

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

## Headquarters Update

# Engineering and Surveying Education awards keep the importance of licensure at the forefront

THE NCEES EDUCATION AWARDS RECOGNIZE engineering and surveying programs that promote our mission to advance licensure for engineers and surveyors in order to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Both awards recognize programs that encourage collaboration between students and professional engineers and professional surveyors.

While each of the education award programs is unique, both keep the importance of licensure at the forefront. With the Engineering Education Award launching in 2009 and the Surveying Education Award launching in 2016, many students and programs have benefited from the award money and the experience.

### Engineering Education Award

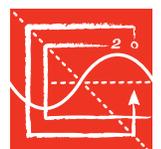
The NCEES Engineering Education Award recognizes engineering programs that encourage collaboration between students and professional engineers. Advancing licensure for engineers is a top priority for NCEES, and the award program supports this by promoting understanding of the



*Top: The University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering accepted its sixth NCEES Engineering Education Award on November 10 at an on-campus presentation.*

*Above: The Seattle University Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering accepted two NCEES Engineering Education Awards at an on-campus presentation.*

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## HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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value of licensure and encouraging partnerships between the engineering profession and education.

EAC/ABET-accredited programs from all engineering disciplines are invited to submit projects that integrate professional practice and education. The projects are evaluated on criteria such as successful collaboration of faculty, students, and licensed professionals, and knowledge or skills gained.

The students submit projects to be considered for one of the eight prizes. The projects are a conduit for students to see firsthand how professional engineers safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Through these projects, lessons from the classroom can be applied to real-world issues, both domestic and international. This allows students to expand their knowledge of engineering principles and to work on skills like communication, teamwork, professional ethics, and social responsibility.

### Surveying Education Award

The NCEES Surveying Education Award recognizes surveying/geomatics programs that have a broad and robust curriculum and best reflect NCEES' mission to advance licensure for surveyors in order to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public. The award is intended to encourage programs to engage their students with other professionals, introduce students to new technology, and promote licensure.

All surveying/geomatics programs are encouraged to enter the award competition. Programs submit applications that are evaluated on overall program aspects, student outcomes, student involvement, outreach and recruitment, and promotion of surveying licensure.

### Benefiting winning programs

The Engineering Education Award has one grand prize worth \$25,000 and seven additional prizes of \$10,000 each. Use of the funds awarded is at the discretion of each winning engineering department or college. We do encourage that the funds are used for the advancement of projects connecting professional practice and education.



*Top: The Florida Atlantic University Department of Civil, Environmental, and Geomatics Engineering accepted its \$15,000 NCEES Surveying Education Award at its Boca Raton campus.*

*Above: The University of Maine Surveying Engineering Technology program accepted its \$15,000 NCEES Surveying Education Award at an on-campus presentation.*

Participating in the Engineering Education Award provides multiple benefits to both the engineering programs and the industry.

Clarence Waters, Ph.D., P.E., of the University of Nebraska—Lincoln—the 2022 Engineering Education Award grand-prize winning school—shared one such example:

Our students gain from the practical experience of the professionals, the professionals gain a deeper understanding of their practice from student questions, and the involved firms gain from early exposure to talented students. Our industry partners mentor and evaluate our students in addition to partnering on research opportunities. In return, the Durham School provides an excellent pool of interns and graduates, as well as research that can transform their business practices.

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# Zones prepare for 2023 combined interim meeting



NCEES IS MAKING FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR THE upcoming combined zone interim meeting April 27–29 in Houston, Texas.

The NCEES member licensing boards are divided into four geographic zones. Each zone meets twice a year—at the NCEES annual meeting in August and at an interim meeting in the spring. The upcoming spring meeting is the first combined interim meeting for the Central, Northeast, Southern, and Western zones.

“The all-zone meeting is an initiative led by the member board administrators,” said NCEES President Chris Duhamel, P.E., P.L.S. “The combined meeting presents the opportunity for all the member boards to hear the committee reports with the same presentation without nuances. The full Council will be able to hear feedback and concerns firsthand from all member boards, and then deliberate separately with their individual zone. This is an innovative approach to enhance the important work of the Council.”

## Issues on the agenda

The primary purpose of the meeting is for representatives from the member licensing boards to hear and discuss reports from current standing committees and task forces. The work of the committees and task forces results in motions that will be presented for Council vote at the annual meeting in August. Zone meeting delegates can ask

questions and discuss possible annual meeting motions, and they are encouraged to take information back to their boards for further discussion.

Attendees will participate in forums for engineers, surveyors, member board administrators, and law enforcement staff to discuss topical professional issues. Member boards will have an opportunity to provide activity updates during their individual zone breakouts.

Additionally, zones will hold the following elections:

- Central Zone—zone secretary-treasurer
- Northeast Zone—zone vice president and assistant vice president
- Southern Zone—zone vice president, assistant vice president, and NCEES president- elect nominee
- Western Zone—zone secretary-treasurer

NCEES will post election-related materials supplied by candidates on the zone meeting webpages when available.

## Meeting registration

Online registration for the combined zone interim meeting is now open. A link to online registration, as well as more details on the meeting, is in the Member Resources section of [ncees.org/resources](https://ncees.org/resources) (see Zones under Board Resources).

## MEMBER BOARD BRIEF



**LANCE KINNEY, PH.D., P.E.**

TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL  
ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# Council exploring benefits of a combined zone interim meeting

THE UPCOMING 2023 COMBINED ZONE INTERIM meeting in Houston will be a first for NCEES—a single, combined all-zones meeting. Normally, the zone meetings are held individually in a city local to each zone. In some cases, we have had joint meetings for two zones. But the 2023 format will be the first time all zones will meet in one location at the same time.

### Planning and delays

This meeting has been a long time in the works. The idea was the outcome of a Committee on Member Board Administrators (MBA) motion voted on at the 2016 annual meeting. The MBA Committee was tasked with looking for ways to address attendance at the various NCEES meetings, and it was noted that the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB)—the sister organization to NCEES for architectural licensure—had combined regional meetings and that NCEES might consider this format. After exploring the idea further, it was presented to the Council. After discussion of the pros and cons, the Council agreed to try this model for a single meeting, originally scheduled to be held in 2020 as part of the 100th anniversary of NCEES. Needless to say, the COVID pandemic caused schedule changes, and the meeting is now being held in 2023.

### Multiple benefits

One of the primary functions of the zone meetings is to share and get feedback on the activities of the various committees and task forces and to preview potential motions before the annual meeting. When there are four individual zone meetings, each presentation is made by a different committee or task force member, and any discussion or feedback is contained to only that meeting. This can cause differences or duplications in information provided as well as a limited scope of discussion amongst members. Adopting a combined zone meeting format allows for a consistent, uniform message to be presented to each zone by officers, staff, and committee

chairs, and for the board of directors and staff to hear all of the feedback from member boards.

In addition to providing a unified presentation format, travel and event planning is a major undertaking for all NCEES meetings. Having four meetings is a complicated and time-consuming task for NCEES staff and the individual hosting states to coordinate and plan. Having a single, larger meeting allows for streamlining and efficiency in the planning process. Also, NCEES board members and staff attend one or more zone meetings, so this reduces NCEES travel requirements.

### Concerns addressed

During the initial discussion about this format, concerns were raised about a potential loss of autonomy and changes to meeting dynamics when compared to individual zone meetings. To address this, the combined zone meeting schedule has built-in breakouts with time set aside for regional-specific meetings and discussion of regional issues. In addition, plenary sessions and all-zone events will allow attendees to interact and foster relationships and discuss important issues across zones like at the annual meeting. This is also a test-run event. We will continue to have individual and joint zone meetings going forward. The feedback from this meeting will be reviewed and used to determine if this format should be added to the already successful meeting model NCEES currently uses.

Overall, there are several potential benefits of a combined all-zone meeting, and we feel this meeting will be a success. We are excited to finally get a chance to explore this new format and hope it will be a valuable experience for NCEES and all of the attendees. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in Houston.

*Kinney is executive director of the Texas board and a member of the 2022–23 NCEES Committee on Member Board Administrators.*

# NCEES opens 2023 Engineering and Surveying Education Award competitions

NCEES LAUNCHED THE 2023 CYCLE OF ITS AWARD programs in January and is now accepting applications for the 2023 Engineering Education and Surveying Education awards.

## Engineering award

The NCEES Engineering Education Award recognizes college engineering programs for engaging their students in collaborative projects with licensed professional engineers. It was established to promote understanding of the value of licensure and to encourage partnerships between the engineering profession and education.

Entries 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 awards: \$10,000 each

Profiles of the 2022 Engineering Education Award winners are posted at [ncees.org/2022engineerprofiles](https://ncees.org/2022engineerprofiles). For details on competing for this award, visit [ncees.org/award](https://ncees.org/award).

## Surveying award

NCEES is also preparing for the 2023 NCEES Surveying Education Award competition. The award program recognizes surveying/geomatics programs that best reflect NCEES' mission to advance licensure for surveyors in order to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public.



Entries for the Engineering and Surveying Education awards are due by **May 1.**

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

- Grand prize: \$25,000
- Up to three awards: \$15,000 each
- Up to three awards: \$10,000 each

Profiles of the 2022 NCEES Surveying Education Award winners are posted at [ncees.org/2022surveyprofiles](https://ncees.org/2022surveyprofiles). Entry information is available at [ncees.org/surveyingaward](https://ncees.org/surveyingaward).

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



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

## Progress and change for a new year

FOLLOWING ITS NOVEMBER MEETING, THE 2022–23 board of directors announced that NCEES Chief Executive Officer David Cox will retire effective October 1, 2024. NCEES Chief Operating Officer Davy McDowell, P.E., will succeed David to become chief executive officer. The board recognizes the commitment and leadership that Davy has demonstrated since taking on the role of COO in 2009. Creating a two-year succession plan ensures an orderly transition of leadership to a person that is currently respected by the NCEES staff and the member boards. The succession plan will help to ensure the Council's continued success in advancing licensure. The board understands how fortunate our organization is to have David and Davy's joint commitment to furthering our mission and vision.

NCEES committees are currently in high gear addressing the important work of the organization. Most all of the committees have held virtual meetings to begin introductions and to frame the charges for future in-person discussion. This year's combined zone interim meeting will be with all zones April 27–29 in Houston, Texas. The combined meeting format will allow committee chairs to present their discussion and possible motions with one message to all zones. Once the presentations are complete, the four zones will meet individually for their own discussions. This year's charges include potential significant changes to licensure, such as

- Developing a rubric to qualify and track key skills and competencies to qualify for first-time P.E. licensure
- Evaluating the PS divisional examinations
- Considering the Western Zone motion for comity P.E. licensure as discussed at the 2022 annual meeting

These charges and others are under review by the standing committees and will be presented to the Council for input and discussion at the zone meeting.

**The succession plan will help to ensure the Council's continued success in advancing licensure.**

An important licensure initiative continuing for January 2023 is the Interprofessional Council on Registration (ICOR) Practice Overlap Steering Committee. NCEES is represented by past presidents Christopher Knotts, P.E., and Brian Robertson, P.E., and former Western Zone vice president Scott Bishop, P.S. The overlap of practice among the different professions is under review. My state of Rhode Island had a similar initiative resulting in an agreement regarding practice overlap. The published guidelines are instrumental to assist building officials in protecting the public health, safety, and welfare.

The 2022–23 board of directors is working to further the NCEES mission of advancing licensure. We are currently exploring partnerships to promote engineering and surveying licensure and workforce development. CEO David Cox and NCEES Chief Communications Officer Nina Norris are tasked with evaluating programs that fit within our mission. The board is looking for other opportunities and will continue to discuss the effort at its February meeting.

The board encourages member boards to provide new ideas and recommend existing programs that could promote the importance of licensure to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public and to shape the future of professional licensure. Please consider new opportunities at your member board meetings and reach out to NCEES staff or the board of directors with your ideas.

Thank you for all your help this year.

## HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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The Surveying Education Award has one grand prize of \$25,000, three prizes of \$15,000, and three prizes of \$10,000. Again, use of the funds awarded is at the discretion of each winning surveying/geomatics program. We do encourage use of the funds awarded to be incorporated into the winning program.

Past winning surveying/geomatics programs have invested the prize money back into the program to make improvements and advancements and have gone on to win a prize in a future competition year.

Ahmed Elaksher, Ph.D., P.E., P.S., of New Mexico State University—the 2022 Surveying Education Award grand-prize winning school—explained the benefits for his program:

We put the prize money back into our program through purchasing advertisements in professional magazines, traveling to regional and national conferences, and visiting community colleges and K–12 schools. The previous awards we have won helped our program to increase its visibility, which led to an increase in enrollment, more support from the New Mexico Professional Surveyors and industry, and regional and national recognition.

### Recognizing winning programs

Winning programs are recognized through on-campus award ceremonies and online profiles featured on our website. NCEES Public Affairs staff works with winning programs to plan local presentations. The programs invite students, faculty, and professionals who were involved in the project and are also able to invite other stakeholders and local media. A staff member works with the program to find a local board member to attend and present the award.

Online profiles of each winning program are featured on the NCEES website. Programs showcase the winning project or curriculum and answer questions related to the work. This provides an opportunity to market each winning program.

We at NCEES thank the students, faculty, and practitioners through the years who have participated and supported the Engineering and Surveying Education awards.

I encourage you to read about the past winning schools and to explore the online profiles.

We at NCEES thank the students, faculty, and practitioners through the years who have participated and supported the Engineering and Surveying Education awards. We applaud your efforts to connect professional practice and education, to grow and enhance your programs, and to inspire the next generation of professional engineers and surveyors.

For more information on entering the Engineering Education Award, visit [ncees.org/award](https://ncees.org/award). For more information on entering the Surveying Education Award, visit [ncees.org/surveyingaward](https://ncees.org/surveyingaward).



**KARL RICKERT, P.E.**  
MARYLAND STATE BOARD FOR  
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

## Maryland board provides multiple pathways to reinstate engineering licensure

DURING THE EARLY PART OF 2022, THE MARYLAND State Board for Professional Engineers faced an unusual situation. The board received six reinstatement applications from engineers who had not been licensed in any jurisdiction for up to 10 years.

Normally, Maryland requires reinstatement applicants to complete up to 32 professional development hours (PDHs), depending on how long the lapse in licensure. For reference, 32 PDHs is equivalent to two renewal cycles worth of PDHs, based on Maryland's requirement of 16 PDHs per two-year cycle.

Maryland law permits the board to require applicants who seek reinstatement more than two years after their license's expiration to reapply for a license in the same manner as an original license applicant. This approach would require the applicant to retake the Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) exam. With few exceptions, most applicants have requested reinstatement within four years of expiration, and the board has required these applicants to take 32 PDHs and pay a reinstatement fee.

Due to the number of applicants with licenses having lapsed for more than four years, the board decided to review its reinstatement policies. The board wanted to ensure that applicants maintained competency in the principles and practices of engineering, while also ensuring equitable treatment.

### Multiple pathways needed

As a first step, the board asked the applicants to describe their work activities during the lapse. In some cases, the applicant had continued to work in a field related to

engineering, such as working as an unlicensed engineer or manager in an engineering firm and serving in a position related to engineering in the armed services. Other relevant work included employment as a construction firm project manager, facilities engineer, and teaching as a professor in a college or university. The board generally required applicants with this type of experience to submit 32 PDHs for reinstatement.

The more complicated situation arose with applicants who had not worked in fields related to engineering during their lapse. As a solution, the board evaluated three options as pathways for these applicants to reinstate.

### Three reinstatement options

The first option was to require the applicants to retake the PE exam. The board wrestled with this because it imposes an onerous burden on applicants. As such, the board considered less burdensome pathways and developed other options.

The second option requires applicants to work under a professional engineer for at least one year. The board reasoned that this would give applicants the opportunity to reenter the field they planned to pursue in a situation where they could consult with, and be supervised by, professional engineers with current knowledge of codes and procedures. After that year, the applicants would need to submit a Record of Professional Experience signed by the supervising professional engineer that described the experience. In addition, applicants would submit evidence that they completed PDHs equivalent to two renewal cycles (32 PDHs).

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## NCEES seeks mechanical engineers' professional expertise and advice

NCEES IS CURRENTLY SEEKING LICENSED mechanical engineers to participate in a professional activities and knowledge study, or PAKS, for the PE Mechanical exams. 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.

PE Mechanical exams include Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVAC), Machine Design and Materials (MDM), and Thermal and Fluid Systems (TFS). NCEES is also considering the addition of a Plumbing Engineering exam to the Mechanical suite of exams. If you are a licensed professional engineer, NCEES would appreciate your input by completing an online survey.

NCEES requires a cross section of licensed professional engineers practicing mechanical 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 mechanical 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.

### PE Mechanical Engineering Survey

The online survey is available at [ncees.org/PEMechanicalPAKS](https://ncees.org/PEMechanicalPAKS).

*Open until March 15*



“These studies help NCEES ensure its licensing exams remain relevant to current professional practice,” explained Chief Officer of Examinations Jason J. Gamble, P.E. “The value of this PAKS depends on the number of people who participate, so NCEES is eager to get a large response from P.E.s across all areas of mechanical engineering.”

The online survey will be open at [ncees.org/PEMechanicalPAKS](https://ncees.org/PEMechanicalPAKS) until **March 15, 2023**.

The following are recent NCEES outreach activities to promote engineering and surveying licensure. For the latest outreach news, follow NCEES on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. Visit [ncees.org](http://ncees.org) for links to its social media pages.

### P.E. and P.S. Profiles

In the February profile, Vatsal Shah, Ph.D., P.E., discusses his work as a principal engineer at ANS GEO, Inc. Throughout his career, Shah has maintained an emphasis on the energy sector, including solar, wind, battery storage, and natural gas developments. He has been nationally recognized by the *Engineering News-Record* as one of the top 20 under 40 for the New York metropolitan region, by the American Society of

Civil Engineers as the Face of Civil Engineering, and by the National Society of Professional Engineers as Young Engineer of the Year. Profiles are posted at [ncees.org/engineer-profiles](http://ncees.org/engineer-profiles) and [ncees.org/surveyor-profiles](http://ncees.org/surveyor-profiles).

### Focus groups

NCEES conducted focus groups with college students from across the country in December and January to better understand student experiences and perceptions of the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam, the impact of COVID-19 on their education, and their thoughts on a potential FE student ambassador program. The focus groups were conducted over Zoom and included a diverse group of students, with representation from every NCEES zone.

## ENFORCEMENT BEAT

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The board also proposed a third reinstatement option. This pathway permitted the applicants to complete two upper-level engineering courses approved by the board. This alternative aimed to demonstrate that the applicants have updated their technical knowledge as required to practice engineering, and the board anticipated that applicants would use this option to increase proficiency in an area that would have value in their planned future employment. As with the other reinstatement paths, the applicants must also complete 32 PDHs.

The key to any engineer's work is confining the practice to areas of competency. This holds true for engineers who wish to be reinstated, as well as engineers who maintain their licensure but do not practice. While retaking the PE exam remains a pathway back to professional practice in Maryland, the board has determined it should not be the only pathway.

*Rickert is a member of the Maryland engineering board and a member of the 2022–23 NCEES Committee on Law Enforcement.*

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## FEBRUARY 3-4

EPP Committee Meeting  
Phoenix, Arizona

PE Metallurgical and Materials Exam Meeting  
Virtual

## FEBRUARY 7-8

PE Petroleum Exam Meeting  
Greenville, South Carolina

## FEBRUARY 8-9

PE Fire Protection Exam Meeting  
Greenville, South Carolina

## FEBRUARY 9-10

PE Agricultural and Biological Exam Meeting  
Virtual

## FEBRUARY 10-11

EPE Committee Meeting  
Greenville, South Carolina

## FEBRUARY 17-18

NCEES Board of Directors Meeting  
Tucson, Arizona

PE Civil Exam Meeting  
Virtual

## FEBRUARY 19-25

DiscoverE Engineers Week

## FEBRUARY 20-21

Exam Audit Committee  
Greenville, South Carolina

## FEBRUARY 24-25

PE Mining and Mineral Processing Exam PAKS Meeting  
Greenville, South Carolina

## FEBRUARY 27

Budget Meeting  
Greenville, South Carolina

## MARCH 3-4

PE Agricultural and Biological Exam PAKS Meeting  
Greenville, South Carolina

PE Nuclear Exam Meeting  
Greenville, South Carolina

## MARCH 10

Finance Committee Meeting  
Scottsdale, Arizona

## MARCH 10-11

PE Control Systems Exam Meeting  
Greenville, South Carolina

## MARCH 11

POLC Meeting  
Scottsdale, Arizona

## MARCH 16-17

FE Exam Meeting  
Virtual

PE Mining and Mineral Processing Exam Meeting  
Virtual

## MARCH 19-25

National Surveyors Week

## MARCH 23-24

PE Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering Exam PAKS Meeting  
Greenville, South Carolina

## MARCH 31-APRIL 1

PE Environmental Exam Meeting  
Greenville, South Carolina

PE Industrial and Systems Exam Meeting  
Greenville, South Carolina

## MEMBER BOARD NEWS

### Connecticut

Jane Hardy is the new board administrator, replacing Barbara Syp-Maziarz.

### Florida PE

Christopher Dawson, James Gonzalez, and Sam Mousa are new appointees. Vivian Boza, Scott Drury, Elizabeth Ferguson, and Kevin Fleming are no longer members.

### Missouri

John Gilbert Brown and Michael Joseph Purol are new appointees. Michael Popp and David Smith are no longer members.

### New Hampshire PE

Christine Horne is the new board administrator, replacing Joseph Shoemaker. David Gill and Paul Mullin are new appointees. Charles Ackroyd and Masoud Azodi Kazeroony are no longer members.

### New Mexico

Benjamin Aragon, Emilie Dohleman, and Elizabeth McNally are new appointees. Ronald Bohannan and Walter Gerstle are no longer members.

### North Carolina

Tabitha Workowski is the new board investigator, replacing Tina Curran. Toynia Gibbs is a new appointee. Richard Benton is no longer a member.

### Oregon

Todd Jarvis is a new appointee.

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

**Laura Sievers, P.E.**  
*President-Elect*  
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*Immediate Past President*  
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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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## Save the date for the 2023 NCEES annual meeting



*NCEES will gather in Boston, Massachusetts, in August for the organization's 102nd annual meeting. Photo courtesy of Kyle Klein for Greater Boston CVB.*

Registration will open in the spring for member board members, emeritus members, and staff attending the 2023 NCEES annual meeting. This year's meeting will be held August 15–18 in Boston at the Westin Boston Seaport. The annual meeting is the culmination of the Council's work for the year. Delegates will meet to decide key licensure issues and explore the city. The agenda offers opportunities to

- Vote on the issues at the business sessions, including the election of a new president-elect and treasurer as well as motions presented by the 2022–23 NCEES committees and task forces
- Take part in sessions for professional engineers and surveyors, member board administrators, and law enforcement staff
- Discuss professional issues at the forums for engineers, surveyors, MBAs, and enforcement staff
- Learn about NCEES and how to navigate the annual meeting at the first-time attendee luncheon
- Network and share ideas with delegates and guests at social events

Invitations to register online will be sent in May.