## PEP TALKS

PROMOTING THE ENGINEERING PROFESSION (PEP)

## INTERNS ENGINEERS SURVEYORS

Volume 1 / Issue 1

#### 2022-2023 BOARD

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Steven A. Twedt, PE

Dr. Dennis D. Truax, PE

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#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am honored to be the incoming President of the Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors (PEpLS). I want to acknowledge and commend the leadership of last year's President, Ms. Sarah Tracy, PE; the commitment from the 2021-2022 Board; and our hard-working agency staff. As the incoming President, I want to continue improving our services to the Professional Engineers and Surveyors licensed and practicing in the State Mississippi as well as better assist enrollees as they work to become licensed professionals. Lastly, I would like to encourage all engineers and surveyors to have a working knowledge of our rules and regulations but specifically the code of conduct and ethics. We are working on behalf of all Mississippians to aid both engineers and surveyors and to protect and safeguard the health, welfare, and safety of those living in Mississippi.

William C. "Bill" Mitchell PE, PLS, CCM Board President 2022 – 2023

To view the full message from the new Board President, please visit our website at <a href="https://www.pepls.ms.gov/board-members">https://www.pepls.ms.gov/board-members</a>.

#### Board Leadership for the 2022-2023 Fiscal year

Each year at its July meeting, the Board elects new officers. Officers for the 2022 – 2023 fiscal year are:



Board President

Bill Mitchell, PE/PS

Gulfport, Mississippi

Post 2, 2nd District, Southern,



Board Vice President

Patrick Martino, PS

Biloxi, Mississippi

Post 8, 2nd District, Southern,

Appointment expires 07/01/2021



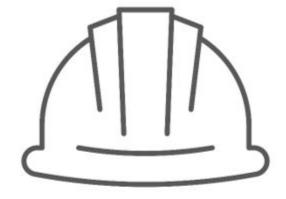
Board Secretary

Carey Hardin, PE

Starkville, Mississippi

Post 3, 3rd District, Northern,

Appointment expires 07/01/2022



# Promoting the Engineering Profession

# PEP Talks

### Engagement for the next generation of Engineers

PEP Talks is the rebranded newsletter of the Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors. The PEP Talks newsletter is intended to share information about the engineering and surveying profession and the licensed professionals working in the State of Mississippi. You'll also find useful information and guidance for those studying in engineering programs in the State and those prepping for licensure exams.

With the PEP talks newsletter, we hope to encourage others to learn more about the profession with a new focus on increasing the number of students pursuing a career in Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) but especially Engineering in the State of Mississippi. To that end, we hope this newsletter will be made available to students at schools throughout the State and that for those students who read it will see someone who looks like them or who inspires them to not only consider the engineering and/or surveying profession but to actively pursue a career in one of these fulfilling fields.

#### What's new with rules and regulations

<u>Mississippi Architects and Engineers Good Samaritan Act</u> – House Bill No 1351 provides immunity from liability for any civil actions arising from work performed by Architects or Engineers at the request of an elected official during a state emergency. The law can be viewed on the Mississippi legislature website at (<a href="https://www.legislature.ms.gov/">https://www.legislature.ms.gov/</a>).

<u>Military Family Freedom Act (Senate Bill No. 2117) - Pursuant to the provisions of the Military Family Freedom Act [MFFA] (§73-50-1 et seq.)</u>, Mississippi shall recognize occupational licenses obtained from other states for military members and their families. The Military Family Freedom Act can be viewed on our website at the following at (<a href="https://www.pepls.ms.gov/licensure-law">https://www.pepls.ms.gov/licensure-law</a>).

<u>Universal Recognition of Occupational Licenses Act (House Bill 1263SG)</u> - Pursuant to the provisions of the Universal Recognition of Occupational Licenses Act, Mississippi shall recognize occupational licenses obtained from other states, in certain circumstances. For full details and to determine applicability you can view the Act on our website at the following at (<a href="https://www.pepls.ms.gov/licensure-law">https://www.pepls.ms.gov/licensure-law</a>).

<u>Complaint Process</u> – Our website now allows for filing an anonymous complaint provided sufficient detail is included. You can access the new complaint form at the following link (<a href="https://www.pepls.ms.gov/how-file-complaint">https://www.pepls.ms.gov/how-file-complaint</a>)



#### **DISCIPLINARY/LEGAL ACTIONS**

The Board is authorized by state law to regulate the practice of engineering and surveying in the State of Mississippi. If an unlicensed person practices 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 its 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: <a href="https://www.pepls.ms.gov/rules-regulations">https://www.pepls.ms.gov/rules-regulations</a>

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

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 may be actionable, upon presentment of substantial evidence to the Board.

Provided below is a recap of the **Engineering complaints/disciplinary actions** that have occurred since January 1, 2022

- Case# 0522/33, agreed to consent order for CPC violation. A monetary fine was levied.
- Case# 1119/07, agreed to a consent order for Code of Conduct violation. A monetary fine was levied, 2-year probation and educational course to be completed.
- Case# 0222/30, possible Building Code Violations, still in process. Number of Engineering cases

Number of Engineering cases resolved: 2 Number of Engineering cases still in process: 1

Provided below is a reap of the **Surveying Complaints/disciplinary actions** that have occurred since January 1, 2022.

- Case# 0122/26, agreed to consent order for CPC violation. A monetary fine was levied.
- Case# 0122/27, agreed to consent order for CPC Violation. A monetary fine was levied.
- Case# 0122/28, agreed to consent order for CPC Violation. A monetary fine was levied.
- Case# 0122/29, agreed to consent order for CPC Violation. A monetary fine was levied.
- Case# 0222/31, agreed to consent order for CPC Violation. A monetary fine was levied.
- Case# 0322/32, agreed to consent order for CPC Violation. A monetary fine was levied.

Number of Surveying cases resolved: 6 Number of Surveying cases still in process: 0

#### How do you define "Engineer" or "Surveyor"

## en·gi·neer

[enjə'nir] (1)

#### NOUN

engineer (noun) · engineers (plural noun)

a person who designs, builds, or maintains engines, machines, or public works.
 synonyms: designer · planner · builder · architect · producer · fabricator · developer · creator · inventor · originator · deviser · contriver · mastermind

a person qualified in a branch of engineering, especially as a professional:
 "an aeronautical engineer"

## sur-vey-or

[sər'vāər] (1)

NOUN

a person who surveys, especially one whose profession is the surveying of land.

synonyms: passenger · tourist · tourer · journeyer · voyager · excursionist · [more]

We'd like to hear from you. How would you define the professional use of the term "Engineer" and/or "Surveyor". Drop us a note on our Twitter feed at @PeplsM and we will share selected definitions on our social media sites and in our next newsletter. Be creative. First five responses received will get a @PeplsM water bottle filled with goodies.

#### **FAMILIAR ACRONYMS**

FE indicates Fundamentals of Engineering

FS Indicates Fundamentals of Surveying

**EIT indicates Engineer in Training** 

EI indicates Engineer Intern

SI indicates Surveyor Intern

PE indicates Professional Engineer

PS indicates Professional Surveyor

**COA** indicates Certificate of Authority

CPC indicates Continuing Professional Competency



#### 21st Century Engineering Workplace

An article written by Board Member Dr. Dennis D. Truax, PE 2022 President of the American Society of Civil Engineers

There is a lot said about the shortage of engineers. The pool of college age students is shrinking as the post-war population ripples continue. Worse still, today's youth are questioning the need to take on hundreds of thousands of dollars of debit to get a college education given their perception that the promise of success after graduation is hollow and that debt will prevent them from having the life they expect. So, what is to be done by those of us in this profession?

As professionals, we need to accept the challenge of promoting our profession to high school students and providing resources to the Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) programs that prepare students to pursue the education needed to practice in our professions. Engaging university programs with our time, talent, and resources is also vital. In all cases, we need to craft a positive message of impact, change, and importance which our professions facilitate. Studies repeatedly show that younger generations want to find value in where they work and what they do. Millennials are drawn to mission-driven work.

Furthermore, we must recognize that individual expectations differ based on gender, race, ethnicity, religion, etc. All this means that the workplace must address individual needs and corporate need alike. It means that rewarding our professionals with money is not the only issue. Work-life balance is valued. It does little good to attract individuals into our profession only to have them leave because they find the workplace hostile, indifferent, or ignorant of their personal and professional goals. Equal is not equitable, and if you do not understand the difference, learn it...quickly.

Additionally, given the shortage of professionals, we must adapt the workplace to facilitate the return of those who left our profession. Decades of cookie cutter management and commoditization of our engineers have disenfranchised uncountable numbers of creative, innovative, and impactful individuals. They can be an important resource in meeting workforce needs.

Lastly, we must adapt to a new paradigm of who can do engineering work and how we build a team that ensures the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Is it the best use of an engineering graduate to do drafting, inspection, or site management? Maybe not. Developing a team led by a professional who trains and oversees technicians and technologies helps address a host of the issues we face.

#### "The engineer has been, and is, a maker of history."

- James Kip Finch, American engineer, and educator

## News you can use

#### ACEC, APWA and ASCE campaign to promote careers in Construction and Engineering

The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), the American Public Works Association (APWA) and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) announced a nationwide partnership to raise awareness about the work of engineers and public works professionals. All three groups recognize that in response to the country's aging infrastructure and the ever-increasing worker shortage that more attention needs to be placed on career opportunities in the construction, engineering, and public works sector.

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.

Learn more at the following link (https://www.constructiondive.com/signup/).



#### **RENEWAL SEASON KICKS OFF OCTOBER 1, 2022**

Licensees can begin to renew their professional engineer and / or surveyor and/or Certificate of Authority license in the month of October of each year through December 31st. After December 31st additional fees to renew may be applied.

Every licensee shall meet the CPC requirements of the rules and regulations for professional development as a condition for licensee renewal. Access more information on the CPC requirements at the link below:

https://www.pepls.ms.gov/continuing-education

#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

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

#### 1. What are the deadlines for filing an application to take an exam?

For the pencil-and-paper exams (at present PE and PS), our deadlines are June 15 for the October exams and December 15 for the April exams. There are no application deadlines for the computer-based exams (EI (FE) and SI (FS)).

#### 2. How long will it take to process my application?

Standard processing time is 6-8 weeks once your application is COMPLETE.

#### 3. How do I search for licensed professionals?

On our website Home page look for the following.



You can search for licensed individuals or firms by name, license type, city, or county location.

#### 4. What is the procedure to register for an exam?

First you must submit an application along with the associated fee to the Mississippi Board. On our website

Home page look for the following:



Following approval by the Mississippi Board to sit for the exam, applicants must then register with the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) at <a href="https://www.ncees.org">www.ncees.org</a>.

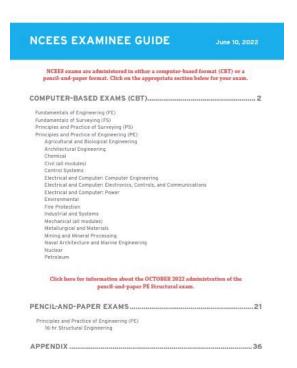
More FAQ information can be found at the following link:

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

#### NCEES EXAMINEE GUIDE



Are you preparing to take an NCEES exam? The NCEES Examinee Guide is the official guide for the policies and procedures for all NCEES exams. View and download your free copy here: <a href="https://ncees.org/exams/examinee-guide/">https://ncees.org/exams/examinee-guide/</a>



You can find information on exam requirements in the State of Mississippi on our website (<a href="www.pepls.ms.gov">www.pepls.ms.gov</a>) in our rules and regulations booklet dated January 1, 2020; specifically, Chapter 11. Access the rules and regulations at the following link: (<a href="https://www.pepls.ms.gov/rules-regulations">https://www.pepls.ms.gov/rules-regulations</a>).



# 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 (<a href="https://account.ncees.org/">https://account.ncees.org/</a>) to get yours today!



## **Coming Soon from 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.



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



Congratulations to these successful examinees for the period of

January 1, 2022, to June 30, 2022

#### **FUNDAMENTALS OF ENGINEERING**

Madelyn Barber Amanda Hufft Taylor Bearden Blake Jobe Joseph Beasley Michael Lee Jaycob Beasley Joshua Leger **Browning Bergold** Yong Hang Liu Zachary Boudoin Jacob Mason Frank Brinkley William Donovan Brown **Bryant McDuffie** Trevor Claunch John Miles **Jacob Clemens** Amanda Oleksa Martha Contreras John Paczak Ramsses Correa Faria Zito dos Santos James Phillips Leigh Provost Colleen Cure **Hunter Dickerson** Marina Charles Jack Dodd Colby Ellingburg Hector Sandoval Alvarado Gregory Espenan Craig Schexnaydre Dakota Floyd Douglas Shaffner Ethan Shepherd Beniamin Furlong Jake Gillette Jessica Simms **Britton Grace** Hunter Christopher Green **Andrew Speetiens** Klayton Greer Connor Steptoe Sandip Gupta **Gregory Thomas Talor Harry Quyen Tran** Tvler Hartman Patrick Walker Joshua Hernandez Macey Wallace Brandon Herron Charley Warren Jared Honeycutt Dylan Wayland James Williams

#### **FUNDAMENTALS OF SURVEYING**

Thomas Rhett Hensley



#### PRINCIPLES & PRACTICE OF ENGINEERING

Alexander Bohannon Daniel Boudreaux Layton Breithaupt Tanner Bryan **Taylor Carmichael** Chase Dabbs Mark Ewing Jr. David Henry Erich Hohm Madeline Howell Mason Jarabica **Aaron Jeffreys** Cullan Kight Jonathan King Jacob Kramer Matthew McCurley Thomas McMullan Ryan Moore Walker Neal Dakota O'Bryant Christopher Pilmaier Ellis Sartain Bennie Sellers Caleb Tillotson Joseph Wilson

#### PRINCIPLES & PRACTICE OF SURVEYING

William James David Towles

#### LOCAL ENGINEERS IN THE NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT



This past summer Jennifer Sloan Ziegler, PE was one of 16 professional engineers from around the US to be named to the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) 2021 Emerging Leaders Program. Jennifer was also named the 2021 Young Engineer of the Year for the Mississippi Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers and most recently was elected FY2023 ASCE-EWRI Vice President.

Jennifer Sloan Ziegler, PE



Mississippi PE, Sarah McEwen has been named a 2022 Top Young Professional by Engineering News Record (ENR) Texas & Louisiana.

Sarah McEwen, PE



Kayra Johnson, PE, BCEE was recognized by the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) during their 2021 national convention. She also served on the SHPE Engineering Design Challenge committee.

Cristiane (Cris) (Queiroz) Surbeck, PE, PhD, F. EWRI

Cristiane (Cris) Surbeck, PE, PhD, F, EWRI, ENV SP was named the Engineer of the Year for the Mississippi Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers.



Tramone Smith, PE, BCEE, MSCE

Tramone Smith, P.E., BCEE, MSCE was the featured speaker on the "Rise above your Expectations" episode of The Civil Engineering Podcast.



Harry D. Gong, Jr., P.E., F.NSPE

In November 2020, the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) named Harry Gong Jr., P.E., to its 2020 class of Fellow members.



Dr. Dennis D. Truax, P.E., DEE, D.WRE, F.NSPE, F.ASCE

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) installed Dr. Dennis D. Truax, P.E., DEE, D.WRE, F.NSPE, F.ASCE, as its 2022 president during their annual business meeting on October 7, 2021.

#### **Interested in Engineering?**

Come see us at Science Fest to learn how to become one.



#### THE 7TH ANNUAL MISSISSIPPI SCIENCE FEST (MSF) - SEPTEMBER 15-17, 2022

MSF showcases science, technology, engineering, and mathematic (STEM) industries, organizations, and innovations happening across the state. MSF aims to engage students, families, adults, and educators in a fun and interactive learning environment that promotes science education and workforce development.

The LeFleur Museum District will offer exhibitors, special events, and programs at four sites - the Mississippi Children's Museum, MDWFP's Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Museum, and the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and Museum on September 17.

September 15: <u>Science After 6</u>
September 16: <u>Field Trip Friday</u>
September 17: <u>MS Science Fest</u>

#### 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 first half of 2022. Learn more about these individuals on our website at the following link: <a href="https://www.pepls.ms.gov">https://www.pepls.ms.gov</a> under the Community & Advocacy tab.



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





Michael "Blake" Collins. PS

Clint Tidwell. PS

#### **WELCOME**

Michael "Blake" Collins, a Professional Surveyor from Brandon, Mississippi was appointed to the PEpLS Board on July 1, 2021 by Governor Tate Reeves. Mr. Collins represents Post 7 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Distict Central and is serving a two year term.

Clint Tidwll, a professional surveyor from the town of Ripley, Mississippi was appointed to the PEpLS Board on July 1, 2022 by Governor Tate Reeves. Mr. Tidwell represents Post 9 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District North and is serving a four year term.

Learn more about both Professional Surveyors in our Surveyor Spotlight feature at the following link:

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

#### **SURVEYOR NEWS**

What's one thought always on the mind of a surveyor when in the field....... Ticks

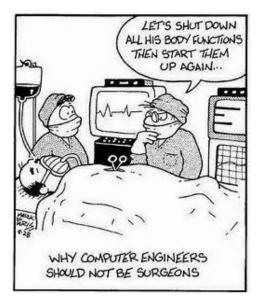
Ticks are generally found in tall grasses and low lying shrubs. They tend to prefer shaded moist areas. They do not jump, fly, or drop out of trees.

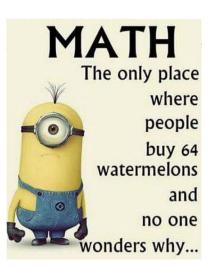


Ticks find their hosts by detecting animals' breath and body odors or by sensing body heat, moisture, and vibrations. Once you've been spotted, they latch on and start their search for a nice place to enjoy their blood meal. Ask any surveyor and you are bound to hear that the best prevention against ticks is the use of proper clothing, a quality bug spray and good laundry washing when returning from the field.

#### **FIELD HUMOR**







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#### **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2021 GRANT WINNERS**



The Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors ("Board") received legislative approval (See HB1690) to offer one-time grants for state programs providing qualifying education in engineering and surveying leading to professional licensure. In October 2020, the Board issued a call for grant applications for its 2021 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 2020 were sent both Email and regular mail notice of the availability of grant funds and invited to submit grant applications accordingly. A total of 16 grant applications were received for the 2021 awards season with 14 of those being approved.

The Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors awarded the Electrical Engineering program at Mississippi College a reimbursement grant of \$11,600.

The Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors awarded the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Mississippi a reimbursement grant of \$25,000.

The Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors awarded the Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Mississippi a reimbursement grant of \$30,000.

The Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors awarded the Department of Geology and Geological Engineering at the University of Mississippi a reimbursement grant of \$16,000.

The Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors awarded the University of Southern Mississippi Polymer Science and Engineering program a reimbursement grant of \$25,000.

The Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors awarded Mississippi State University Bagley College of Engineering - Surveying Department a reimbursement grant of \$35,430.

The Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors awarded Mississippi State University Bagley College of Engineering – various Engineering departments a reimbursement grant of \$122,832.

**Learn more on our website at the following link:** https://www.pepls.ms.gov/news Please follow us on social media and our website for details on future grant opportunities.



#### **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

Eman. mormation@pepis.state.ms.us

www.pepls.ms.gov

#### **BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE**

Currently, there are two board meetings\* remaining for 2022 as indicated below:

October 5, 2022

December 7, 2022 (tentative)

\*Dates and times subject to changee.

Meeting location: Board Room, 660 North Street, Suite 400, Jackson, MS 39202. 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: <a href="mailto:information@pepls.state.ms.us">information@pepls.state.ms.us</a>

Have a news suggestion for us! Send your information along with your name and contact information by Email to <a href="mailto:mgilmore@pepls.state.ms.us">mgilmore@pepls.state.ms.us</a>