PEP TALKS

PROMOTING THE ENGINEERING PROFESSION (PEP)

INTERNS ENGINEERS SURVEYORS

Volume 2 / Issue 2 - March 2024

2023 - 2024 BOARD

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BOARD MESSAGE:

Your Board of Licensure is amid an update of our rules and exploring the possibility of asking the legislature to update the engineering and surveying law. The last complete update to rules was on January 1, 2020, and an emergency rule change took place last year to allow for biennial renewal.

The 2024 rule change will be an effort to reduce regulation and align the Mississippi Rules with the National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors (NCEES) Model Rules. State Licensure Boards use NCEES Model Law and Model Rules, which are updated on an annual basis, as a guide for creating and maintaining their own laws and rules.

The rule change process for Licensure Boards is administered by the Secretary of State's office as set out by the legislature. A few years ago, the legislature established the Occupational Licensing Review Commission (OLRC) which is comprised of the Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House, and Secretary of State.

All Occupational Licensure Boards must submit any proposed rule to the commission and then submit the rule to the Secretary of State where it is made available for public comment. After comments are received, the proposed rule goes back to the Commission for approval, after which the final rule is filed with the Secretary of State's office.

For the rules update in 2020, it took several months to navigate this process.

Items the Board are considering changing in the model rules are:

- Change Rule 3.12 Retention Schedule. We are currently required to keep all records on licensees for 75 years or until 7 years after death. Record on disciplinary action or violations are kept indefinitely. We propose to align this schedule with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History requirements.
- Change Rule 3.1.5, 3.6 and 3.7.4 to be inclusive of all colleges and universities in the state that have an ABET EAC Engineering Degrees.
- Change Rule 3.3 and 11.12 to reflect that the only pencil and paper exams given are the state specific examination for surveying. All other examinations are now computer based and administered by NCEES at third party testing centers.
- Change rule 11.3.2 to more clearly state that the PE examination does not require citation by the board. This changed with decoupling.
- Formally incorporate changes for Biennial renewal into Chapters 7, 15, 16
- Change Rule 23.7.D. Age exemption for continuing professional competency (CPC). Mississippi exempts licensees that are 60 years of age or older with 20 years of experience from CPC requirements. NCEES Model Rules do not provide an exemption based on age.

As we work our way through the rules, we are certain that we will find other areas that need to be addressed. Our rules and NCEES model rules can be found online. We encourage licensees to review them and make suggestions.

We are just starting our review of our law. If we find any items that are out of date or out of line with NCEES Model Law, we will reach out to licenses for input prior to approaching the legislature. We understand the hesitation or concern over "opening the law" and will only do so after thoughtful deliberation and consultation with professional societies that represent our professions.

We look forward to hearing from you with any questions, comments, or concerns.



Steve Twedt, P.E. Board Member 2016 - Present Board Committee – "Tackle the Tape" Initiative

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

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Frequently asked questions

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Disciplinary / legal actions



Promoting the Engineering profession

Engagement for the next generation of Engineers

Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers & Surveyors

www.pepls.ms.gov

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Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers & Surveyors

Executive Director Announcement

The Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors is pleased to announce the appointment of Monica Gilmore as its new Executive Director. Ms. Gilmore attended Alcorn State University as a pre-engineering major and then attended Mississippi State University where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. While at Mississippi State University she was a member of the Alumni Ambassador Program and graduated with honors. At Alcorn State University she pledged Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and was a President's list scholar.

She is a member of the 2014 class of "Mississippi's 50 Leading Business Women" and is a Class of 2010 member of Leadership Greater Jackson. She is also the 2009 Volunteer of the Year for the City of Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce. She is a native Mississippian and grew up in Port Gibson, Mississippi not far from the campus of Alcorn State University.

She is a champion of programs which introduce youth to careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and helped to bring the National Society of Black Engineers Summer Engineering Experience for Kids (SEEK) program to Jackson, Mississippi. She also previously served as a member of the Board for Jackson Public Schools, during which time she also served as the Board President.

Since joining the Licensure Board, she has been responsible for implementing such programs as the monthly Spotlight Feature and the rebranding of the agency newsletter into what's now known as PEP Talks. The PEP Talks newsletter highlights and promotes the engineering and surveying professions in the State of Mississippi, provides exam and licensee information as well as Board updates.

Ms. Gilmore previously served as the agency Public Relations and Outreach Coordinator and brings more than 7 years of experience in the licensure and compliance field to this new role. In addition, she has more than 20 years of experience in the environmental consulting business.

The Board looks forward to continued service to the engineering and surveying professions in the State of Mississippi.

Patrick Martino, PLS Board President

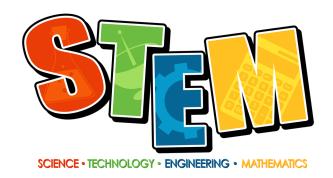


Image by brgfx on Freepik

The Engineering & Surveying Community

Events & Activities

Pathways 2 Possibilities 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

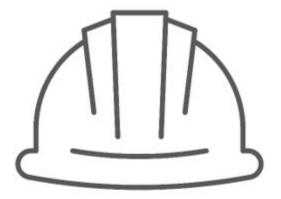
High schools with engineering clubs and/or programs

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

Colleges & Universities

Milsaps College
Mississippi College
Pearl River Community College
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College
Mississippi Community College
Northeast Mississippi Community College
Delta State University
Jackson State University
Mississippi Valley 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

If you know of other program, events, schools, colleges, or universities, please send us an email at information@pepls.state.ms.us and tell us all about it.



Promoting the Engineering Profession

PEP Talks

Engagement for the next generation of Engineers

College Students

NCEES Ambassador program!

NCEES has allocated funds for an FE Ambassador Program for five pilot schools. FE Ambassadors will be student leaders equipped to promote the FE exam on their campuses through campus events and social media. In the coming months, the groups will hold events across the country that highlight the value of engineering and public works careers to attract students and employees to these types of professional careers.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 GRANT RECIPIENTS



The Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors ("Board") received legislative approval (See HB1690) to offer <u>one-time grants for state programs providing qualifying education in engineering and surveying leading to professional licensure</u>.

In October 2022, the Board issued a call for grant applications for its 2023 award season. All colleges and / or universities actively operating in the State of Mississippi with a known, qualifying engineering and /or surveying program as of October 2022 were sent both Email and regular mail notice of the availability of grant funds and invited to submit grant applications accordingly.

Grant applications approved for reimbursement pending receipt of the applicable paid invoices included:

- Jackson State University a reimbursement grant in the amount of \$33,026
 - o Civil & Environmental Engineering
- Mississippi State University a reimbursement grant in the amount of \$152,289
 - o Civil Engineering (including surveying)
- University of Southern Mississippi A reimbursement grant in the amount of \$49,335
 - o Polymer Science & Engineering
- University of Mississippi a reimbursement grant in the amount of \$129,439
 - Mechanical Engineering (2)
 - Electrical & Computer Engineering
 - Geology & Geological Engineering

Only those state schools with a qualifying engineering and /or surveying program are considered. In total, \$364,089 was reimbursed through the grants.

Follow us on social media (LinkedIn and Twitter) and our website for details on future grant opportunities.

USM Ocean Engineering Program Receives ABET Accreditation



An article written by Gabriela Shinskie, Gero Nootz, PhD. and Kemal Cambazoglu, PhD.



The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) School of Ocean Science and Engineering (SOSE) has achieved a significant milestone with the ABET accreditation of its Ocean Engineering (OE) bachelor's program.

This accreditation assures that the program meets standards to produce graduates ready to enter critical technical fields that are leading the way in innovation, emerging technologies, and anticipating the welfare and safety needs of the public. Students graduating from an ABET accredited program can be confident that they are acquiring a top-notch education that is recognized by employers. Scholarship opportunities and career enhancement are often contingent on students being enrolled in an ABET accredited program.



Now that the OE program is ABET-accredited, students are also qualified to take the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) and later Professional Engineer (PE) exams for career advancement. Members of the Program's External Advisory Board from industry and federal institutions resonated on the importance of PE licensure confirming that it could lead to promotions. Additional information on the pathway to licensure can be found on the Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers & Surveyors at https://www.pepls.ms.gov/requirements.

Dr. Robert Leaf, Interim Director of SOSE is grateful for his team and the continued success of USM's coastal programs. "Supporting this blue economy initiative in Mississippi is critical. The accreditation confirms the role of USM in promoting the Blue Economy and highlights the return on investment that undergraduate students participating in this program will realize. This is a program that will continue to serve the demands of our business leaders for high-quality and well-trained engineering talent," said Leaf.

The degree program has its roots in the Center of Marine Sciences that was established at Stennis Space Center in 1985 as an effort by Dr. George Knauer. A master's and Ph.D. in Marine Science was established in 1987 and 1990, respectively. In 2000, a master's degree in Hydrographic Sciences was added. Undergraduate programs in Marine Sciences and Hydrography are offered at the Gulf Park campus since 2007 and 2016, respectively. With the establishment of the new Ocean Engineering BS Program, USM's School of Ocean Science and Technology was renamed the School of Ocean Science and Engineering (SOSE) in 2018 (www.usm.edu/ocean). SOSE is

composed of two divisions, the Division of Marine Science, and the Division of Coastal Sciences, offering Bachelor of Science degrees in OE, Marine Science, Hydrography and Marine Biology. SOSE also offers Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Marine Science and Coastal Sciences with research foci in disciplines such as Biological Oceanography, Physical Oceanography, Marine Chemistry, Geological Oceanography, Hydrographic Sciences, Coastal Ecology, Fisheries, and Marine Aquaculture. These programs offer students significant hands-on experience with real-world research leading to fulfilling employment opportunities.

The USM- operated fleet of research vessels ranges in size from the 199 ft Regional Class Research Vessel (RCRV) Gilbert R. Mason (scheduled to come online in 2025) to trailer able small boats, greatly enhances ocean research in the Gulf of Mexico. OE students can take their research on the water through various research cruises aboard USM's research vessels. The research cruises allow students to experience ocean technologies and engage in oceanographic science. Students can deploy scientific instruments to collect environmental data, launch and recover autonomous vehicles while collecting plankton samples and sediment corers.



Success doesn't stop there for SOSE. While in the OE program, students benefit from ocean engineering industry internships. Each internship allows students to network and experience real-world careers before graduation. The internships count for academic credit and prepare students for the workforce. USM values its industry internship partners and encourages organizations to reach out to the university with internship options for students.



Dr. Kemal Cambazoglu, assistant professor of OE, said "an internship before graduation is a huge benefit allowing students to acquire knowledge and skills through the university. The internships then give them the ability to use that knowledge and apply those skills. They get exposed to a professional environment and learn how these companies work." Cambazoglu explained.

The knowledge and hands-on experiences offered by the OE program inspires students to do more. "We are a new and still growing program with a very dedicated faculty and students. I am excited about the prospect of our program, and I am looking forward to seeing what our students will accomplish while at USM and in their professional careers" said the Ocean Engineering Program Coordinator Dr. Gero Nootz.

About the authors, Gabriela Shinskie is a digital and media relations specialist at USM; Gero Nootz, Ph.D. and Kemal Cambazoglu, Ph.D. are faculty in the School of Ocean Science and Engineering at USM.



Congratulations to these successful examinees for the period of

July 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023

Fundamentals of Engineering

Jonathan Ashley Meagan Brown Antonio Buchanan **Issac Buckner Hunter Bullard** Tai Wai Cheng **Brayden Cook Lukas Cox** William Crook **Adam Easley Cody Ellzey Kylar Fielder Chase Gartrell** William Gatewood **Peyton Greenwood Troy Hill Charles Holland**

Jacob Holt **Wyatt Johnson Brandon Johnson** Charles Koski, III Richard Leonard, III **Nicholas Lowe** Tyler Mabry Steven Marshall Mitchell Martin John Minor **Chase Morgan Grant Peterson** Will Priest William Quinlen **Nickolas Redwine Patrick Rikard Matthew Rimmer**

Conor Roberts John Robertson Saeed Rokooei Emma Sapen **Nicholas Saucier Terry Schickel Jackson Slay Graham Smith Madilyn Thompson Ester Tseng** Coleman Vaughan **Janie Watts** Joseph Westerfield **Don Williams** John Winstead William Wolfe Nicholas Zumbro

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.

Make it Official using your NCEES Digital Badge

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 Honor cords

NCEES has announced that they plan to make honor cords available for students to wear during their graduation commencement exercises. NCEES hopes to be able to offer FE and FS honor cords to all students who pass the FE and FS exams prior to graduation starting in December 2022.





Congratulations to these successful examinees for the period of July 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023

Fundamentals of Surveying

Stephen Everette Dooley
Grant Allen Martin
William Burns Morrison
Adam Wesley Oaks

John Russell Pannell

Mason Michael Robbins

Benjamin Lee Shelton

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.



Establishing Yourself...While Engineering! An article written by Jessica L. Simms, El

"Write the vision and make it plain on tablets (paper), that he may run who reads it" (Habakkuk 2:2, New King James Version). It is not always easy to walk in purpose, for self-doubt or fear can pose a challenge. I've been asked this question times before, "Why did you choose civil engineering as a profession?" With confidence, my response is always my faith. I enjoy math and science but didn't know where the interest would lead me. There is an assurance knowing you're where you are supposed to be in life. Whether you are fresh out of college, or a seasoned Professional Engineer, it is a call we've all answered.

Establishing a career takes continual commitment to press forward towards a successful and impactful career. So, how do we stay encouraged in walking out our vision as interns and engineers? Put on the whole "armor" that aligns our mission to everyday work.



The Helmet: Never Stop Learning

Be open to learning from everyone around you. Education is important, while building character is just as important. I'm learning this race is not given to the swift, but to those who hold out to the very end. Upon receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in civil and environmental engineering from Mississippi State University, it was my goal to return and attain a Master of Science degree in civil engineering. In November 2020, my vision was accomplished!

The Belt and Breastplate: Keep the Passion for the Profession

As years go by, familiarity in our careers can turn into routine. This is where balance between the "fire" that once sparked your interest in engineering versus the realities of your work meets purpose and mission. Cultivate new skill sets and get involved in the advocacy of the profession. Learn new ways to be innovative and stay hungry for change.



The Feet: Prepare the Future

Preparing future engineers for the challenges ahead begins with mentorship. In the words of Mary McLeod Bethune, "knowledge is the prime need of the hour" (Mary McLeod Bethune: My Last Will and Testament). Partner with local organizations or councils to promote a pathway between graduating students and the local workforce. This ensures a healthy workforce through internships and job shadowing. Every year local businesses of DeSoto County, MS display their careers at the county's P2P: Bridge the Gap Career Fair. Civil-Link, LLC (my place of

employment) showcases scaled designs, from a hydraulic flume to GIS topo-station, for demonstration of real-world problems. Being active in your local community and professional organizations bridge the gap of awareness and the realities of engineering.

The Sword and Shield: The Integrity of the Profession

Licensure matters! *Model Rules,* Section 240.15 Rules of Professional Conduct says it best, our obligation is "to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public and to maintain integrity and high standards of skill and practice in the engineering and surveying professions".



So, now you feel equipped for the next phase of your career? Let's walk it out!

About the Author: Jessica is a graduate of Mississippi State University where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering and a Master of Science degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering with a non-thesis emphasis in Geotechnical Engineering. She currently works with Civil-Link in the northern Mississippi office.

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



Celebrate National Surveyors Week - March 17 - 23, 2024

Fun fact: Former President Ronald Reagan proclaimed National Surveyors Week on February 13, 1984. The week is intended to educate the public about surveying through classroom contact, media, and visible public service.







Congratulations to these successful examinees for the period of

July 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023

Principles and Practice of Surveying

James Brown
Adam Oaks
Jereme Smith

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.



Data Collection, Data Sources, and Accumulation of Error

An article written by Sarah McEwen, PE

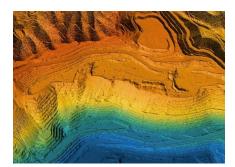
In today's world of open-source data, and artificial intelligence (AI), we as engineers must adapt and dig deeper in assessing what data we use in our designs. The saying goes "garbage in, is garbage out" and this is especially true when we start to look at the data collection phase of a project and design.

It is important to know who, what, when, why, and how the data is being used. Who collected the data? What was the intended use of the data? Why was it collected? How was it collected? When was it collected?

Who collected the data can tell you a lot about the quality and whether any quality assurance was done. How, why, when, and what was the purpose of the data being collected may lead you to see what gaps in collection you need to fill if your project purpose is different.



For example, LiDAR collected by the United States Geological Survey, because of its funding is often heavily reviewed and processed before publishing. LiDAR is typically done for large terrain collection and like other data sources, should be reviewed for limitations like resolution.



The LiDAR might be collected as a Point Cloud, then filtered into a data product bare earth Digital Elevation Model (DEM).

Standard DEMs can be found from USGS at the 1-meter level.

It is often collected as a direct response to a state or federal programs need, like FEMA mapping

or statewide watershed programs.

How and when it was collected might lead to limitations in detail. For instance, if data was collected during high water some low-lying areas might not be picked up in detail if submerged.

If you were looking to use LiDAR to supplement survey across a site, you need to consider all the factors above to state any limitations on your



analysis, or additional post processing like collecting and applying bathymetry when reporting the results.

Every input, every data source, and every unknown accumulates our uncertainty. We all know from a practical sense, you use "best available data" but sometimes in rural areas, that data can be limited. We should strive to develop a technical approach that respects the available data, budget, and design criteria. Being sure we meet any regulatory and best practice requirements. Sometimes depending on the phase of the project more risk and uncertainty can be tolerated. It is our duty to state our limitations, any decisions we make that play a critical role in the analysis or application of the data, and our recommendations as professionals.

So, as a helpful tool I want to share some of my go to data sources:

- Mississippi Automated Resource Information System <u>MARIS</u> (<u>mississippi.edu</u>)- a wellrounded data collection system with Mississippi specific information including transportation, elevation, political, and census data.
- 2. FEMA Flood Map <u>Services</u>- A great first stop when assessing what if any FEMA flood hazards you need to consider.
- 3. National Land Cover Database (<u>NLCD</u>) landcover database for support in evaluating Manning's N or change in development over time
- 4. <u>Web Soil Survey Home (usda.gov)</u> provides soil data and information produced by the National Cooperative Soil Survey.
- 5. National Map Download <u>TNM Download v2 (nationalmap.gov)</u> a great catch all hub for USGS data including elevation, aerial, and hydrography.
- NOAA ATLAS 14 <u>PF Map: Contiguous US (noaa.gov)</u> (Note: Atlas 15 coming soon)precipitation data

About the Author: Sarah is a graduate of Mississippi State University where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering. She is the President of the Friends of the Mississippi River Basin Model and currently works at Neel-Schaffer, Inc. as Central Region Hydrology and Hydraulics Discipline Lead.



Public Outreach:

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 information@pepls.state.ms.us.



Congratulations to these successful examinees for the period of July 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023

Mississippi Section Exam

Brett Antill
James Blanchard, Sr.
Stephen Boergerhoff
David Campbell
Scott Catron

Harry Dike
Jonathan Herrod
Jonathan Murphy
Kevin Ralph

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 <u>Mississippi Section examination</u> to be licensed as a Professional Surveyor*.

^{*}Additional education and / or experience requirements also apply.

A day in the life of an MDOT Project Engineer

An article written by Trent Holbrook, PE



Engineers have many roles at the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT). As Project Engineers, we are involved in all stages of a project

from planning and design to construction. Throughout the state you will see construction projects on highways and interstates to maintain and improve our infrastructure. Many of these projects are inspected and overseen by MDOT Project Engineers.

Working in the Jackson Metro area over the Whitfield Project Office, I am involved in a wide variety of projects. Some projects are more complex than others. These projects range in complexity from asphalt overlays on an existing roadway to the new construction of bridges.



Project Engineers work hand in hand with contractors to make sure projects are done safely, per the design, and efficiently as possible.

Recently we completed the bridge replacement of the Interstate 20 eastbound bridge 44.9B. It spanned U.S. Highway 51, Interstate 55 south, and Canadian National / Illinois Central Railroad in Hinds County.

The project in total cost approximately forty-five million dollars. The project also included the widening of Interstate 20 eastbound and Interstate 55 northbound for the new bridge and roadway alignment ramps.

An average of 114,000 vehicles travel this stretch of interstate daily, making it one of the most heavily traveled roadways in the state. Because of this high-volume traffic count, lane closures on interstate lanes and ramps were restricted to nighttime and weekend work for most of the project. Many closures required contractor-furnished traffic control plans to be reviewed and approved prior to execution.

Soil instability and the massive size of the concrete beams needed to span the railroad caused even more challenges.

Active slides throughout the project needed to be addressed before and during the project. Piles were driven around the railroad to ensure there was no movement of the slopes during construction.

The beams set at the railroad were over 200,000 pounds each and approximately 170 feet long making them the largest beams ever set by MDOT.



A special system, Self-Propelled Modular Transporters, or SPMT for short, was used to handle the massive beams. Even with all these challenges, the project was a great success and finished ahead of schedule thanks to the Engineers and inspectors for both the Contractor and MDOT.

In total, the following scopes of work were accomplished in building this bridge:

- 15,364 cubic yards of concrete poured
- 2.8 million pounds of reinforcement installed
- 27,432 tons of asphalt paved
- 22,103 tons of 610 Stone hauled
- 13,480 linear feet of stability piles driven

About the Author: Trent is a graduate of Louisiana State University where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. He currently serves as the Resident Engineer in the Mississippi Department of Transportation's Whitfield Project office.



The Mississippi Department of Transportation is responsible for providing a safe intermodal network that is planned, designed, constructed, and maintained in an effective, cost efficient, and environmentally sensitive manner.

Interested in a career with the Mississippi Department of Transportation?

You can find all their open position listings at the following website:

https://mdot.ms.gov/portal/MDOTcareers/

National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying





NCEES is still seeking architectural engineers to participate in a professional activities and knowledge study, or PAKS, for the PE Architectural Engineering exam. The results of this online survey will be used to update the content of the PE exam, which is a process that occurs every six to eight years.

If you are a licensed professional engineer, we would appreciate your input. The survey can be completed in about 20–30 minutes.

The survey will be open until **April 24, 2024**. Please help us spread the word about this important study by sharing this email with any colleagues who are licensed architectural engineers. NCEES sincerely thanks you for your contribution to ensure the PE Architectural Engineering exam is reflective of the current practice of P.E.s.

For more information, contact NCEES Exam Development Engineer Sonya Dawson, P.E., at sdawson@ncees.org.



NCEES is seeking licensed environmental engineers to participate in a professional activities and knowledge study, or PAKS, for the PE Environmental exam. The results of this online survey will be used to update the content of the PE exam, which is a process that occurs every six to eight years.

NCEES requires a cross section of licensed professional engineers practicing environmental engineering—including those working in industry, consulting, the public sector, and academia—to complete the survey. If you are a licensed professional engineer, we would appreciate your input. The survey can be completed in about 15–20 minutes.

The survey will be open until May 5, 2024. Please help us spread the word about this important study by sharing this email with any colleagues who are licensed environmental engineers. NCEES sincerely thanks you for your contribution to ensure the PE Environmental exam is reflective of the current practice of P.E.s.

For more information, contact NCEES Exam Development Engineer Andy Bindewald, P.E., at abindewald@ncees.org.



Congratulations to these successful examinees for the period of July 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023

Principles and Practice of Engineering

Stephen Ball
Daron Chandler, II
James Conley
Christopher Cornelius
Colleen Cure
Joshua Foster
Westin Graves
Carisa Grieve
Lee Hall
Mitchell Harris

Will Herrington
Stewart Inman
Christian Jackson
Brittany Jamison
Christopher Johnson
Skylar Jones
Carly Little
Grace Mauberret
Melanie McGuire
Rachel McKenzie

Todd Pierce
James Scruggs
Brian Sullivan
Haley Teer
Amanda Tritinger
Easton Van Every
Macey Wallace
Howard Weaver, Jr.

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.



mentor and mentee.

The Benefits of Mentorship

The gift that gives back to both the mentor and mentee. An article written by Dishili Young, PE

How can a young professional effectively progress towards their goals, when they cannot clearly see the path? How can a seasoned professional sharpen their own technical skills and gain fresh perspective, while increasing their impact on the community? The answer to both questions can be found in one word and that's **mentorship**. Mentorship provides countless benefits to *both* the

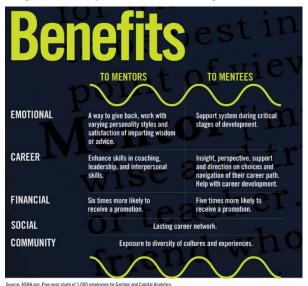
IF I HAVE SEEN FURTHER IT IS BY STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS

SIR ISAAC NEWTON

A study conducted by Gartner and Capital Analytics used statistical analysis to examine the financial impact of mentoring. They found that it provided success for mentors, mentees, and employers. Listed below is a small sample of their findings:

- Mentees are five times more likely to be promoted than those who are not mentored.
- Mentors are promoted six times more often.
- **100%** of Fortune 50 companies have mentorship programs¹:

Mentorship more efficiently and effectively grows the mentee. Mentors provide vision, encouragement, and accountability. For **10 years** I had a goal to obtain a post graduate degree. Within **3 months** of sharing this goal with my mentor, I started graduate school. He created a plan which allowed me to prepare for



the GRE, take it and enroll in school during that short time. I went on to obtain that degree ahead of schedule, despite dealing with the loss of a spouse, working extended hours, and maintaining numerous outside commitments. Mentors equip you with the tools and skills to quickly accomplish seemingly unachievable goals.

However, the benefits of mentorship also extend to the mentor. Mentors can experience improved leadership and communication skills. They can obtain increased recognition, gain new perspective, and obtain new skillsets.

¹ Mentorship statistics: the research you need to know; *The Mentor Method* Mentoring Statistics: The Research You Need to Know (thementormethod.com)

Most importantly, mentors are provided with an opportunity to give back and shape the future which provides them with a renewed sense of personal fulfillment. I have had the pleasure of mentoring what I believe are some of the brightest, forward-thinking young professionals. Among many things, they have sharpened my technical skills by asking unique and thoughtful questions: and they offered a fresh perspective which has brought my approach to employee recruitment and retention to an elevated level. Probably the most fulling part of my experience as a mentor is seeing some become mentors to others.

In summary, mentorship offers benefits at all levels. It is my deepest desire that you will have the opportunity to experience some of these same benefits from mentorship at both a personal and professional level.

About the author: Dishili Young, PE currently serves as Vice President and Engineering manager with Neel-Schaffer in it's baton Rouge, LA office. She holds both a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Louisiana State University and Auburn University, respectively.

Did You Know:

Applicants for professional engineering licensure in the State of Mississippi can obtain qualifying experience through a mentoring arrangement. They can!

To learn more review Section 9.11 of the Mississippi rules and regulations found at the following link:

https://www.pepls.ms.gov/rules-regulations



THOUGHTS ON MENTORSHIP

"Everything in the world has been passed down. Every piece of knowledge is something that has been shared by someone else. If you understand it as I do, mentoring becomes your true legacy. It is the greatest inheritance you can give to others. It is why you get up every day—to teach and be taught." - John Wooden

If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.

Booker T. Washington

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

— Maya Angelou



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

In each newsletter we hope to share information on the most frequently asked questions.

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

To find out the status of your application send an email inquiry to <u>information@pepls.state.ms.us</u>. Include your name and the date your application was submitted either online or mailed to the agency. Also note your application type (i.e., initial, comity or comity with an 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

Make A Difference!

An article written by Charles Williams Jr., PE, PhD



When I graduated from the University of Mississippi with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering in August 1996, I never considered becoming a Municipal City Engineer. The opportunity came Spring of 2002 when I received a call from Calvin Dean, PE, who was the manager for the Streets, Bridges and Drainage Division within the City of Jackson's Department of Public Works. He asked me to consider joining the Public Works Department. I politely declined, thinking municipal government was not for me. He called again about a month later, and I politely declined the offer again. Mr. Dean did not give up; he contacted me a third time, and this time I said yes.



I started as the City of Jackson's drainage engineer in May 2002. My duties involved maintaining the City's drainage system. I later became a Senior Civil Engineer, City Engineer, and Director of Public Works all with the City of Jackson. My tenure in each of these roles allowed me to design, manage, and construct vital infrastructure improvements throughout the city. I also learned about fiscal responsibilities for handling local, state, and federal funding resources. In addition, the ability to interact with diverse agency officials led to

the creation of a valuable network of professional relationships that I value and nurture to this day.

I believe my most important role in municipal service was articulating the value of improving vital infrastructure projects to the residents of Jackson. The ability to create relationships built on trust was very important to me. That was not an easy task because Jackson was and still is going through some major infrastructure challenges causing residents to have very little faith in its public officials.

I grew up in West Jackson and considered it an honor to give back to the community that supported and raised me by using my technical and academic experience to help better it. The road was not always smooth; it required that I have and develop a very thick skin and a lot of patience. The reward for me was finally seeing infrastructure projects completed and the smiles from the residents who saw their community improved and municipal services enhanced.

Many urban cities are struggling with multiple infrastructure issues ranging frow water, wastewater, bridges, and transportation. The passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) will provide funding to assist with rebuilding roads, bridges, rail, water, and wastewater infrastructure. All of these are vital to the health, welfare, and security of our cities.

The need for civil engineers will increase nationwide, especially in urban areas. I realize that working for a municipality may not sound as attractive or exciting as working in the private sector, **but this job led me to my purpose.**

Bishop T.D. Jakes is quoted, "If you can't figure out your purpose, figure out your passion. For your passion will lead you right into your purpose." **My passion for engineering led me to my purpose** — which was helping people.

I spent 20 years as a municipal city engineer and my last few years as a public works director. I have no regrets about joining the City of Jackson's Public Works Department. I took a **leap of faith**, and it led me to a great career as a public servant. I grew a network of professional relationships and personal friendships during my tenure. Most important were the relationships built with the citizens of Jackson. I value and appreciate it all; more than many could possibly ever understand.

If you are a young or old engineer. I urge you to consider supporting the growth, welfare, and sustainability of your community by becoming a Municipal City Engineer.

<u>About the author:</u> Dr. Williams is a retired public works / city engineer for the City of Jackson. He is currently employed as a research civil engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Research and Development Center. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the states of Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana.

Here are five things that municipal engineers do to support your community:

Design - municipal engineers design the public infrastructure (streets, drinking water system, recreational parks, and storm sewer systems in a community).

Review – municipal engineers review developments planned within their city.

Plan – municipal engineers are always looking toward the future. They develop Capital Improvement Plans to identify the most crucial needs of a city.

Budget – municipal engineers manage the city's infrastructure budge and assist the city with applying for state, regional, and federal funding.

Collaborate – municipal engineers work with a city's stakeholders to make improvements throughout the city. They serve as an important liaison between the city, it's citizens and state and federal agencies.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE! BECOME A MUNICIPAL CITY ENGINEER

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. One way we do that is through our Spotlight features. Provided below are the licensed professionals featured in the latter half of 2023.

Learn more about these individuals on our website at the following link: https://www.pepls.ms.gov under the Community & Advocacy tab.

Engineer Interns:



Jackson Berry December 2023



Randall Layne Loftin February 2024

To see the full feature visit

https://www.pepls.ms.gov/engineer-intern-spotlight



Professional Engineers:



Janie Myers Knight, P.E. October 2023



Robert Kris Riemann, P.E. November 2023

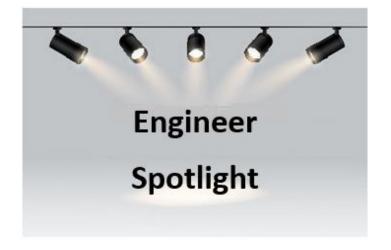


Dr. John T. Wade, P.E.

January 2024

To see the full feature visit

https://www.pepls.ms.gov/engineer-spotlight





Amanda Tritinger, PhD, PE March 2024



Dual Licensees:



Danny LeRoy Rick, Jr., PE, PS December 2023

To see the full feature visit

https://www.pepls.ms.gov/dual-licensee-spotlight



SPOTLIGHT FEATURE NOMINATION FORM

To nominate an engineer and/or surveyor or intern for the spotlight feature, please contact us at information@pepls.state.ms.us

Nominate someone you know for our:

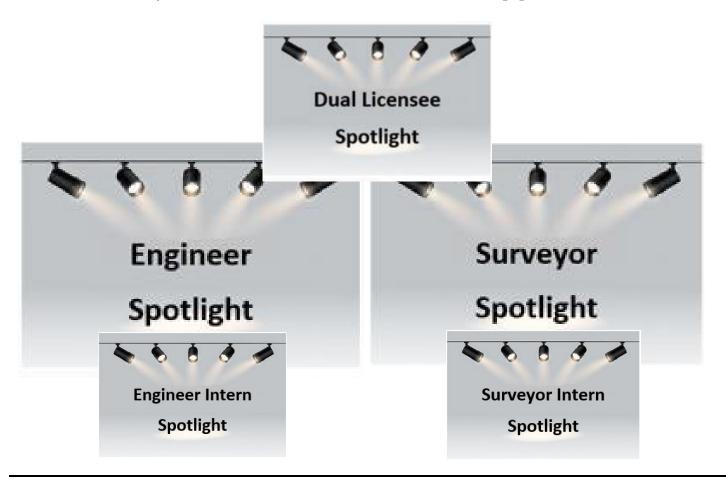


Spotlight Feature

PE ____ PS ____ SI ____ Dual Licensee (PE/PS)

Name:	
Email address:	
Phone numbers	

Send your nomination to us via email at information@pepls.state.ms.us





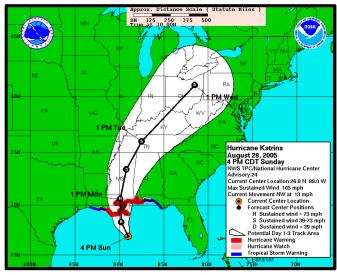
Hurricane Katrina 2005 – Almost 20 years later Do's & Don'ts for Any Hurricane

An article written by Robert K. Riemann, P.E.

Almost 20 years ago, I went through the worst disaster in my life and that of my hometown, Gulfport, Mississippi. Watching the weather crews

deliver the news that Katrina had come across Florida and entered the Gulf of Mexico and had gone from a Category 2 to a Category 5 hurricane with peak winds of up to 150 mph and was pushing 30 feet of tidal surge was **something that we did not want to hear.**

Nearly all structures within half a mile of the southern-facing Gulfport coastline was destroyed. The surge forced ships, casino barges, large dredging barges, and shipping containers inland, knocking down buildings and houses like a bowling ball knocks down pins. Three thousand homes were destroyed as well as miles of water, sewer, and drainage infrastructure. However, I felt like Gulfport Public Works was ready.



Provided below are 10 of the more than 20 lessons I learned and information I would recommend to others who might experience a weather-related catastrophe like Katrina.

- City-Wide Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Plan The City/County needs to develop a City-Wide Disaster Preparedness Plan. All City plans should emulate or closely follow what the County Civil Defense Office has in place and what is recommended by the State-MEMA.
- 2. **FEMA/MEMA Pre-Season Briefings** FEMA/MEMA should hold a meeting prior to Hurricane Season each year to update local governments and emergency responders on any latest changes to the paperwork/documentation requirements.
- 3. **Pre-Season Meeting with the Mayor, Supervisors, Directors, and Manager** Provide all FEMA-MEMA needed information and go over the City/County's plan with information including Purchase Request forms.
- 4. **Communication with Cell Phones** Make sure that all departments can communicate with cellular phones and radios. Companies should demonstrate reliability for their services.
- 5. **Food** All employees will need food to eat during a disaster emergency. Your agency should have contracts set up before the disaster to feed your staff. You should have at least

- seven days of sustainable food sources, like sandwiches, to eat until the contract can become active. (Gulfport Public Works ate peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for a few days).
- 6. **Fuel** All equipment will need fuel, both gasoline and diesel, to run during a disaster for seven days including generators.
- 7. **Establish "Pre-Event Contracts"** Besides establishing a Debris Pre-Event Contract, there are other situations where pre-event contracts would be very beneficial, such as Emergency generators (large units 100KW to 300KW) support, Emergency By-Pass Pumps for sewer system support, Emergency food and potable water support (Food Service Contract).
- 8. **Current pictures of various sites** Take pictures the day before the storm of all facilities. Keep up-to-date pictures of the different facilities for proof of setup/contents/utilities.
- 9. **Distribute Your Fleet** Distribute your fleet around the City or County. Allow the employees to take a vehicle owned by the City or County home to prevent damage of all the vehicles by a tornado at one location and give the employees a faster response time.
- 10. **Get Assistance from Federal Agencies Opinion in Writing** Federal opinion from the USEPA on what infrastructure needed to be replaced was key to Gulfport to prove to FEMA that what we were doing was justified.



I believe I was put in Gulfport, Mississippi, for a reason and I am glad that I was there for Hurricane Katrina. I was proud to be both a Mississippian and an American during this event.

As a community and a state, I feel like we kept the spirit of the United States alive and well. Many heroes were born in those weeks following Katrina and in only 6.5 years after Hurricane Katrina

struck the Mississippi Coast, Gulfport's Infrastructure was fully restored.

<u>About the Author:</u> Robert K. Riemann is a native Mississippian and lifelong resident of Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi. He is the owner of Engneering Excellence with Kris Riemann & Assocaites, PLLC and was named National Public Works Director of the Year in 2006.

For more information on Kris's experince during Hurricane Katrina including personal notes and his full list of Hurricane Do's and Don't's – you can contact him at 228-518-2980 or via Email at kris@engineeringxellence.com.

Hurricane Katrina by the numbers:

The Damage	The Recovery	The Debris	The funding
9,000 Gulfport Housing Units Affected 3,000 Units Destroyed	One Week to Clear Major Roads and to restore water to 90% of the City (10% was destroyed) Three Weeks to remove boil water notices Four weeks to restore sewer and traffic signals	Three Million Cubic Yards Removed 18 Months for completion Total Cost of \$79.7 Million	Funding \$231.60 Million in Public Assistance from FEMA All FEMA-related projects completed by August 2012 Replacement of 40 Miles of Water, 18 miles of sewer, 8 miles of storm drainage, 4 new sewer pump stations at a cost of \$100.0 Million









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



The Board has established a text notification system as a means of communicating important information, such as renewal notices, to you, our licensees. In the comings days, please anticipate an email or social media post prompting you to opt in for text notifications from the Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers & Surveyors.

You will have the option to opt in or out of the text notification system at your discretion.



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

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



(standard data rates apply)

Mississippi Engineering Society 2024 Winter Meeting – State awards



Outstanding Senior Engineering Student Tyra-Nicole Whyte Jackson State University



Outstanding Senior Engineering Student Kyler Smith Mississippi State University



Outstanding Senior Engineering Student Troy Hill University of Mississippi



Scholarship recipient Emma Mauffray Mississippi State University



Scholarship recipient Selecia Basden Jackson State University



Scholarship recipient I'Jerius Brown Mississippi State University

Mississippi Engineering Society 2024 Winter Meeting – State awards



Scholarship recipient Jonathan Jones – Mississippi College



Young Engineer of the Year Michael S. Joyner, II, PE



Mississippi Government Engineer of the Year Matthew E. Dunn, PE



Government Young Engineer of the Year Amanda G. Clark, PE



Professional Engineers in Private Practice Award Garver Engineers



Private Practice Professional Development Award Garver Engineers





Engineer of the Year Sarah M. Tracy, PE

The Mississippi Engineering Society (MES) has a current membership of 1500. MES scholarships are available for engineering undergraduate students who are within three semesters of graduation. To date, MES has awarded \$253,000 in scholarships benefitting 123 engineering students.

MES, along with its sponsors, fund events such as the State MATHCOUNTS competition and Science Olympiad. They need your help. The next MATHCOUNTS event is scheduled for March 23, 2024, at Madison Middle School in Madison, MS. Interested in volunteering or sponsoring? If so, contact Malinda Battey at msengsoc@bellsouth.net.

Learn more about the Mississippi Engineering Society and how you can get involved on their website at http://msengsoc.org/.







American Council of Engineering Companies of Mississippi

Disciplinary/Legal Actions



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 post 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



sional Engineers & Surveyors







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

Historic Mississippi Engineering and Surveying Rosters

This past year, the Board donated the following engineering and surveying rosters to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH). These rosters are available to the public in the MDAH reading room.

Roster, 1929-1957	Official Roster, 1980, land surveyors	Official Roster, 1978, professional engineers
Roster, 1955-1962	Official Roster, 1977, professional engineers	Official Roster, 1978, land surveyors
Roster, 1963-1967	Official Roster, 1977, land surveyors	Official Roster, 1979, professional engineers
Roster, 1963-1968	Official Roster, 1968, land surveyors	Official Roster, 1979, land surveyors
Roster, 1968-1972	Official Roster, 1940	Official Roster, 1975, professional engineers
Roster, 1973-1976	Official Roster, 1941	Official Roster, 1975, land surveyors
Roster, 1977-1980	Official Roster, 1944	Official Roster, 1976, professional engineers
Roster, 1981-1984	Official Roster, 1945	Official Roster, 1976, land surveyors
Official Roster, 1983	Official Roster, 1948	Official Roster, 1974, professional engineers
Official Roster, 1984	Official Roster, 1949	Official Roster, 1974, land surveyors
Official Roster, 1986	Official Roster, 1950	Official Roster, 1972, professional engineers
Official Roster, 1988	Official Roster, 1951	Official Roster, 1972, land surveyors
Official Roster, 1990 & 1991	Official Roster, 1952	Official Roster, 1973, professional engineers
Official Roster, 1992	Official Roster, 1954	Official Roster, 1973, land surveyors
Official Roster, 1994	Official Roster, 1955	Official Roster, 1969, professional engineers
Official Roster, 1996	Official Roster, 1956	Official Roster, 1969, land surveyors
Official Roster, 1998	Official Roster, 1957	Official Roster, 1970, professional engineers
Official Roster, 2000	Official Roster, 1958	Official Roster, 1970, land surveyors
Official Roster, 2002	Official Roster, 1959	Official Roster, 1971, professional engineers
Official Roster, 2004	Official Roster, 1960	Official Roster, 1971, land surveyors
Official Roster, 1981	Official Roster, 1961	Official Roster, 1965, professional engineers
Official Roster, 1982	Official Roster, 1962	Official Roster, 1965, land surveyors

Historic Mississippi Engineering and Surveying Rosters

Official Roster, 1980, professional engineers	Official Roster, 1963	Official Roster, 1966, professional engineers
	Official Roster, 1964	Official Roster, 1967, professional engineers
		Official Roster, 1967, land surveyors
		Official Roster, 1968, professional engineers

Viewing Archival Records

Individuals who wish to view archival records in the MDAH collection may visit the William F. Winter Archives & History Building.



2023 - 2024 Board Members



Office Relocation

We will be moving to a new office space.

Please anticipate an Email or social media post announcing our new office location soon.

We will be moving to the historic Barefield Building in downtown Jackson.

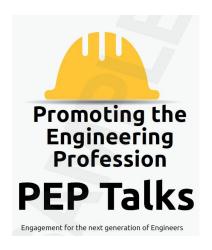
During the move some services may not be available.

We will keep you updated via our website and social media accounts.

Please feel free to continue to Email the Board at

information@pepls.state.ms.us





Contact Us

Mississippi Board of Licensure for PEpLS

660 North Street, Suite 400 Jackson, MS 39202 601.359.6160

Email: Information@pepls.state.ms.us

www.pepls.ms.gov

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Tentative meeting dates for the remainder of 2024 are listed below:

April 17, 2024 June 5, 2024 August 7, 2024

October 2, 2024 December 4, 2024

*Dates and times subject to changee.

Meeting location: To be determined.

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

On Twitter: @PeplsM

On LinkedIn: Mississippi Board of Licensure for PEpLS

Website: www.pepls.ms.gov

General correspondences can be sent to the agency at the following Email address: information@pepls.state.ms.us

Have a news suggestion for us! Send your information along with your name and contact information by Email to mgilmore@pepls.state.ms.us

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