything we can do to assist you and your work toward fulfilling the NCEES mission.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

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covered 10 subjects across the engineering spectrum. In December 1966, the first national uniform PE exam was administered. Today, NCEES offers more than a half dozen fundamentals exams and more than 20 principles and practice exams.

Experience

Regarding experience, there was a time when many boards simply counted the number of years of practice, regardless of the scope of that practice or the level of responsibility. In 1937, the Council began to discuss the evaluation of qualifying engineering experience to include habits and attitudes, methods of thinking, ability to combine theory and practice, and capacity to visualize and to plan and to handle new problems. In the 1950s, the Council redefined qualifying experience more generally, including such concepts as creative engineering work and the exercise of sound judgment. Today, NCEES conducts experience reviews for transmission to member boards. NCEES also maintains the International Registry of Professional Engineers, which includes the additional experiential consideration of responsible charge.

The future of licensure

Today, we continue to work to provide member boards accurate and consistent evaluations of competency, while also actively pursuing new pathways and opportunities for aspiring engineers. As a result of our discussions over the last four years, your Council has formed the new standing Committee on Licensure.

The immediate purpose of this committee will be to consider and make recommendations regarding how to measure competency in our changing and complex world.

Increasingly, our modern practice does not fall into neatly defined areas. Many new entrants to the engineering profession are coming from other countries. New and innovative technologies are used to solve problems.

As a result of our pursuit of new pathways, questions have arisen within our discussions.

- Are alternative educational pathways sufficient to achieve competency?
- Can qualifying experience be demonstrated without the direct oversight of P.E. supervisors and mentors?
- Can a candidate achieve competency through non-traditional experience pathways?

And most recently, in relation to the new mutual recognition agreement with the Engineering Council of the United Kingdom, one might ask, Can competency be demonstrated without a uniform written examination?

It is difficult for me to see an affirmative answer to this question, yet any question deserves our thoughtful consideration.

I anticipate that your boards and your Council will adapt to the changing nature of engineering practice. I believe that your boards and your Council will make accommodations needed to provide for new pathways for licensure. In doing so, however, maintaining the tried-and-true standard of competency is of utmost importance to the health, safety, and welfare of the public. I urge you to think critically and constructively as recommendations come back to the zone meetings from our committees this spring. Together let's embrace the evolving practice of engineering while maintaining our traditional high level of public protection.

COMMITTEE FOCUS

NCEES COMMITTEES AND TASK forces have more than 92 charges to consider in 2024–25. President Andrew Zoutewelle, P.L.S., has assigned the 12 standing committees charges that focus on a range of issues, including education, enforcement, and exams. He has continued a task force studying surveying and mapping sciences licensure. A Special Committee on Bylaws will propose amendments to the document that outlines the organization’s structure.

The following outlines the key issues that committees will address this year. A full list of charges and the membership of each group is available in Board Resources, part of the members-only section of the NCEES website. The committees and task forces will present their preliminary findings at the 2025 zone interim meetings this spring and get feedback from NCEES delegates. They will publish their final reports in the annual meeting *Action Items and Conference Reports*. The Council will vote on any resulting motions at the annual meeting in August 2025.

Advisory Committee on Council Activities

Chair: Christopher Knotts, P.E.
Board of directors liaison: Andrew Zoutewelle, P.L.S.

ACCA makes recommendations on policy issues that are not assigned to

NCEES committees and task forces begin work on 2024–25 agenda

another standing committee or that involve several committees. It also reviews the *Manual of Policy and Position Statements* and recommends revisions.

This year, the committee will review the *Bylaws* to determine how NCEES can promote membership for International Affiliate Organizations, if NCEES should be more proactive in recruiting members for Participating Organizations, and if the process for filling a vacancy in the president-elect position is adequately covered.

It will also review Administrative Policy 8 to determine if the motion approval process needs to be modified and Financial Policy 6 to consider if an automatic adjustment to exam prices using the Consumer Price Index is appropriate.

Committee on Awards

Chair: Marlon Vogt, P.E.
Board of directors liaison: Laura Sievers, P.E.

The Committee on Awards will collect nominations for NCEES service awards to be presented during the 2025 annual meeting and recommend recipients to the board of directors. Nomination materials are available on ncees.org under Board Resources. Nominations are due by January 1, 2025.

Committee on Education

Chair: Bruce Dvorak, Ph.D., P.E.
Board of directors liaison: Samuel Wilson, DBA, 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, and foreign degree or unaccredited program evaluation.

The committee will review the *Continuing Professional Competency Guidelines*, Position Statement 2.8, and *Model Rules 240.30* to find any potential discrepancies in CPC provisions and guidance. It will study how NCEES can strengthen relationships with engineering and surveying faculty as well as the need for an education standard for engineering technology. If a need is determined, the committee will work with NCEES staff to develop a standard for approval by the Council.

Committee on Examination Audit

Chair: Nicole Galavotti, P.E.
Board of directors liaison: Aaron Blaisdell, P.L.S.

The Committee on Examination Audit conducts regular audits of the NCEES exam program. It observes standard-setting studies to update exam specifications. The committee also reviews the findings of previous audits to ensure that items were addressed appropriately.

The committee will audit the most recent administration of the PE Agricultural and Biological Engineering, PE Control Systems, PE Industrial Systems, PE Mining and Mineral Processing, PE Naval Architecture and Marine, PE Nuclear, and PE Petroleum exams. It will observe or receive reports from the standard-setting studies for the following PE exams: Electrical and Computer, Mechanical, Naval Architecture and Marine, and Mining and Mineral Processing. It will also review exam audit findings from the 2023–24 audit cycle to ensure that items were appropriately addressed.

Committee on Examination Policy and Procedures

Chair: George Murgel, Ph.D., P.E.
Board of directors liaison: James Kelly, P.E.

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

The committee will work with the EPE and EPS committees to review exam procedures regarding the multilingual examinee population and consider whether additional accommodations are needed for ESL examinees. It will also review Exam Development Policy 12 to determine if the language regarding EPS and EPE members having exam experience should be contained in *Bylaws* instead of the *Manual of Policy and Position Statements*.

Committee on Examinations for Professional Engineers

Chair: Rosaleen (Rosey) Nogle, P.E.
Board of directors liaison: Elizabeth Beckett Johnston, 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, reviewing exam development committee data to ensure appropriate volunteer diversity, monitoring training of exam development volunteers, and recommending changes to exam policies and procedures as needed.

The committee will work with Pearson VUE to review the professional activities and knowledge study, or PAKS, process and determine if 200 responses to the survey is reasonable for all exams. Additionally, the committee will review the *Exam Development Procedures Manual* to address procedures to longer applicable to computer-based testing (CBT).

Committee on Examinations for Professional Surveyors

Chair: Todde Folkerts, P.E., P.L.S.
Board of directors liaison: James Kelly, 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.

Like the EPE Committee, the EPS Committee will review the PAKS process to determine if 200 responses to the survey is reasonable for all exams, as well as review the *Exam Development Procedures Manual* to address any procedures no longer applicable in CBT. The committee will also discuss why business practice and communication topics are included on the PS exam and whether the FS and PS exams will be impacted by the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) currently in effect moving to the new reference frame of 2022.

Committee on Finances

Chair: Andrew Ritter
Board of directors liaison: Karl Tonander, P.E.

The Committee on Finances studies the financial needs of NCEES and recommends sources of income and ways and means of securing adequate funds for the Council's operation. The committee will review the results of the 2023–24 audit and the organization's current financial condition and will work with NCEES leadership to recommend the operating and capital budgets for 2025–26. It will also recommend an NCEES Foundation operating budget for 2025–26. The NCEES board of directors will approve the budget before presenting it to the Council for final approval at the annual meeting.

The committee will evaluate the financial adequacy of the current CBT exam pricing models, review ancillary fee rates, and monitor revenue and cost trends, including exam volumes and recovery rates.

Committee on Law Enforcement

Chair: Bob Herbert
Board of directors liaison: Samuel Wilson, DBA, P.E.

The Committee on Law Enforcement promotes greater uniformity and cooperation between member boards in the enforcement of licensure laws. The committee maintains the *Investigation and Enforcement Guidelines* and *Investigative Training Manual*, best practice manuals for enforcement activities and training. It also conducts a law enforcement program at the

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COMMITTEE FOCUS

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NCEES annual meeting and submits articles for inclusion in *Licensure Exchange*.

This year, the committee will assist the MBA Committee with a review of NCEES policies and models surrounding building information modeling, or BIM, and electronic seals security.

The committee will also address several charges relating to member boards and disciplinary actions. It will develop guidelines for member boards to use to consistently apply disciplinary actions as well as to handle self-reporting disciplinary actions when individuals apply for or renew their licensure. And it will review and evaluate both reciprocal disciplinary actions and continuing education audits/violations.

Committee on Licensure

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

Board of directors liaison: Andrew Zoutewelle, P.L.S.

The Licensure Committee is a new standing committee this year. It provides an ongoing holistic review of the engineering and surveying licensure systems and responds to licensure issues and concerns as they arise by developing and recommending licensure processes and amendments to position statements, the *Model Law*, and the *Model Rules* as necessary.

This year, the committee will continue to develop a rubric to identify and

A full list of charges and the membership of each group is available in Board Resources, part of the members-only section of the NCEES website.

track key skills and competencies from graduation to first license. The committee will also discuss a model for licensing emerging technologies and consider alternatives to the current licensure model of education, exams, and experience.

It will review the *Model Law* and *Model Rules* to determine the need to define acceptable experience when applicants gain qualifying experience in the workplace where P.E. supervisors are not available, and it will consider whether to allow for licensed mentors to serve as oversight to job experience for applicants who do not report to licensed engineers.

Committee on Member Board

Administrators

Chair: John Greenhalge

Board of directors liaison: Elizabeth Beckett Johnston, P.E.

The MBA Committee coordinates MBA meetings, including those at the NCEES annual meeting and zone interim meetings. The committee facilitates cooperation between MBAs and assists with any member board efforts to address licensure processes and practices. It also mentors new MBAs and submits articles for inclusion in *Licensure Exchange*.

The committee will review the topic of digital signatures and electronic

submittals and what can be done to help prevent fraud. As part of this charge, the committee will review NCEES policies, the *Model Rules*, and the NCEES Building Information Modeling Guidelines to see if security of electronic seals is adequately covered.

The committee will study ways to standardize continuing professional competency for engineers and surveyors across jurisdictions and ways that licensees in multiple jurisdictions can meet CPC requirements without having to meet individual jurisdiction requirements. The committee will also study how member boards address minor violations of their registration act.

Committee on Uniform Procedures and Legislative Guidelines

Chair: James Purcell, P.E.

Board of directors liaison: Jason Suelter, P.E., S.E.

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

The committee will review revisions to the *Model Law* and *Model Rules* that were approved by the Council at the

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2024 annual meeting. It will also review *Model Law* and *Model Rules* to determine any inconsistencies with the upcoming PLSS exam.

Additional charges include reviewing *Model Rules* 240.20 E, which addresses responsible charge of a licensee, and *Model Rules* 240.30 G.2 to determine if exemptions for military personnel should also apply to family members.

Special Committee on Bylaws

Chair: David Jackson

Board of directors liaison: Karl Tonander, P.E.

President Zoutewelle has convened the Special Committee on Bylaws to

amend the *Bylaws* to incorporate several changes to NCEES governance that the Council approved at the 2024 annual meeting. This includes various ACCA motions to clarify, define, and remove terms and phrases in the *Bylaws*.

Additionally, the special committee will review policies and procedures to determine whether any override the authority of the Council or the board of directors and whether changes are needed to the *Bylaws* regarding the administration of Council votes that are found to conflict with South Carolina law, NCEES bylaws and policy, or Council votes.

Surveying and Mapping Sciences Licensure Task Force

Chair: Gary Thompson, P.L.S.

Board of directors liaison: Laura Sievers, P.E.

President Zoutewelle has reconvened the Surveying and Mapping Sciences Licensure Task Force. This year, the committee will continue 2023–24 task force research and determine if a non-boundary PS exam could be offered as a stand-alone exam and provide a pathway to licensure for non-boundary P.S. licensure jurisdictions. The task force will also consider whether changes to the *Model Law* would be needed to accommodate this exam.

ENFORCEMENT BEAT
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we did a post-audit, if an individual did not complete the continuing education, then it would be made into an investigation on the grounds of unethical conduct. Should continuing education violations impact a licensee’s MLE or MLS status? Yes, as it is an ethical issue.

Cepero: As far as noncompliance with continuing education hours, the board will request the Illinois licensee provide copies of continuing education documents relating to the previous license application cycle. Again, if the infraction is egregious, we will refer for commensurate license sanction(s).

How does your board handle licensees/registrants who ignore a board’s correspondence?

Herbert: Our law requires them to cooperate. If they choose not to, then the investigation will be completed to see if it has merits for charges and an additional charge of unethical conduct will be applied due to the licensee’s lack of cooperation in corresponding to the board/investigation.

Cepero: With enforcement, I will send out a “non-actionable letter” (not legal) to require a licensee to answer the charge. If there is no answer, they are referred for sanction(s).

Does your board have guidelines that are used to consistently apply disciplinary actions? How does your board ensure consistency when imposing penalties?

Herbert: No. The board ensures consistency by the use of historical information concerning similar cases and how those cases were dealt with.

Cepero: Our board guidelines are derived from the Illinois PE, SE, LS Practice Acts and Administrative Rules governing the Acts. Penalties are adjudicated per individual complaint and also within the statute directives.

Herbert is chair and Cepero is a member of the 2024–25 Committee on Law Enforcement.

NCEES installs new position focused on international engagement

IN 2024, NCEES NAMED MARIE NEBESKY, former NCEES manager of Credentials Evaluations and Records, as the new international engagement strategist. This role was created to support the organization's growing focus on international efforts to advance licensure for engineers and surveyors.

The international engagement strategist is responsible for maintaining NCEES' international relationships with the International Engineering Alliance (IEA); supporting the recent U.K. mutual recognition agreement (MRA) as well as other agreements, accords, and registries; working with Pearson VUE to expand computer-based testing (CBT) to new countries; establishing a program for relationships with foreign licensure authorities; serving as a liaison to ABET; and attending international meetings as the NCEES staff representative.

Nebesky holds a bachelor's and master's degree in education. She taught mathematics at the secondary level for five years before moving to a transfer credit evaluator role in Admissions at Clemson University and, later, beginning her career at NCEES in 2010 as a credentials evaluator. She lives in Clemson, South Carolina, with her husband and two daughters.

To give further insight into this new position, *Licensure Exchange* sat down with Nebesky to discuss her role.

What are your main focus areas for the coming year?

My top priority is the successful implementation of the U.K. MRA. NCEES underwent a periodic review as part of maintaining our authorized membership status with the IEA. Recommendations were made, so I will be developing a plan and begin actions to address them. Another focus is to draft updated international exam site agreements with language and policy revisions per the current CBT exam format, i.e., removing any pencil-and-paper verbiage and other outdated practices.



NCEES International Engagement Strategist Marie Nebesky addresses member board representatives at the ceremonial signing for the mutual recognition agreement between NCEES and the Engineering Council UK. The event was held as part of the NCEES annual meeting in August 2024.

How has your experience at NCEES prepared you for this role?

My time first as a credentials evaluator and then as Credentials Evaluations manager built a foundational knowledge of international education systems and inspired an appreciation for multiculturalism through interaction with a significantly diverse population. My role as Records Program manager further educated me in our U.S. licensing model, the unique processes of the member licensing boards, NCEES *Model Law*, *Model Rules*, and other applicable publications. I specifically gained a firsthand understanding of the NCEES International Registry for Professional Engineers (IRPE). Knowing and applying the criteria for U.S. P.E.s to gain acceptance to the International Registry, carrying out IRPE Records transmission to member IEA nations, and understanding how those countries utilize the IRPE Records to register U.S. P.E.s have given me a head start in my new role.

What is one major challenge facing the international licensure community right now? How might NCEES help tackle that challenge?

Establishing recognition and acceptance among the International Professional Engineers Agreement (IPEA)

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NCEES recognizes distinguished service

AT THE 2024 ANNUAL MEETING, NCEES HONORED nine individuals for their dedicated service to the organization and the engineering and surveying professions. The following are the 2024 NCEES service award winners are:

Distinguished Service Award

- **Pastor Farinas, P.E.**, member of the Maryland State Board for Professional Engineers
- **Chun Lau, P.E., S.E.**, emeritus member of the Washington State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors

Distinguished Examination Service Award

- **Denise Chastain-Knight, P.E.**, of Martinez, Georgia
- **Raymond Jacquot, Ph.D., P.E.**, of Laramie, Wyoming
- **Wendell (Chris) King, Ph.D., P.E.**, of Franklin, Tennessee
- **Jon Rueck, P.E.**, of Rio Rancho, New Mexico
- **Cameron Wright, Ph.D., P.E.**, of Laramie, Wyoming

President's Award

- **NCEES Chief Executive Officer David Cox** (now retired) of Greenville, South Carolina
- **NCEES Past President Patty Mamola, P.E.**, of Reno, Nevada

Read more about the 2024 service award winners at ncees.org/service-award.

Nominations open for 2025 service awards

The NCEES Committee on Awards is now accepting nominations for the following: the Distinguished Examination Service Award, the Distinguished Service Award, the Distinguished Service Award with Special Commendation, the Meritorious Service Award, and the Meritorious Service Award with Special Commendation.

The Meritorious Service Award with Special Commendation is a new addition, approved by the Council at the 2024 annual meeting.

The deadline for nominations is January 31, 2025.

2025 service awards
nomination deadline
January 31, 2025



Visit the Board Resources section of MyNCEES for nomination materials (see “Awards”).



2023–24 NCEES President Laura Sievers, P.E., presents the President's Award to Past President Patty Mamola, P.E., at the 2024 NCEES annual meeting.

Nomination materials have been sent to member board administrators. They are also available in the Board Resources section of MyNCEES.

Nominations for the Distinguished Examination Service Award may be made a member board, an exam committee, or the NCEES board of directors. Nominations for the Distinguished Service Award, the Distinguished Service Award with Special Commendation, the Meritorious Service Award, and the Meritorious Service Award with Special Commendation must be made by a member board.

The criteria for these awards are specified in Administrative Policy 12, which can be found in the *Manual of Policy and Position Statements* available at ncees.org (see “Publications” under the “About” tab).

NCEES

OUTREACH

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

ACTE Conference

NCEES will participate in the Association for Career and Technical Education conference in San Antonio, Texas, on December 4–7 to promote surveying educator resources.

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

continued from page 10

and the Asia-Pacific Economic Agreement (APEC) members so that professionals on respective international registers can experience seamless and streamlined mobility from their home country to other authorized member countries. Some countries readily accept IRPE Records from the United States, while others require redundant jurisdictional assessments. Likewise, currently only a few NCEES member boards allow comity application for IntPE candidates.

The collaboration with member boards to implement the U.K. MRA is one way that NCEES is tackling this challenge. NCEES staff is ready and willing to support and guide MRA-interested states by sharing information and statutory and regulatory language suggestions. We are happy to answer any questions, including those concerning MRA applicants' education, experience, and other professional competencies as substantially equivalent to U.S. licensing practices. As members of the IPEA and APEC agreements, licensing bodies can trust that the international registrants per country, though assessed

in varying ways, have all met standardized IEA graduate attributes and professional competencies.

What are you most excited about for this role and how it will contribute to the NCEES mission?

This role is focused on promoting international mobility for engineering professionals. This means informing and supporting our member boards in joining MRAs and building relationships with IEA nations who receive IRPE Records to enhance U.S. P.E.s' smooth, efficient international registration pursuits. Creating opportunities and removing barriers for highly qualified professionals on both sides of the agreements will address labor, skill, and expertise shortages. NCEES' continued engagement with the IEA, the commitment to build partnerships through MRAs, and expand NCEES exams internationally all support the NCEES mission of "coordinating with domestic and international organizations to advance licensure of all engineers and surveyors." I am very excited and honored to be a part of it.

$$Q_c \rho v_c = \rho \frac{\pi D_B^2}{4} V_B^2 - \rho \frac{\pi D_c^2}{4} V_c^2$$

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 2-3

EPP Committee Meeting
Virtual

DECEMBER 5-7

PE Structural Exam Meeting
Greenville, South Carolina

DECEMBER 6-7

PLSS Exam Meeting
Greenville, South Carolina

JANUARY 9-10

PE Structural Exam Meeting
Virtual

JANUARY 10-11

PE Civil Exam Meeting
Greenville, South Carolina

Surveying and Mapping Sciences
Licensure Task Force Meeting
Greenville, South Carolina

UPLG Committee Meeting
Savannah, Georgia

JANUARY 13

MBA Committee Meeting
Greenville, South Carolina

Special Committee on Bylaws Meeting
Greenville, South Carolina

JANUARY 14

MBA Meeting
Greenville, South Carolina

JANUARY 17

ACCA Meeting
Pensacola, Florida

NCEES Foundation Board of
Directors Meeting
Virtual

JANUARY 17-18

EPP Committee Meeting
Dallas, Texas

JANUARY 23

EPS Committee Meeting
Greenville, South Carolina

JANUARY 24-25

FS/PS Exam Meeting
Greenville, South Carolina

PE Electrical and Computer
Exam Meeting
Greenville, South Carolina

JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 1

FE Exam Meeting
Greenville, South Carolina

MEMBER BOARD NEWS

Delaware PE

Diane Calloway is a new appointee.
Jason Hastings is no longer a member.

Louisiana

Byron Trust and Robert Wolfe are new
appointees. Wilfred Fontenot is no
longer a member.

Maryland PS

Erick Quintanilla is a new appointee.

Emeritus

The NCEES board of directors approved
the following emeritus member at its
October 2024 meeting.

Louisiana: Edgar Benoit

Andrew Zoutewelle, P.L.S.
President
North Carolina

Elizabeth Beckett Johnston, P.E.
President-Elect
Alaska

Laura Sievers, P.E.
Immediate Past President
Iowa

Karl Tonander, P.E.
Treasurer
New Mexico

Jason Suelter, P.E., S.E.
Central Zone Vice President
Nebraska

Samuel Wilson, DBA, P.E.
Northeast Zone Vice President
District of Columbia

James Kelly, P.E.
Southern Zone Vice President
Virginia

Aaron Blaisdell, P.L.S.
Western Zone Vice President
Washington

Davy McDowell, P.E.
Chief Executive Officer
South Carolina

Licensure EXCHANGE

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Square are you?



Dale Jans, P.E., displays his Square at Harley-Davidson dealerships in (l-r) Manchester, New Hampshire; Wichita, Kansas; and Lexington, Kentucky.

NCEES has launched an initiative featuring the all-new Square bandana. NCEES members and staff are encouraged to take pictures with their Square on personal or business trips to help spread licensure awareness around the world.

Submit your Square photos—including your name(s), member board, and location details—to outreach@ncees.org for a chance to be featured in *Licensure Exchange*.

Following the 2024 NCEES annual meeting in Chicago, Illinois, Dale Jans, P.E., chair of the NCEES Foundation board of directors and an emeritus member of the South Dakota board, rode his 2019 Harley-Davidson Street Glide CVO motorcycle from North Hampton, New Hampshire, to San Diego, California, on a 16-day, coast-to-coast ride with fellow Harley riders. He packed his Square for photo ops along the way.

Square photo submission tips



- Make sure your photo is high-resolution
- Include your name(s), member board, and location details
- Send your submission to outreach@ncees.org