

**MARCH 2026**

# PEP TALKS

**PROMOTING THE ENGINEERING PROFESSION**

A newsletter from the Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers & Surveyors



**Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers & Surveyors  
Board Members  
2025-2026**

Carey Hardin, PE President Starkville, Mississippi Post 3, 3rd District, Northern	Blake Collins, PS Vice President Brandon, Mississippi Post 7, 1st District, Central	Dr. Dennis D. Truax, PE Secretary/ Treasurer Starkville, Mississippi Post 6, 3rd District, Northern
Steven A. Twedt, PE Biloxi, Mississippi Post 5, 2nd District, Southern	Patrick Martino, PS Biloxi, Mississippi Post 8, 2nd District, Southern	Clint Tidwell, PS Ripley, Mississippi Post 9, 3rd District, Northern
Bill Mitchell, PE/PS Gulfport, Mississippi Post 2, 2nd District, Southern	Vacant Post 1, 1st District, Central	Vacant Post 4, 1st District, Central



# PEP Talks

## Promoting the Engineering profession

### Table of Contents

Message from the Board President.....	3
Board Leadership.....	4
List of Successful FE examinees.....	6
NCEES- A Resource for State Licensure Boards.....	8
Engineers Day at the State Capitol.....	10
List of Successful PE examinees.....	11
Employee Needs.....	12
Frequently Asked Questions.....	14
List of Successful SI, PS and Section Exam examinees.....	15
Why does Math Count? A play on words, or is it?.....	16
Civil Engineers in the US Navy.....	20
Celebrating Women’s History Month.....	25
PEpLS in the Community.....	26
Summer Internship Opportunities.....	29

*Articles in this edition by contributors are not necessarily the viewpoint or opinion of the Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers & Surveyors*

# A message from the Board President

The Mississippi State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers was established by legislation in 1928 and was governed by a board of five engineers appointed by the governor. In 1962 the enabling legislation was expanded to include registration of land surveyors, and the Board was expanded to include a single surveyor member. A subsequent amendment to the statute in 1983 added an additional surveyor board member, increasing the Board to seven members. The most recent modification to the Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors was in 2004 when the Board was further expanded to include two engineers and one surveyor from each of the three Mississippi Supreme Court districts for a total of nine board members.



Over the past 18 months the current Board has worked toward updating and reorganizing the 100-year-old statute. The most significant changes involved aligning the Mississippi code with the National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors (NCEES) model law where feasible, avoiding duplication of language for engineers and surveyors, eliminating inconsistencies and archaic terminology. Substantive changes include comity licensure through international agreements, licensure procedures for military personnel, increased fee caps, and increased number of organizations eligible to nominate candidates for the Governor's consideration for appointments to the Board. The legislation has currently been passed by both houses of the legislature and will be forwarded to the Governor for his consideration.

For the past several years the Board has funded a biennial competitive grant program available to universities and community colleges with accredited engineering and/or land surveying curriculums in the State of Mississippi. This program has provided much needed funding for laboratory and surveying equipment. The FY2027 budget includes up to \$600,000 available for this program.

This summer will mark the third year of the Board's summer intern program. The program has been a resounding success with engineering students from Mississippi State University, Jackson State University and Mississippi College participating. The interns have provided valuable service to the Board while gaining a unique perspective on how the Board functions and the value of professional licensure. If you know an engineering or surveying student who might be interested in participating in this program, please have them contact the Board office.

The Board's mission is to safeguard life, health, property, and promote public welfare by providing a complete and thorough licensure process for Professional Engineers and Surveyors, ensuring that each is properly qualified to practice in the state of Mississippi. While the Board's function is integral, it is the education, experience, diligence and integrity of the engineers and surveyors licensed by the Board that ensure that the mission is accomplished.

Thank you for your commitment to the engineering and surveying professions in the State of Mississippi. Please do not hesitate to call on us if we may assist you in any way.

Carey Hardin, PE  
Board President 2024 – 2026

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# BOARD LEADERSHIP



Board Leadership for the 2025-2026 fiscal year are:



Carey Hardin, PE  
President  
Starkville, Mississippi  
Post 3, 3rd District, Northern



Blake Collins, PS  
Vice President  
Brandon, Mississippi  
Post 7, 1st District, Central



Dr. Dennis D. Truax, PE  
Secretary/ Treasurer  
Starkville, Mississippi  
Post 6, 3rd District, Northern

The Board was established in 1928 by the State Legislature. It became associated with the National Association of Engineering Examiners (later becoming the National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors) in the same year. In 1962 the legislature charged the Board with additional authority for the licensing of Professional Surveyors. It was at this time the makeup of the joint board was established consisting of three Professional Surveyors and six Professional Engineers, all licensed in the State of Mississippi and from geographically different areas of the state.

Appointments to the Board are made by the Governor from a list of recommendations provided by the Mississippi Engineering Society and the Mississippi Association of Professional Surveyors.

The Board is charged to safeguard life, health, and property, and to promote the public welfare and has as its goal to provide a complete and thorough licensure process for engineers and surveyors, ensuring that each is properly qualified to practice their chosen profession in the State of Mississippi.

Currently, there are 11,696 Professional Engineers and 882 Professional Surveyors actively licensed in the state of Mississippi. Also, at present there are 2,569 Engineering firms and 374 Surveying firms holding Certificates of Authority to practice in Mississippi. As in years past, the predominance of these licensees live outside of the State of Mississippi.

# Board Staff

<b>Monica Gilmore</b> <b>Executive Director</b>	
<b>Alexis Walker</b> <b>Customer Service</b>	<b>Rachel Jenkins</b> <b>Public Relations</b>
<b>Joshua Smith</b> <b>Licensure</b>	<b>Jermaine Pullum</b> <b>Investigations</b>

You can contact the agency by phone at 601-359-6160 or email at [information@pepls.state.ms.us](mailto:information@pepls.state.ms.us)

# Board Committees

<u><b>Board of Architecture Committee</b></u> Dr. Dennis Truax- Chair Carey Hardin Bill Mitchell Board Attorney- Kim Turner or designee  Legislative subset committee: Carey Hardin- Chair Steve Twedt Blake Collins	<u><b>Surveying Curricula Committee</b></u> Blake Collins- Chair Dr. Dennis Truax Bill Mitchell Clint Tidwell
<u><b>Rules &amp; Regulations (Tackle the Tape) Committee</b></u> Steve Twedt- Chair Patrick Martino Dr. Dennis Truax Board Attorney- Kim Turner or designee	<u><b>Grants Review and Approval Committee</b></u> Dr. Dennis Truax Carey Hardin Clint Tidwell
<u><b>Investigations Committee</b></u> Dr. Dennis Truax Bill Mitchell Patrick Martino	<u><b>NCEES Leadership</b></u> Steve Twedt- Southern Zone Assistant VP
<u><b>NCEES Committee Representation</b></u> Monica Gilmore- MBA Committee Blake Collins- Southern Zone Awards Committee Steve Twedt- Uniform Procedures and Legislative Guidelines (UPLG) Committee Dr. Dennis Truax- Finance Committee Carey Hardin- Law Enforcement Committee	



Congratulations to these successful examinees for the period of August 2, 2025, through February 28, 2026

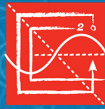
## Fundamentals of Engineering

Bransen Ainsworth  
Samuel Andersen  
Cody Armes  
Rachel Barber  
Paul Bartolemea  
Elizabeth Bergman  
Jaylon Boarden  
Garrett Breithaupt  
Richard Chittom  
Grayson Cockerham  
Zachary Crane  
Carlie Cucurullo  
Braden Dennis  
Zachary DiMauro  
Jacob Doler  
William Dulaney  
Patrick Dunkle  
Olivia Ezell  
Samuel Farmer  
Colby Floyd  
John Gathings  
Andrew Glaze  
Kathryn Glenn  
Morgan Green  
David Greene  
Elijah Gregory

Steven Guo  
Joshua Ham  
Joshua Hamner  
Luke M Hartleroad  
Tanner Hitt  
Marcus Hooker  
Ryan Horton  
Colin Hughes  
Murray Hutchinson  
Ashlyn Jackson  
Charles Jones  
Tanner King  
Alexander King  
Keller Kratz  
Mitchell Martin  
Marshall Mayerhoff  
William McInnis  
Benjamin Moore  
Abigail Myers  
James Nanney  
Thang Nguyen  
Mark Pass  
Ryan Perryman  
Ross Phelps  
Subash Poudel  
Jared Powe

Chapel Rainer  
Stephanie Rasco  
Billy Ray  
Onitiana Razafimino  
Jude Reeves  
Frank Reyes-Bustos  
Hunter Robinson  
Joshua Robinson  
Wade Roseberry  
Brian Saenz  
Kaitlyn Sanborn  
Sofia Schuyler  
William Shell  
Bettie Shoemaker  
William Smith  
Robert Snell  
Gary Vauguan  
Drew Vaughters  
John Voss  
Jayson Ward  
William Webster  
Mattie Williamson  
Nathan Woods  
Benjamin Worthy  
Matthew Wubben

*The FE exam is generally your first step in the process of becoming a licensed professional engineer (P.E.). It is designed for recent graduates and students who are close to finishing an undergraduate engineering degree from an EAC/ABET-accredited program. The FE exam is a computer-based exam administered year-round at NCEES-approved Pearson VUE test centers. The FE exam includes 110 questions and the exam appointment time is 6 hours. A \$225 exam fee is payable directly to NCEES.*



NCEES

# FE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

FE Ambassadors are on-campus student representatives who promote the Fundamental of Engineering (FE) Exam and the value of licensure through peer-to-peer engagement with their fellow engineering students. They do this through engineering society student chapter meetings, on-campus events and activities, and licensure presentations.

## Eligibility requirements

Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 at the time of application

Enrolled as an on-campus, full-time as an undergraduate student while serving as an FE Ambassador

Intend to take the FE exam

## Expectations

FE Ambassadors are expected to promote the FE exam and the value of licensure to their fellow engineering students through on-campus activities, and NCEES will give you the resources to do so. Ambassadors will be provided an allowance to cover programming expenses.

## Training and support

All FE Ambassadors will receive virtual training and on-going support from NCEES. Email [outreach@ncees.org](mailto:outreach@ncees.org) for more information or if you have any questions.

For more information, please visit <https://ncees.org/outreach/initiatives/fe-ambassador-program/>

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## NCEES Digital Badges Available



NCEES has partnered with Credly to provide a digital badge to examinees who pass the FE or FS exam. These badges can be displayed on social media, in email signatures, and on digital resumes.

Visit your MyNCEES account (<https://account.ncees.org/>) to get yours today!

# NCEES - A Resource for State Licensure Boards

An article written by Mr. Steven A. Twedt, P.E.

As a member of a State Licensure Board for engineers and/or surveyors, we are granted membership to the National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors (NCEES). This organization is a tremendous resource for its member boards. They host two meetings each year, a spring meeting for each of the four geographic zones and a fall meeting for the entire membership. All travel and expenses to attend these meetings are funded for up to three delegates per member board. These meetings are more than just a networking opportunity to meet board members from other states. Forums and business meetings are held to discuss issues and take actions on the work that has been done throughout the year.



NCEES governance is made up of volunteers from the member boards who are elected by the body. Standing committees are appointed by the leadership and do the work throughout the year. Your Mississippi board members have contributed to these efforts.

- Dennis Truax has served on a half a dozen committees, most recently the Finance Committee
- Carey Hardin has served on law enforcement
- Blake Collins has served on awards
- Sarah Tracy has served on finance and currently on the awards committee

I was fortunate to be selected to serve on a couple of committees, most recently the Uniform Procedure and Legislative Guideline Committee from 2022-2026. This committee is charged with updating and incorporating changes into the NCEES Model Law and Model Rules. These documents serve as a guide to boards who are looking to update their own laws and regulations.

In Mississippi we recently updated our rules and are working through the legislature to update our section of the code, 73-13. If you set our code and regulations alongside the NCEES models you will be able to see how we have



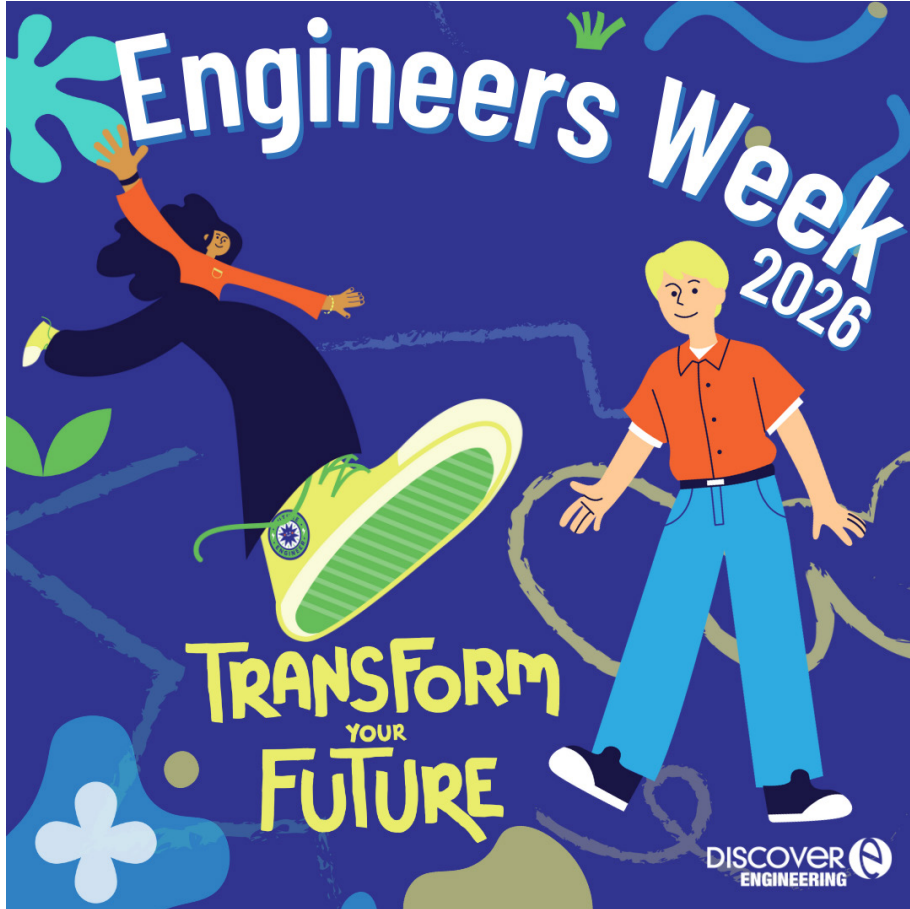
moved to stay aligned with the national model. One way that this benefits our licensees is in portability of licensure among jurisdictions by requiring the same level of education and experience as the national standard, and ease of renewal for those licensed in multiple jurisdictions due to consistent continuing education requirements.

In addition to opportunities to contribute through committee work, there are opportunities for leadership roles. Last year I was pressed into service through election into the office of Southern Zone Assistant Vice President. The responsibilities of this position include serving as the welcoming committee for new board members throughout the zone. Everyone gets a welcome email from the SZAVP with information about NCEES resources and opportunities as well as a presentation at the first NCEES meeting they attend.

Involvement in NCEES is one way for us to become a better board aligned with other states. Another way we can serve the engineering surveying profession is to listen to issues and input from the licensees. We appreciate the societies and individuals that take the time to give us feedback, we and encourage you to continue to communicate with us.

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# Public Outreach



Annually, the last week of February.

Requesting a Board member or Agency staff to speak to your middle or high school class, college students or association is as simple as providing topic, date (or date range), audience and length of presentation information in a communication to the Board office. The Board will do its best to fulfill all such requests, based on availability.

[Email us at msboard@pepls.state.ms.us](mailto:msboard@pepls.state.ms.us)

A black banner for the 2026 National Surveyors Week. On the left is a photograph of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial. The text '2026 National Surveyors Week' is written in large, white, bold letters. Below this, the dates 'March 15-21' and the website 'nsp.s.us.com' are listed. The text 'Global Surveyors' Day March 21' is also present. At the bottom left is the NSPS logo, which consists of a blue compass rose and the letters 'NSPS'. At the bottom right are the hashtags '#NSW' and '#NationalSurveyorsWeek'.

Held annually, the third week of March.

These events are intended to raise public awareness of the Engineering and Surveying professions.

# Engineers Day at the State Capitol

An article written by Monica Gilmore, Executive Director



The Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors (Board) hosted Engineers Day at the state capitol on February 25, 2026, in conjunction with the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Mississippi.

This was the first time the Board has actively participated in Engineers day, an event historically hosted at the state capitol by ACEC. The event was designed to shine a spotlight on the many contributions of Engineers on the communities we live in and serve in the state of Mississippi.

The event occurred during national Engineers Week (#EWEEK2026), which occurred from February 22-28, 2026.

Each year, Engineers Week unites engineers, students, and communities across the nation to celebrate how engineering shapes our world. Founded by the National Society of Professional Engineers in 1951, EWeek is a week of recognition

- it's a movement to inspire the next generation of engineers and innovators
- it places a spotlight on the the impact of the engineering profession
- helps to strengthen connections across the engineering community
- introduce others to the engineering profession as a career option

There were several first this Engineers Day including a recognition of the Engineering Profession and Engineers in the House of Representatives and Senate of the Mississippi legislature. The Board captured the moment in a first ever photograph on the steps of the state capitol with engineering graduates, Engineer Interns and Professional Engineers from across the state.

Thank you to the following engineering graduates, Engineer Interns and Professional Engineers who joined us for Engineers Day at the state capitol.

Mississippi Department of Transportation: Jessica Dilley, PE; Miranda Nichols, PE; Mariette Wientjes, PE; Janie Bass, PE; Zachary Horton, PE; Mitchell Young, PE; Amanda Clark, PE; Jonathan King, PE; Josh Stubbs, PE; Chris Nail, PE, PS; Samuel Rust, PE; Payton Keith, EI; Meskerem Etebo; and McKenzie Hedrick

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality: William McKercher, PE; Charles Phillips King, PE; James Gammil, PE; Terry Schickel, EI ; Seth Camp; Donnell Kinnard; and Dontavius Patton

HDR, INC: R. Chad Wallace, PE

Representing the Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors on the front row are Monica Gilmore, Executive Director and Board Members: Bill Mitchell, PE, PS; Steve Twedt, PE; Carey Hardin, PE; and Dr. Dennis D. Truax, PE.

# Congratulations

Congratulations to these successful examinees for the period of August 2, 2025, through February 28, 2026

## Principles and Practice of Engineering

Jarrett Adams	Ennis Crosby	Annie Ladner	Connor Steptoe
Vincenzo Alberico	Sean Cummins	Andrew Lessel	Bradley Stines
Rami Al-Sughay	Cecilia Dean	Steven Little	Dylan Story
George Baladi	Hunter Dickerson	Trilby Matthews	Benjamin Stroud
Peyton Barnes	Parker Dungan	James Phillips	Jessica Ward
Chance Betts	Austin Entremont	Joshua Rainey	Tyler Williams
Isaac Buckner	Ty Faulkner	Charles Roberson	John Winstead
Joshua Carter	Drew Ferguson	Logan Shannon	Michael Wright
Braxton Chewning	Pete Guedon	Piney Sheldon	Phillip Wright
Tyler Conkling	Brandon Johnson	Brady Smith	Kirthy Yuvaraj
Brayden Cook	Brandon Ladner	Mindy Starr	

*The Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) exam tests for a minimum level of competency in a particular engineering discipline. It is designed for engineers who have gained a minimum of four years post-college work experience in their chosen engineering discipline. The PE exam is offered in 27 disciplines.*

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## FE and FS Exam Honor Cords



NCEES now offers honor cords for students who have successfully passed their FE and/ or FS exams to wear during their graduation commencement exercises. Ask your Dean or school counselor about them to ensure that they are made available to you at your school.

# Employee Needs

An article written by Florance Bass, PE, BCEE

During a lunch conversation with colleagues in August, a common challenge emerged: *finding employees to fill critical non-engineering roles.*

The answer was a clear yes. Since then, discussions with professionals, recruiters, educators, workforce agencies, and legislators have reinforced the issue.

As Mississippi accelerates large-scale economic development, there is a growing demand for skilled laborers who support engineering projects, including construction engineering inspection (CEI) inspectors, construction materials technicians, geotechnical lab technicians, and land surveying crews. These roles are essential to timely project delivery and often do not require a college degree, though certifications and experience greatly increase their value.



Many firms struggle to recruit and retain these workers due to inconsistent project schedules, making long-term employment difficult. While professional organizations are working to promote more consistent construction activity, more collaboration is needed. The engineering community must partner with educators to clearly define the skills and certifications needed for high school graduates entering the workforce. Educators are willing and able to help—but they need guidance from industry professionals. Legislators are also ready to support these efforts when provided in a clear direction.

Initiatives such as Pearl Public School District’s planned hands-on training facility demonstrate what is possible when education and industry work together to prepare students for immediate employment upon graduation. To succeed, these programs require active leadership and input from the engineering community.

By working together, Mississippi can tackle workforce shortages, curb brain drain and create opportunities that keep young people here. It’s time to move from talk to action. Public schools are ready to train students for construction careers, but they need clear guidance on required skills and certifications.

Graduates with certifications can enter the workforce immediately, and those willing to travel can gain experience that makes them even more marketable long-term. Educators have the vision and willingness to succeed—they just need direction from industry professionals.

Let’s lead this effort and turn it into reality for our state.

*Special thanks to Jennifer Sloan Ziegler, Sarah McEwen, Representative Lee Yancey, Representative Donnie Bell, Senator Jeremy England, John McKay, Connie Jones (career coach Northwest Rankin High School, and Chris Chism (Pearl Public Schools Superintendent).*



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YOUR  
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Inspire the Next  
Generation of  
Engineers

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**ENGINEERING**

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## PEP Talks

### Promoting the Engineering profession

Engagement for the next generation of Engineers

Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers & Surveyors

[www.pepls.ms.gov](http://www.pepls.ms.gov)



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

### **1. How can I find out the status of my application?**

To find out the status of your application send an email inquiry to [information@pepls.state.ms.us](mailto:information@pepls.state.ms.us). Include your name and the date your application was submitted online. Also note your application type (i.e., initial, comity or comity with NCEES record or if a COA).

### **2. May I have the FE exam waived?**

Regardless of advanced education or experience or a waiver granted by another state, Mississippi law requires that BOTH the FE exam and the PE exam must be passed by all applicants for PE licensure, both initial applicants and comity applicants.

### **3. If I am applying with an NCEES record, what other documents am I required to submit for review?**

You will need to submit our electronic application and the application fee and arrange to have your NCEES Record sent directly to our office. Other documents may be required, if the NCEES Record does not fulfill all of Mississippi's requirements: two examples are at least one reference must be dated within the past 6 months and PE supervisor verification of experience for comity applicants with less than 10 years of licensure. Portions of the application are not required if you apply with the NCEES Record; please follow the instructions.

### **4. If I am applying for PE Comity licensure, am I required to verify all experience?**

Comity applicants with less than 10 years of licensure must verify at least four full years of experience by PE supervisor verification(s). Comity applicants with 10 years or more of licensure may verify experience with PE associates and peers.

### **5. Can I get a temporary license?**

Mississippi law does not allow for temporary licensure or "one-project-only licensure"

### **6. How can I be listed as a Structural Engineer?**

Mississippi does not license by discipline or areas of practice; the license title is Professional Engineer. The Code of Conduct requires the PE to restrict his practice to his area(s) of expertise which he obtained by either education, experience, or both.

More FAQ information can be found at the following link:

<https://www.pepls.ms.gov/frequently-asked-questions>



Congratulations to these successful examinees for the period of August 2, 2025, through February 28, 2026

## Fundamentals of Surveying

Mark Cuevas  
William Eubanks

Jason McMaster  
Joshua Mcpherson

Brantley Shaw  
Albert Tackett III

*The Fundamentals of Surveying (FS) exam is generally your first step in the process to becoming a licensed professional surveyor (P.S.). It is designed for recent graduates and students who are close to finishing an undergraduate surveying degree from an ABET-accredited program. The FS exam is a computer-based exam administered year-round in testing windows at NCEES-approved Pearson VUE test centers. The FS exam includes 110 questions, and the exam appointment time is 6 hours long. A \$225 exam fee is payable directly to NCEES.*

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## Principles and Practice of Surveying

William Morrison

Nolan Steele

*The PS exam tests your ability to practice within the surveying profession competently. It is designed for surveyors who have gained at least four years of professional experience. The PS exam is administered year-round via computer-based testing (CBT) at approved Pearson VUE test centers. A \$375 exam fee is payable directly to NCEES.*

---

## Mississippi Section Exam

Mark Barton  
Chad Benjamin  
Jarrod Black  
Marshall Davis  
Jerod Floor

Connor Hill  
Thomas Howell  
Kenyon Miller  
John Pannell  
Alberto Perez

Robert Richardson  
James Roan  
Timothy Wicker

*The two-hour Mississippi PS examination is CLOSED BOOK. It consists of 100 multiple choice questions counting one point each. In Mississippi, applicants must have passed the Fundamentals of Surveying examination, the Principles & Practice of Surveying examination, and the Mississippi Section examination to be licensed as a Professional Surveyor.*

# Why does Math Count? A play on words, or is it?

An article written by Rachel Jenkins, Public Relations Specialist

Recently, my son participated in a MATHCOUNTS competition through his school. As a parent I was proud to see him doing something that was not necessarily my strong suit when I was his age. To be honest, perhaps not even now. Then he advanced to the regional competition and I was like WOW!

As parents, we all want to give our children the strongest foundation possible for whatever future they choose. We encourage reading because it builds imagination. We support sports because it teaches teamwork and resilience. But when it comes to math, many of us quietly wonder: *Will my child really use this?*

From a parent's perspective, math matters deeply- and programs like MATHCOUNTS (a math competition sponsored locally by the Mississippi Engineering Society) show us exactly why.

## Math Builds More Than Numbers

When my son first showed interest in math, I thought it was about getting the right answer. But through experiences like the MATHCOUNTS Competition Series, I realized math is really about learning how to think.

In competitions, students don't just memorize formulas. They analyze patterns, test strategies, and approach problems from multiple angles. They learn to slow down, break challenges into manageable steps, and persist when a solution isn't obvious. These are life skills- not just academic skills.



As parents, we see this transfer everywhere:

- Better decision-making
- Stronger critical thinking
- Greater independence in tackling challenges

Math becomes less about worksheets and more about mindset.

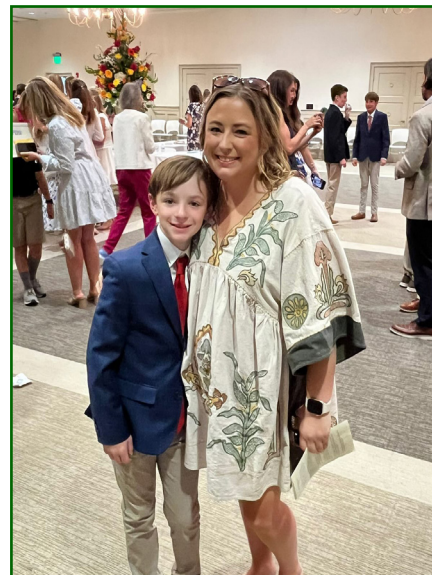
## Confidence Through Challenge

One of the most powerful things I've witnessed through the MATHCOUNTS competition is the confidence built through effort.

Competitions create an environment where challenge is expected. Students stretch beyond their comfort zones. They might not solve every problem- but they learn that struggle is part of the process and from that growth occurs. That lesson alone is invaluable.

When children stand up in front of their peers to solve a tough problem or answer a hard question during a competition round, they're not just demonstrating math ability, but self confidence in their individual ability to overcome nerves, think in the moment and then convey what they are thinking. In that moment, they are developing:

- Public speaking skills
- Composure under pressure
- Healthy responses to both success and disappointment



As a parent, watching your child grow comfortable with challenge is in many ways more rewarding than them winning the trophy. In that moment, as a parent, you begin to realize, if just a little, that your son or daughter is going to be okay in the world.

### **Math Opens Doors**

We often tell our children they can be anything they want to be. Math helps keep those doors open. Fields like engineering, geology, architecture, medicine, finance, data science, and technology all rely on strong mathematical foundations. Even creative careers- like game design, music production, and animation- use mathematical thinking behind the scenes.

Programs like MATHCOUNTS expose students to the excitement and possibility of math early on. *They begin to see it not as a subject to survive, but as a tool to build their future.*



### **Community and Belonging**

Another unexpected gift of math competitions is community. Through competitions, students meet peers who share their curiosity and enthusiasm. For many children- especially those who might not gravitate toward traditional extracurricular activities- this sense of belonging is transformative. Parents often see friendships form around problem-solving sessions and competition days. Math becomes social, collaborative, and wait for it ..... fun.

### **Resilience in a Competitive World**

We live in a fast-changing world. The ability to adapt, analyze information, and solve new problems is more important than ever.

Math teaches structured thinking:

- Identify the problem
- Gather relevant information
- Test possible solutions
- Evaluate results



These habits prepare children not just for academic success, but for navigating adulthood with clarity and confidence.

### **It's Not About Creating Math Geniuses**

Not every child will become a mathematician—and that's perfectly okay.

From a parent's perspective, math matters because it trains the brain, builds resilience, strengthens confidence, and keeps opportunities open. Competitions like MATHCOUNTS simply provide a powerful, engaging way to nurture those qualities.

In the end, math isn't just about numbers. It's about teaching our children how to think, how to persevere, and how to believe in their ability to solve hard things. And that's something every parent wants.

To learn more about the MATHCOUNTS competition or to volunteer, please visit the Mississippi Engineering Society website <http://msengsoc.org/students/mathcounts>.

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# LATE RENEWAL

Licensees are reminded that all professional engineers and surveyors' licenses must be renewed by the established renewal deadline. If a license is not renewed by the deadline, it will be considered late and the licensee may not practice engineering or surveying in Mississippi until the license has been properly renewed.

Online Licensure renewal begins on October 1st of each year and continues through December 31st. Late renewal occurs after December 31st. Currently, expired license renewals will continue to be accepted through June 30th of the following year (with the appropriate 10% per month late fee).

You can begin the late renewal process on our website ([www.pepls.ms.gov](http://www.pepls.ms.gov)). Look for the following on our website homepage (use your mouse to scroll down the page) and proceed accordingly.

## LICENSE RENEWALS

Complete online renewal of your Mississippi license through this link.

[RENEW HERE](#)

## MDOT Summer 2026 Internship Program



Apply now through March 31st  
at [GoMDOT.com/Careers](http://GoMDOT.com/Careers)

For questions, email [recruiting@mdot.ms.gov](mailto:recruiting@mdot.ms.gov)

# MISSISSIPPI SPOTLIGHT FEATURES

The Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors seeks to shine a spotlight on the licensed professionals who practice in the engineering and surveying professions in the State of Mississippi. Learn more about these individuals on our website under the Community & Advocacy tab at the following link: [www.pepls.ms.gov](http://www.pepls.ms.gov)



David Judice, PE  
October 2025



Joseph G. Beasley, EI  
November 2025



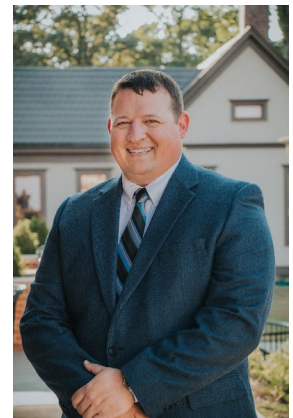
Christian Jon Louis Duncan  
December 2025



Kevin Hines, PS  
January 2026



Madi Thompson, EI  
February 2026



Robert Garner, PS  
March 2026

Not quite ready for Board service! We've got you covered, these groups are looking for you.

## **Volunteer today!**

Mississippi Engineering Society  
Mississippi Association of Professional Surveyors  
American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)/ ASCE Young Members  
WTS Mississippi  
National Society of Black Engineers  
Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers

# Civil Engineers in the US Navy

An article written by Joseph G. Beasley, EI

## The Vital Role of Civil Engineers in the U.S. Navy

Civil Engineers within the U.S. Navy play a pivotal role in ensuring that the military has the infrastructure it needs to operate efficiently and effectively, both in times of peace and conflict. These engineers, part of the U.S. Navy's Civil Engineer Corps (CEC), serve as a crucial bridge between engineering expertise and the Navy's operational readiness.

Their diverse responsibilities, ranging from ensuring that bases and facilities remain functional to providing critical infrastructure in combat zones, underscore their importance to the overall mission of national defense.



## The Civil Engineer Corps: Overview

The U.S. Navy's Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) is a vital component of the Navy, tasked with a wide range of duties that support the Navy's global operations. The CEC was established in 1867, and since then, its officers have played a fundamental role in providing construction, engineering, and public works services to the Navy, the U.S. Marine Corps, and other Department of Defense (DoD) agencies.

The role of a Civil Engineer Corps Officer is multifaceted and can be categorized into two major areas: **expeditionary construction** and **non-expeditionary construction**.

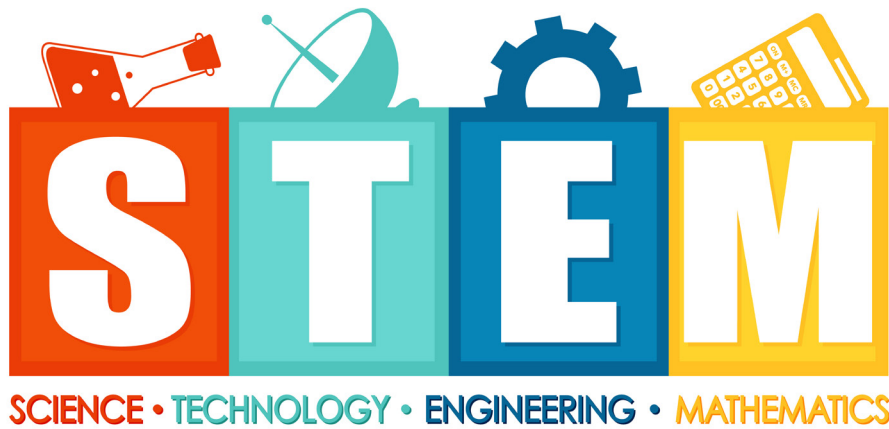
## Expeditionary Construction: Supporting the Warfighter

Expeditionary construction refers to the infrastructure needs required in conflict zones and operational theaters where rapid construction and repair of facilities are needed to support military operations. The Civil Engineer Corps Officers in this role are responsible for ensuring that the Navy and Marine Corps have the essential infrastructure to conduct operations on the ground, regardless of the circumstances.

### 1. Airfield Damage Repair

One of the most crucial tasks that Navy Civil Engineers undertake is airfield damage repair. Airfields are critical for aircraft operations in both combat and logistical missions. CEC officers are trained to assess damage to airfields quickly and effectively, often under combat conditions, and then prioritize repairs. This ability to restore airfield functionality is essential for maintaining the Navy's air superiority in a theater of operations.





# The Engineering & Surveying Community

## Events & Activities

Pathways2Possibilities Career Expo (Gulf Coast and Mississippi Delta)  
Mississippi Museum of Natural Science- Science Makers and Science Fest events  
NSBE- Summer Engineering Experience for Kids (SEEK) program  
United States Department of Agriculture APHIS- AG Discovery program  
MDOT- Mississippi Summer Transportation Institute (MSTI) program

## High schools with engineering clubs and/or programs

Jackson Public Schools (various campuses)  
Madison Central High School- Academy of Engineering  
Northwest Rankin High School  
Vicksburg Warren School District- Academy of Innovation

## Colleges & Universities

Millsaps College  
Mississippi College  
Pearl River Community College  
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College  
Northeast Mississippi Community College  
Delta State University  
Jackson State University  
Mississippi Valley State University  
Mississippi State University (various campuses)  
University of Mississippi  
University of Southern Mississippi (various campuses)  
Belhaven University Dual Major programs with MSU and UM  
Tougaloo College 3-2 program with MSU

## 2. Port Damage Repair

Ports and harbors are essential to military logistics, as they are the primary points of entry and exit for personnel, supplies, and equipment. Civil Engineers in the CEC are often tasked with repairing or rebuilding damaged ports and facilities after an attack or during conflict. In addition to restoring these critical transportation hubs, the Navy's Civil Engineers may also construct temporary expeditionary ports in support of military operations.

## 3. Expeditionary Base Construction

The construction of expeditionary bases is another key responsibility. These bases are often set up in remote locations or in war zones to provide the necessary facilities for troops to rest, rearm, and prepare for operations. Whether it's building base camps or constructing sophisticated forward operating bases, CEC Officers ensure that the Navy has the facilities it needs to project power and maintain operational capabilities.



## 4. Expeditionary Medical Facility Construction

In areas where combat or natural disasters occur, timely and efficient medical treatment is a top priority. Civil Engineers are involved in the establishment of expeditionary medical facilities, which can range from field hospitals to mobile clinics. These facilities are equipped with the necessary infrastructure, such as utilities, communication systems, and emergency access, to provide healthcare in the most austere conditions

## Non-Expeditionary Construction: Maintaining Global Readiness

While expeditionary construction focuses on operational theaters and combat zones, non-expeditionary construction deals with the day-to-day infrastructure requirements of military bases and installations worldwide. These officers ensure that military bases are maintained, construction projects are completed on time, and the infrastructure needed to support the Navy and Marine Corps' global mission is always operational.

### 1. Construction Management

Civil Engineers in non-expeditionary roles often serve as **construction managers**. These officers oversee and coordinate the execution of military construction projects across Navy and Marine Corps installations. They manage



a range of projects, from the construction of new buildings, roads, and bridges, to upgrades of existing facilities. Their job is to ensure that projects are completed on time, within budget, and in compliance with military standards and regulations.

### 2. Public Works Officer

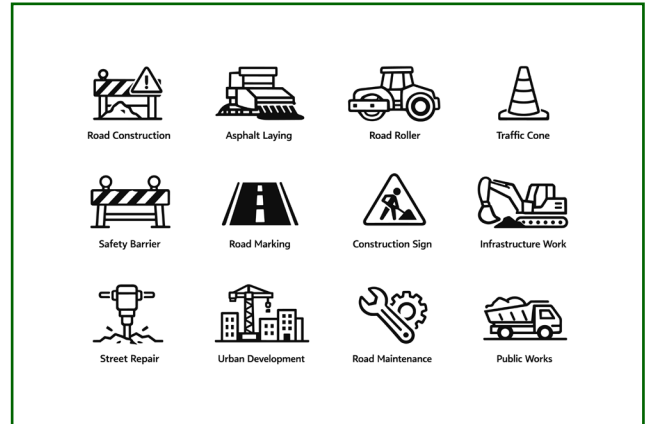
The **Public Works Officer** (PWO) plays a vital role in the ongoing maintenance and operation of military bases. PWOs are responsible for overseeing facilities management, including utilities such as water, electricity, and waste disposal, as well as building and grounds maintenance. They are also involved in long-term planning, ensuring that infrastructure investments align with the strategic goals of the Navy and the needs of the service members stationed there.

### 3. Resident Officer in Charge of Construction (ROICC)

The **Resident Officer in Charge of Construction (ROICC)** is another key figure in the Navy’s construction efforts. ROICCs are responsible for overseeing all aspects of construction, engineering, and acquisitions for a specific base or project. They manage contracts, supervise construction teams, and ensure compliance with Navy specifications. Whether overseeing the construction of a new barracks or managing repairs to an airfield, ROICCs are the linchpins in the management of complex projects that support the Navy’s readiness.

### The Impact of Civil Engineers on National Defense

The work of Civil Engineers in the U.S. Navy directly impacts the effectiveness of military operations. Without the expertise of these engineers, the Navy’s ability to deploy and maintain critical infrastructure, whether in combat zones or at home bases, would be severely compromised. Their ability to quickly rebuild, repair, and maintain military facilities ensures that warfighters have the resources they need to succeed.



Furthermore, the Navy’s Civil Engineers play a vital role in supporting humanitarian missions and disaster relief efforts. Their skills in rapidly constructing infrastructure in emergency situations help deliver vital aid to affected populations and restore stability in the aftermath of natural disasters.

In addition to their direct contributions to military operations, Civil Engineers in the Navy also help to advance the engineering profession by taking on challenging, high-stakes projects that require creativity, problem-solving, and technical expertise. Their work on military bases and in expeditionary settings often leads to innovations in construction techniques, materials, and design that can have long-lasting benefits to both military and civilian infrastructure.

### Conclusion

The role of Civil Engineers in the U.S. Navy is critical to ensuring the military’s operational readiness and long-term success. Whether working on expeditionary construction in hostile environments or maintaining and upgrading military facilities worldwide, these engineers provide the foundation for Navy operations. Their contributions are indispensable to the readiness of the U.S. military, ensuring that both the infrastructure and the warfighter have what they need to succeed.

As the demands of modern warfare evolve, the importance of Navy Civil Engineers will continue to grow, with new technologies, sustainable practices, and innovative engineering solutions shaping the future of military infrastructure. Their skill set, versatility, and dedication to service will remain a cornerstone of the U.S. Navy’s global operational capabilities.

*Articles in this edition by contributors are not necessarily the viewpoint or opinion of the Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers & Surveyors*



# DISCIPLINARY CASE SUMMARY



The Board is authorized by state law to regulate the practices of engineering and surveying in the State of Mississippi. If an unlicensed person practice engineering or surveying, the Board is authorized to pursue disciplinary action, and perhaps even legal action, against that person.

The Board is further authorized to pursue disciplinary action against a licensee for any violation of the licensure laws and the Board's rules and regulations, including, without limitation, the Code of Conduct, and the Standards of Surveying.

The Code of Professional Conduct is outlined in Part 901 Chapter 17 of our Rules and Regulations and can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.pepls.ms.gov/rules-regulations>

The Standards of Surveying can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.pepls.ms.gov/surveying-standards>

The Board's authority, however, does not extend to individual business matters such as contract disputes, disagreements regarding fees, boundary line disputes or financial damages that may be incurred because of an improper survey. Gross negligence in the performance of an engineer's or surveyor's work, though, may be actionable upon presentment of substantial evidence to the Board.

Each year the Board posts a listing of the Disciplinary cases for the past year to its websites. You can find the list on our website under the Board Disciplinary Actions at the following link:

<https://www.pepls.ms.gov/board-disciplinary-actions>

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## TRANSPARENCY

Mississippi's State Agencies are required to post notices of regular meetings on the Mississippi Public Meeting Notices Website. You can find notice of our meetings at the PUBLIC MEETING NOTICES WEBSITE (<https://www.ms.gov/dfa/pmn>) and on our agency website (<https://www.pepls.ms.gov/board-meeting-dates-and-minutes>).

# Celebrating Women's History Month

An article written by Monica Gilmore, Executive Director

The Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers & Surveyors presented former Board Member Sarah M. Tracy, PE with a recognition award at its February 24, 2026, board meeting.

Sarah is a graduate of the Bagley College of Engineering at Mississippi State University where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological / Biosystems Engineering. Sarah was licensed in Mississippi in July 1998 and was appointed to the Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers & Surveyors by Governor Phil Bryant in December 2016. She faithfully served until her retirement in June 2025. She represented Post 1, 1st District, Central Mississippi.

During her tenure on the Board she served as part of the Board Executive team at various times as Board President, Vice President and Secretary.

Sarah currently serves on the Awards committee for the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES). In August 2025, upon recommendation by the Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers & Surveyors, she was granted Emeritus Status with NCEES.

Sarah is continuing her engineering service as an Environmental Engineer with the United States Department of Agricultural – Rural Development. Prior to that, she was with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality as an Engineering Coordinator for more than 25 years. Sarah is also an active member of the Mississippi Engineering Society.

The award was presented by Board President, Carey Hardin, PE.



March is Women's history month. Honor someone you know today!

# PEpLS in the Community

2025 Science Fest- Mississippi Children's Museum, September 2025



**FE Recognition Ceremony-  
Mississippi State University  
October 2025**



# PEpLS in the Community

Continued

Annual Infrastructure Consortium 2025- MSU, October 2025



Pathways2Possibilities- Mississippi Gulf Coast- November 2025



# PEpLS in the Community

Continued

Mississippi Board of Licensure for PEpLS  
Annual Open House, February 2026





## Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers & Surveyors

# SUMMER INTERNSHIP

*Come work for the licensure board and gain valuable administrative and professional experience*

### Internship Details

- Duration: June 1 - July 31, 2026
- Commitment: 12+ hours per week (flexible schedule available)
- Signed Memorandum of Understanding required before intake
- Workdays: 2-3 times per week, approximately 4+ hours per day
- Unpaid internship opportunity
- Location: 455 North Lamar Street, Suite 208, Jackson, MS 39202

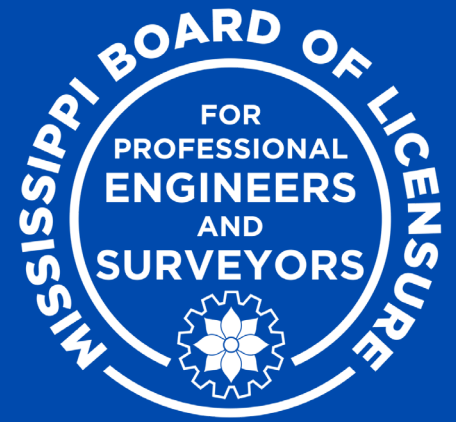
### Why Intern with Us?

- Gain knowledge of the PE and PS licensure process and applicable regulations
- Opportunity of shared knowledge from PE/PS licensees who serve on the licensure board
- Exposure and networking opportunities

## TO APPLY

Send your Resume to:  
MSBOARD@pepls.state.ms.us

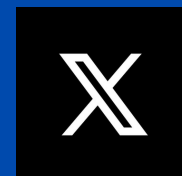
**Apply before May 15, 2026**



For questions, or to express interest, please contact us today!

601-359-6160  
MSBOARD@pepls.state.ms.us

### Follow Us!





Promoting the  
Engineering Profession

# PEP Talks

Engagement for the next generation of Engineers

## Board Meeting Schedule

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held at the Board office at 455 North Lamar Street, Suite 208 in Jackson, Mississippi.

You can access the meeting minutes from prior board meetings on the agency website at the following link: <https://www.pepls.ms.gov/board-meeting-dates-and-minutes>

## How to follow and contact us:



Receive important news,  
alerts and reminders  
by scanning the QR code to  
quickly opt-in!

Text PEPLS to  
844-328-7575  
or Scan the QR Code



(standard data rates apply)

Website: [www.pepls.ms.gov](http://www.pepls.ms.gov)

Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers & Surveyors  
455 North Lamar Street, Suite 208, Jackson, MS 39202  
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