DELEGATES DEBATE THE ISSUES AT NCEES ANNUAL MEETING

Key actions include authorizing development of new PS depth modules

DELEGATES ATTENDING THE 96TH NCEES ANNUAL meeting addressed a range of issues related to the organization and to engineering and surveying licensure. The following summarizes key actions taken at the August 23–26 meeting in Miami Beach, Florida. Full details of the meeting will be included in the official minutes, which will be published later this year.

NCEES member licensing boards passed a motion to authorize the development of one or more depth modules to supplement the Principles and Practice of Surveying (PS) exam. The proposed modules would relate to the U.S. Public Land Survey System (PLSS) and/or the Metes and Bounds survey system.

The PS exam is used for licensing of professional surveyors across the United States. Currently, it has no depth modules, although most individual jurisdictions require separate state-specific exams.

“This is a long-term project to ensure that our exams continue to meet the needs of professional surveying licensure,” NCEES Chief Executive Officer Jerry Carter explained. “We plan to study the structure of the PS exam in the coming year and determine the best path forward.”

NCEES President Patrick Tami, P.L.S., has commissioned a task force to work on the issue in the year ahead. The Surveying Exam Module Task Force will evaluate the PS exam specifications to determine if they sufficiently cover the proposed PLSS- and Metes and Bounds-related content. It will examine current methods of testing PLSS and Metes and Bounds content on state-specific exams. It will also evaluate the need for restructuring surveying licensing exams in terms of impacts on mobility and safeguarding the public, as well as the exam volumes that would be required to sustain psychometric viability and economic feasibility.

Addition to Position Statement 35

Among other actions taken at the annual meeting, delegates voted to amend Position Statement 35, Future Education Requirements for Engineering Licensure. The new language adds a practice-oriented pathway to meet future requirements for licensure as a professional engineer,
providing an alternative pathway to licensure without relying solely on academic institutions.

NCEES initially adopted the position statement in 2015. The organization has continued to explore educational pathways for candidates for licensure as professional engineers to develop the body of knowledge needed for entry into the profession.

“This position statement guides NCEES efforts to engage with the many stakeholders on this complex issue and ensure that licensing standards continue to protect the public in the future.” CEO Carter explained. “Ultimately, each U.S. state and territory will decide individually whether to amend its licensing requirements, but the member boards of NCEES continue to work together to fully consider these issues,” he said.

The full text of NCEES Position Statement 35, Future Education Requirements for Engineering Licensure is available online at ncees.org/PS35.

**Combined zone meeting in 2020**

The Council approved holding a combined interim meeting of the Central, Northeast, Southern, and Western zones in 2020 in an effort to explore the benefits of a single meeting over separate zone meetings. The vice presidents of each zone will work with NCEES staff to select a location for the meeting.

**Structural and operational changes**

Several other motions focused on the structure or operation of the organization. Delegates voted to amend the **Bylaws** to add a new NCEES membership category: International Affiliate Organization. The new International Affiliate status is available to foreign partners that have been approved to offer NCEES exams or other groups designated by NCEES.

These organizations must be located outside the United States and have a collateral and supportive position with engineering or surveying licensure. They will be entitled to representation at NCEES meetings. The organizations will not have voting privileges, but they may, on approval of the presiding officer, have the privilege of the floor. The Council will vote to accept any organizations for International Affiliate status, with a

“Ultimately, each U.S. state and territory will decide individually whether to amend its licensing requirements, but the member boards of NCEES continue to work together to fully consider these issues.”
At the recent NCEES annual meeting, Wyoming and Nevada signed a memorandum of understanding on mobility for professional engineers. Focusing on the applicant’s perspective and identifying how the process could work, Wyoming and Nevada agreed that applicants with NCEES Model Law status applying to either state can also choose to be licensed in the other state. Each state still requires its state-specific exam for licensure and collects its respective fees.

Since most states readily accept NCEES Model Law comity applicants and will even expedite licensing for these applicants, we’ve heard states say, “What’s the point? Why bother? It doesn’t accomplish much.” But if you switch to the applicant’s perspective, it really makes a difference. The applicant completes just one application to be licensed in multiple states. This is a big step to expediting comity licensure. It saves time, and since time is
Tami accepts presidency, outlines vision for year ahead

Patrick Tami, P.L.S., of California, accepted the office of president on August 25 at the NCEES annual meeting in Miami Beach, Florida. The following is from his inaugural speech.

I USED TWO QUOTES TO GUIDE ME AS I DEVELOPED the charges for the committees for this year.

First, in their annual foundation letter this year, Bill and Melinda Gates wrote a letter to Warren Buffett; one line that really struck me is, “The future will surprise the pessimists.”

The second came from the author Sir Terry Pratchett, who said, “Stories of imagination tend to upset those without one.”

How should we imagine the future of professional engineering and surveying licensure? What should the overarching goals of our organization be, and will they surprise the pessimist and upset those without an imagination?

Addressing challenges to licensure
I know we’ve only been working at it for 97 years, but we really need to find a way to improve licensure mobility. As many of our boards have found out firsthand, professional licensure is under serious pressure. While pressure on licensing is not new, this time it is coming from some very powerful sources, such as the White House, major federal agencies and courts, legislators, and well-funded law firms.

The National Society of Professional Engineers identified more than 23 states that have had serious threats on professional licensure; many of these threats originally included professional engineering and surveying. Our current licensure process is being viewed as an unreasonable government regulation and a substantial burden on an individual’s pursuit of an occupation or ability just to make a living.

We must not take for granted that engineering and surveying licensure will always be here to protect the public. There is a general lack of understanding of the value of licensure in our educational institutions, in political circles, and in the business world. This year, we will have several committees working on various aspects of mobility. I want them to embrace the words of Nelson Mandela: “It always seems impossible until it’s done.”

Increasing diversity
We live in a diverse country—one that will become even more diverse in the future—and our professions will reflect the changing demographics. NCEES recognizes the benefits of a diverse population of professional engineers and surveyors, and in the year ahead, several committees will be looking at our organizational structure to ensure we are meeting our diversity policy.

Ensuring financial security
Not-for-profit is a tax status, not a business plan. Last year, we voted as a group to lower the cost of the fundamentals exams. Originally, the motion was to be revenue neutral, but we revised it on the floor, resulting in a projected loss from operations of more than $1 million. We have the financial reserves to accommodate this reduction in income, at least for some period
Outgoing president Daniel Turner, Ph.D., P.E., P.L.S. (left) passes the gavel to the 2017–18 NCEES president, Patrick Tami, P.L.S. Tami served as president-elect in 2016–17 and will continue to serve on the board of directors as immediate past president next year.

of time. The board of directors and Committee on Finances will be monitoring our budgets to safeguard our financial condition. We will be looking to determine if we need to make changes to the way we approve motions with significant financial impacts.

In closing, I wish I had time—and that you had an interest—in me naming all the people that I would like to thank. But please let me thank just a few.

First, I would like to thank Dr. Dan Turner, a true professional and a consummate professor. Over the past year, I have watched, listened, and taken pages of notes. He had an amazing way of leading the board of directors and this organization. I can only hope that I have learned enough this last year to do even half the job he has.

I would like to thank the outgoing members of the board of directors and the past board of directors I served with. Thank you for putting up with all my questions and with me making meetings last longer than maybe they should have. Your insights, comments, and friendship over the past years have made me a better person and better able to take on my new role here at NCEES.

The NCEES staff does an excellent job of running the day-to-day operations of this organization. What happens here and throughout the year in our organization would not be possible without them. They have all made this a great organization. I will just say thank you to the whole staff for all you do; I very much appreciate it.

Last but not least, I want to thank all of you for the support and encouragement you have provided me. I will endeavor to do my best to lead this fine organization.
NCEES recognizes distinguished service

AT ITS 96TH ANNUAL MEETING, NCEES HONORED several individuals for their dedicated service to the organization and the engineering and surveying professions. The 2017 NCEES service award winners are

- **Dale A. Jans, P.E.**, emeritus member of the South Dakota Board of Technical Professions and NCEES past president, who received the Distinguished Service Award with Special Commendation.

- **Lisa Hanni, L.S.**, emeritus member of the Minnesota State Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience, and Interior Design, and **Richard Hayter, Ph.D., P.E.**, member of the Kansas Board of Technical Professions, who received the Distinguished Service Award.


The winners were honored at the NCEES annual meeting, held August 23–26, 2017, in Miami Beach, Florida.

Read more about the 2017 winners at ncees.org/service-award.

Nominations open for NCEES service awards

THE NCEES COMMITTEE ON AWARDS IS NOW ACCEPTING nominations for the following: the Distinguished Service Award, the Distinguished Service Award with Special Commendation, the Meritorious Service Award, and the Distinguished Examination Service Award. These awards will be presented at the 2018 annual meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona.

The deadline for nominations is January 31, 2018. Nomination materials have been sent to member board administrators. They are also available in the Member Resources section of ncees.org and by contacting Executive Assistant Sherrie Saunders (s Saunders@ncees.org).

Nominations for the DSA, DSA with Special Commendation, and MSA must be made by a member board. Nominations for the Distinguished Examination Service Award may be made by a member board, an exam committee, or the NCEES board of directors. The criteria for these awards are specified in Administrative Policy 12, which can be found in the Manual of Policy and Position Statements (available on the NCEES website under About NCEES).
NCEES STAFF WORKED FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS to combine many of our online services into one interface that now allows member boards to access exam approvals, license and exam verifications, Records and Credentials Evaluations transmittals, the Enforcement Exchange database, and member board profiles in one place. While that transition was not without difficulties, the new E3 system has made it easier for member boards to access information, and it has significantly enhanced the NCEES Record program by moving it from a system that relied on paper forms and the U.S. mail to a system that is totally electronic.

In addition to taking advantage of current technology, we have implemented new measures to ensure that the information contained in an NCEES Record is valid and pertinent. As the former executive director of the North Carolina board, I know the arduous process that member boards and their staff go through to verify that an applicant has experience that is both progressive and relevant to the practice of engineering or surveying. To ensure the quality and consistency of the information provided to member boards in a Record, NCEES has employed independent, licensed professional engineers and professional surveyors who have previously served on a member board or an NCEES exam development committee to conduct preliminary reviews of experience submitted by Record applicants. These individuals perform initial reviews of the experience as described by applicants and request additional information or explanation as needed. Once it passes this vetting, the experience is reviewed by a licensed NCEES staff member, who must also endorse the experience as both adequate and progressive before an applicant can proceed. This entire process is done at no charge to the applicant.

With these new measures in place, NCEES now offers licensure candidates the ability to document their requirements for licensure as they satisfy each requirement. Candidates can upload their educational transcripts to their MyNCEES profile, detail experience as it is gained, and then request a final review by NCEES. Once completed, the candidate’s Record can be transmitted to one of several member boards for initial licensure consideration by paying the review/transmittal fee of $175. After obtaining initial licensure, the Record holder can request that his or her Record be transmitted to other member boards for comity consideration for a fee of $75 for each transmittal.

This new procedure has been endorsed by many member boards and is now accepted for initial licensure application by 10 boards. For the member boards not yet taking advantage of this new option, I encourage you to contact staff of one of these boards and hear about their experience or to contact NCEES staff with any questions you may have.

NCEES is committed to using its resources to continuously develop and offer options that aid member boards in the vital job of regulating the engineering and surveying professions. When these enhancements also provide for an improved experience for licensure candidates, we are motivated to work even harder to offer new solutions and options that make the licensure process as seamless as possible.

| Boards that accept NCEES Record for initial licensure |
|----------------|----------------|
| Arkansas        | North Carolina |
| Florida engineering | Oregon       |
| Idaho           | Texas engineering |
| Kentucky        | Utah           |
| Nevada          | Wyoming        |
Mobility: What are we missing?

THE MISSION OF REGULATORY BOARDS IS TO PROTECT the health, safety, and welfare of the public by establishing minimum qualifications for entry into the profession, by adopting rules defining and delineating unlawful and unethical conduct, and by establishing an effective and accountable disciplinary process for those individuals or entities that violate the laws and rules.

NCEES member boards spend a lot of time discussing mobility of licensure. In a June 2017 Licensure Exchange article, Lance Kinney, Ph.D., P.E., wrote that in the previous 96 issues, mobility was mentioned 66 times. I went through many of the 96 issues and could not find any mention of law enforcement as it relates to mobility. I could not find any mention of uniform investigative procedures or screening of applications in any of those articles. When we discuss mobility, we tend to focus on applicants’ education, the quality of their experience, and whether they have successfully passed the NCEES fundamentals and principles and practice exams. These are important because member boards need to be able to evaluate an applicant to ensure that he or she meets the minimum qualifications to practice the profession in a manner that will protect the public. But what about the applicant’s character and ethics?

Over the years, there has been one glaring omission from the discussion of mobility and our assessment of an applicant’s qualifications—the applicant’s ability to adhere to the regulatory board’s laws and rules governing the practice of engineering or surveying in his or her jurisdiction. For the past few years, the Committee on Member Board Administrators has been studying ways to improve mobility. There has been talk of developing a matrix or scorecard to evaluate each member board’s licensing requirements as compared to the NCEES Model Law. Why would we not do the same thing for enforcement and screening applications?

To have an effective regulatory program and true mobility of licensure across jurisdictions, the key is consistency—consistency in our requirements for licensure and consistency in how we evaluate applications for licensure.

While the Model Law and Model Rules—as well as each jurisdiction’s laws and rules—cover the three pillars of education, examination, and experience, we must not forget the other equally important sections of laws and rules. The following are just as important:

- Meeting minimum standards and accepted standards of practice
- Acting ethically in one’s professional duties and ensuring the public’s health, safety, and welfare in the performance of one’s duties
- Being of good character and acting with integrity in all matters
- Practicing within one’s area of competency

To have an effective regulatory program and true mobility of licensure across jurisdictions, the key is consistency—consistency in our requirements for licensure and consistency in how we evaluate applications for licensure. While we have not completely solved the mobility question, we have made significant strides in the areas of education and examination. We have been less consistent in our enforcement programs.

To have true mobility of licensure, member boards must not just focus on education, experience, and examinations but also strive for more consistency in how we evaluate applications and investigate allegations involving violations of the registration act.
In our discussion of mobility, we talk about trusting that our sister boards have thoroughly vetted their licensees and that other member boards should issue a license based on that trust. But trust requires confidence that the sister board is adhering to the same standards and practices as your own board. We want to reduce barriers to interstate licensure, but we must be careful that we are not just passing through, or passing on, applicants without ensuring that they are acting in accordance with the laws and rules. It is important to remember that one of the requirements for designation as a Model Law Engineer or Surveyor is a record free of disciplinary actions.

Some questions I would ask my sister boards include:

- Does the board effectively investigate complaints and administer appropriate disciplinary actions?
- Does the board post disciplinary actions and notify other boards of disciplinary actions?
- Does the board require its licensees to report criminal convictions each renewal period or upon initial application?
- Does the board thoroughly evaluate applications to ensure that there is no misrepresentation of facts or credentials?
- Does the board have sufficient staff and expertise to evaluate applications and investigate violations of the registration act?

Let me give you a recent example of comity applications that we have received in Ohio. A comity applicant applying for registration as a professional engineer disclosed a money laundering conviction on his application. He provided a brief summary indicating that the charge and subsequent conviction were a misunderstanding and included little documentation. My investigative staff looked into it further and found that the applicant had been incarcerated for being a major figure in an international drug cartel.

This individual is currently licensed in other several jurisdictions—not in Ohio. Admittedly, not all criminal convictions or violations of the registration act should result in the revocation or permanent debarment of an applicant from licensure. People make mistakes, and some deserve a second chance. But we as member boards must be more consistent in investigating these matters and adjudicating them. This is why member boards must act consistently in the way they handle enforcement actions. The Committee on Law Enforcement provides many tools in the Member Resources section of the NCEES website to help member boards in this endeavor.

As we continue to discuss mobility, we must not limit the conversation to just education, examinations, and experience but include overall consistency in how member boards operate. Just as important as applicants’ engineering or surveying knowledge is their ability to follow the laws and rules and act ethically in the performance of their duties and as members of society.

John Greenhalge is the executive director of the Ohio board and a member of the 2017–18 NCEES Committee on Law Enforcement.

Patty Mamola is the executive director and a past member of the Nevada board and a member of the 2017–18 NCEES Committee on Member Board Administrators. She is also a past president of NCEES.
majority vote required. NCEES has a similar membership category for U.S.-based engineering and surveying organizations: the Participating Organizations Liaison Council.

The Council also voted to charge a Special Committee on Bylaws to propose amendments to the Bylaws to require that the NCEES president be a professional engineer or surveyor and to change the treasurer’s term length from two years to three. The committee will consider both of these issues in 2017–18 and is expected to present motions to formally adopt related Bylaws changes at the 2018 annual meeting.

Several other motions related to NCEES operations did not pass. The Council voted against a motion to change the voting structure of the organization to give member boards that regulate both engineering and surveying two votes and boards that regulate only engineering or surveying one vote. It also voted against a motion to establish a task force to further investigate moving to a qualifications-based selection system for president, instead of rotating the presidency among the four zones.

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

Alabama
Helen Adams-Morales is a new appointee. Charles Willis is no longer a member.

Arizona
Jack Gilmore is a new appointee. Leroy Brady is no longer a member.

Arkansas
Kyle Salyer is a new appointee. Ronnie Hawkins is no longer a member.

Delaware PE
Jeremy Kalmbacher is a new appointee. Daniel Barbato is no longer a member.

District of Columbia
Roland Carter is a new appointee. Ernest Boykin Jr. and Compton Vyfhuis are no longer members.

Illinois PE
Duane Yockey is a new appointee. William Eves is no longer a member.

Iowa
Former member and past board chair Forrest Holly passed away May 22. He was a member of several NCEES committees, including chair of the 2005–06 Continuing Professional Competency Task Force. Todde Folkerts is a new appointee. Jerry Shellberg is no longer a member.

Michigan PE and PS
Brian DeBano is the new member board administrator, replacing Cheryl Pezon.

Minnesota
Dave Blume is a new appointee. James Grube is no longer a member.

Mississippi
William Mitchell is a new appointee. Richard Turner is no longer a member.

Nebraska PE
Jan Bostelman is a new appointee. Roger Helgoth is no longer a member.

New Hampshire PS
Ginny Chrisenton is a new appointee. Richard Bond is no longer a member.

South Carolina
Sam Wellborn is the new advice counsel, replacing Donnell Jennings.

Tennessee PE
Susan Maynor is no longer a member.

Wisconsin
Christina Martin is a new appointee. Matthew Janiak is no longer a member.

Emeritus
The board of directors approved the following emeritus members at its August 2017 meeting. Oklahoma: Robert Zahl; Virginia: Wiley (Bif) Johnson

November 2–4
NCEES Board of Directors Meeting
Boston, Massachusetts

November 3–4
FE Exam Meeting
Clemson, South Carolina

November 9–11
EPE Committee Meeting
Atlanta, Georgia

November 17–18
EPS Committee Meeting
San Antonio, Texas

November 30–December 2
SE Exam Scoring Workshop
Clemson, South Carolina

October 26–28
Society of Women Engineers Conference, Austin, Texas

October 9–11
Society of Petroleum Engineers Annual Technical Conference and Expo, San Antonio, Texas

NCEES OUTREACH

October 6–7
PE Chemical Exam PAKS Meeting
Atlanta, Georgia

October 12–14
PE Mechanical Exam Meeting
Clemson, South Carolina

October 13–14
PE Industrial and Systems Exam Meeting
Clemson, South Carolina

October 20–21
PE Naval Architecture and Marine Exam Meeting
Houston, Texas

October 23–25
PE Environmental Exam Meeting
SE Exam Meeting
Clemson, South Carolina

October 27–28
NCEES Pencil-and-Paper Exam Administration

October 27–29
PE Nuclear Exam Meeting
Washington, D.C.

October 30–31
PE Software Exam Meeting
Clemson, South Carolina

November 2–4
NCEES Board of Directors Meeting
Boston, Massachusetts

November 3–4
FE Exam Meeting
Clemson, South Carolina

November 9–11
EPE Committee Meeting
Atlanta, Georgia

November 17–18
EPS Committee Meeting
San Antonio, Texas

November 30–December 2
SE Exam Scoring Workshop
Clemson, South Carolina
Patrick Tami, P.L.S., began his term as president at the conclusion of the NCEES annual meeting, held August 23–26 in Miami Beach, Florida. He replaces outgoing president Daniel Turner, Ph.D., P.E., P.L.S., who will remain on the board of directors as immediate past president. During the annual meeting, delegates elected James Purcell, P.E., president-elect for 2017–18 and Timothy Rickborn, P.E., treasurer for 2017–19. Also, NCEES welcomed newly commissioned Southern Zone Vice President Christopher Knotts, P.E., and Northeast Zone Vice President Paul Tyrell, P.E., P.L.S., as they began the first year of their two-year terms. Completing the board of directors are Central Zone Vice President Maurice Bowersox, P.E., and Western Zone Vice President Brian Hanson, P.E., who began the second year of their two-year terms.