

PEP TALKS

PROMOTING THE ENGINEERING PROFESSION (PEP)

INTERNS ENGINEERS SURVEYORS

Volume 2 / Issue 1 – September 2023

2023-2024 BOARD

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am excited to have the honor and privilege to serve on the Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers & Surveyors. I very much appreciate having been appointed by former Governor Phil Bryant to represent the 2nd District Southern as the member for Post 8. As a board member, I feel that one of our main priorities is to review and make certain that all qualified individuals, who complete an application for licensure and who meet all the necessary requirements, can take the exam(s), which apply to the profession of their choice. For surveyor candidates this includes the Mississippi Section Exam which is currently administered four times per year.

The next opportunity to sit for the Section exam is September 28, 2023.

The Board Rules and Regulations are currently being examined and revised to ensure that they are consistent with the NCEES Model Laws and Rules. In addition, we are excited to report that the Biennial Renewal process is almost complete and that our Rules and Regulations are being reviewed to accommodate that process, which we hope to implement this year.

Over the next year, we look forward to having many opportunities to work together to better serve and protect the public health, safety, and welfare of each citizen of Mississippi, and in service to our licensees.

To that end, please know that we appreciate and recognize each of you and we thank you for your commitment to the engineering and surveying professions in the State of Mississippi.

Patrick Martino, PLS
Board President 2023 – 2024

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



Board Leadership for the 2023-2024 Fiscal year

Each year at its July meeting, the Board elects new officers. Officers for the 2023 – 2024 fiscal year are:



Board President

Patrick Martino, PS

Biloxi, Mississippi

Post 8, 2nd District, Southern,

Appointment expires 07/01/2021



Board Vice President

Carey Hardin, PE

Starkville, Mississippi

Post 3, 3rd District, Northern,

Appointment expires 07/01/2022



Board Secretary / Treasurer

Joseph E. Lauderdale, PE

Jackson, Mississippi

Post 4, 1st District, Central,

Appointment expires 07/01/2019



Promoting the
Engineering Profession

PEP Talks

Engagement for the next generation of Engineers

In this edition

Articles written by engineers or surveyors:

Working as a team both in marriage and business, written by Rachel A. Weinberg, PE

A leap of faith, written by Jonathan Kiser, PE, PTOE, PTP

Why professional organizations matter! , written by Colby Willis-Kimmel, PE

LPA.....more than an acronym, written by Lee Frederick, PE

AI: Should Engineers be worried, written by Sarah Tray, PE

Has technology made the professional surveyor obsolete? , written by Michael Blake Collins, PS

Also included:

Exam news

Upcoming events

Frequently asked questions

Grant winners

Community news

Disciplinary / legal actions



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

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 GRANT WINNERS

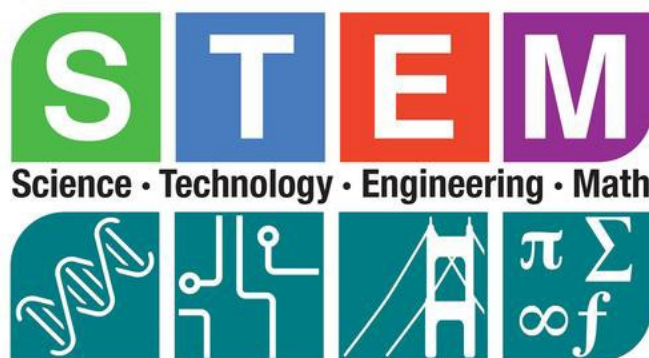


The Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors ("Board") received legislative approval (See HB1690) to offer **one-time grants for state programs providing qualifying education in engineering and surveying leading to professional licensure**. In October 2022, the Board issued a call 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. Programs receiving reimbursement for the 2023 grant initiative included:

- Department of Civil Engineering at **Jackson State University**
- Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at **Mississippi State University**
- Polymer Science and Engineering program at the **University of Southern Mississippi**
- **University of Mississippi programs** as indicated below:
 - Department of Electrical Engineering
 - Department of Geology & Geological Engineering
 - Department of Mechanical Engineering


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.




National STEM/STEAM Day


November 8th, 2023



DISCOVER
ENGINEERS WEEK
FEBRUARY 19-25, 2023

CREATING THE FUTURE





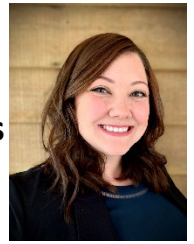
NSPE[®] NATIONAL SOCIETY OF
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

Let's Celebrate

#WhatEngineersDo
#GirlDay2023
#IamNSPE
#ProudPE
#Eweek2023

Working as a Team Both in Marriage and Business

An article written by Rachel A. Weinberg, PE



It is no secret that partnership, whether in marriage or business ventures, holds immense value and plays a crucial role in achieving happiness and success. But what if your life partner is also your business partner?

My husband and I have been life partners for just over 10 years. We have embraced the concept of partnership and are navigating through the ups and downs of life together. Our journey as partners has recently extended beyond our home and into the world of business. We recognized the value of combining our skills and expertise to create a business that we are both passionate about. Thus, we are now newly licensed small business owners. Launching a business together has been exciting and challenging, and our partnership in marriage has laid a strong foundation for our success.

Being asked by the PEP Talks newsletter to share our thoughts on being both new entrepreneurs and life-business partners was both an interesting and intimidating opportunity. In this article we hope to share our thoughts on what we have found to be the benefits and challenges in our dual partnership journey so far.

The Benefits:

Trust

Trust, for instance, is an important aspect of any successful partnership. A married couple already has a strong level of trust with their partner. This confidence can facilitate open and honest communication in business matters.



Complementary skill set

Complementary skills and expertise are another benefit to having your life partner as your business partner. Your partner may possess skills and qualities that complement your own, leading to a well-rounded team that can tackle various aspects of the business effectively.

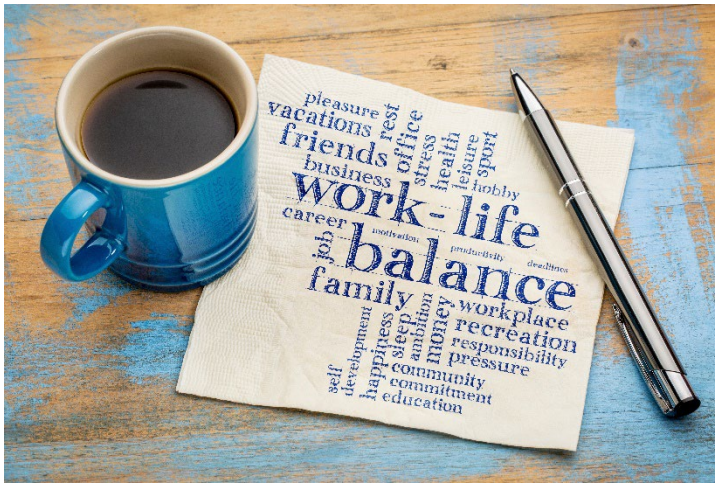


Work-Life integration

One of my favorite benefits in having your life partner as your business partner (and one that might surprise you) is work-life integration. Integrating work and personal life offers us more flexibility in managing responsibilities and allows us to find a balance that suits both our personal and business needs. With our growing family and having young children, that flexibility is essential for our happiness, success, and sanity!

The Challenges:

Work life versus family life



While integrating work and personal life has been beneficial for us, establishing clear boundaries between the two is vital. This challenge has been the most difficult for us thus far. So often, we find ourselves discussing work during family time, and, although it leads to interesting dinner conversations, we are reminded by our little ones to turn off work mode. We try to designate specific times for work-related discussions and prioritize quality time for family life outside of work. This aspect is one we continue to struggle with, yet its significance should not be overlooked.

Effective communication

Another crucial tip worth emphasizing is that communication plays a vital role in fostering a successful partnership. Effective communication helps avoid misunderstandings and Conflicts and manage expectations. While effective communication can help reduce conflicts, we recognize that conflicts are still inevitable. When conflicts do arise, we try to handle them constructively. We try to remember to be professional and converse with one another as we would any other co-worker. Focusing on resolving disagreements constructively and finding solutions benefit everyone. Compromising and constructive criticism with honest communication are key to the team effort.



Having your life partner as your business partner can be an exciting journey filled with shared passions and accomplishments. It can be a unique and rewarding experience that leads to a well-rounded **TEAM** that extends across all aspects of life together. By setting clear boundaries, communicating effectively, and nurturing both your personal and professional relationship, you can make the most of this dual partnership and have the best opportunity for success. Our journey continues, and with it we are sure that new benefits as well as challenges will emerge. But our partnership positions us for success.

Remember, every partnership requires compromise and understanding, but with love and dedication, you can build a successful and harmonious life as both partners in marriage and business.

About the author: Rachel Weinberg is a licensed PE in Mississippi, Washington State and Florida and as indicated herein a small business owner.

Looking for inspiration? Here are some other couple business partnerships:

Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson

Ben Falcone and Melissa McCarthy

Chip and Joanna Gaines

Erin and Ben Napier

Mark Consuelos and Kelly Ripa

David and Tamela Mann

Beyonce and Jay Z

Tony and Sage Robbins

On the exam front



Both the FE and FS exams are computer-based exams administered year-round at NCEES-approved Pearson VUE test centers. A \$175 exam fee is payable directly to NCEES for each exam type.

The PE exam is offered in 27 disciplines. Learn more about exam-specific information and requirements on the NCEES website at this link: <https://ncees.org/exams/pe-exam/>

The PS exam is administered year-round via computer-based testing (CBT) at approved Pearson VUE test centers. A \$300 exam fee is payable directly to NCEES.

Spring 2024 Exam Changes

PE Structural – The PE Structural exam **will have its last pencil-and-paper administration** in October 2023. Beginning November 1, 2023, examinees will be able to register and schedule CBT appointments, which will be available year-round for the Vertical and Lateral Forces breadth sections. The exam administration for the Vertical and Lateral Forces breadth sections will start on April 1, 2024.

The April administration will be a two-day event for the depth sections with the Vertical Forces exam offered on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, and the Lateral Forces exam offered on Wednesday, April 17, 2024.

PE Civil – The PE Civil exam will have new specifications and design standards starting in April 2024. The specifications will be posted in October 2023 on the NCEES website.

PE Electrical and Computer: Electronics, Controls, and Communications – The PE Electrical and Computer: Electronics, Controls, and Communications exam will be offered October 2023 and will shift its Linear Fixed Form (LFF) administration to the Spring. The test date is Wednesday, April 17, 2024.

Registration with NCEES for this exam will begin November 1, 2023.

PE Control Systems – The PE Control Systems exam will be offered October 2023 and will shift its Linear Fixed Form (LFF) administration to the Spring. The test date is Wednesday, April 17, 2024.

Registration with NCEES for this exam will begin November 1, 2023.

PE Fire Protection – The PE Fire Protection exam will be offered October 2023 and will shift its Linear Fixed Form (LFF) administration to the Spring. The test date is Tuesday, April 16, 2024.

Registration with NCEES for this exam will begin November 1, 2023.

Please be made aware that all exams offered by NCEES will soon be CBT only.

Examinees may reserve their seat at a

Pearson VUE test center once they are registered with NCEES and approved by their board.

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:

<https://ncees.org/exams/examinee-guide/>



Congratulations to these successful examinees for the period of

January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023

Fundamentals of Engineering

Liya Abera	Victor Gibbs	Zack Myers
Allison Arnold	Mitchell Harris	Smith Patel
JacksonBerry	Pace Harvey	Caden Proctor
Lauren Bishop	Tyler Hathcock	Maximillian Rangel
Alex Black	Lucas Healey	John Regan
Addison Black	Joel Hill	Hayden Revette
Luke Blackburn	Caleb Hill	Landon Rhodes
Luke Blundell	Ella Hoover	Boston Rose
Christiana Boren	Hunter Hughes	Jolee Rushing
Cameron Broome	Brandon Jones	Ryan Shaw
Carter Brown	Kaylee Jones	Lawson Shaw
Payton Burge	Austin Keith	Kyle Stallings
Joshua Burris	Madalyn Kish	Wesley Swink
Jordy Carvajal	ZacharyKnuckey	Logan Tadlock
WilliamChambers	Jones Leonard	John Thompson
Cody Cichocki	Ziai Li	John Tucker
Jacob Clanton	Edward Little	William Vaughn
Ian Cobb	Randall Loftin	Robert Ward
ZacharyCoomes	Nicholas Malouf	Wesley Watson
Patrick Daily	Tyler May	Samantha Wiest
Sarah D'Amico	Austin McCollom	Anthony Wilson
Peyton Daniel	Bailey McDill	John Wood
Ivy DeLoach	Griffin Moore	Kaylee Wright
John Ellis	Justice Moran	Yousif Yousif
WilliamElrod		
Austin Entremont		

Fundamentals of Surveying

Dain Gillen	Herbert Hearn
Joshua Dickerson	Kevin Ralph
Phillip Dymen	Troy Mccullough
James Wray	Michael Miller



Principles and Practice of Engineering

Bryant McDuffie
Brian Derry
James Gammill
Grant Jones
John Creekmore
John Gannon
Wilbert Spates
Matthew Gent
Bill Rounsaville
Wesley Swink
Zachary Horton
Michael Hughes
Dylan Jenkins
John Perry
Gilbert Brantley
Brandon Cleveland
John Paczak

Parker Sowers
James Horn, Jr
Jack Dodd
Trevin Moore
Lesley Smith
Joel Cummins
Joseph Dees
William Morrison
Hunter Price
Gabriel Mckenney
Wesley Riley
Maggie Smith-Furnival
Amanda Tutor
Michael Seignious
Chadwick Frierson
James Fancher
Abigail Richardson

Principles and Practice of Surveying

Ryan Craft
Laura Campbell
Herbert Hearn
Kevin Ralph

Mississippi Section Exam

Ryan Andrew Craft
Steven Hardy
Christopher Harlan
Todd Ashland Harris
Herbert F. Hearn

John D. Keller
Cory Macmenamin
Christopher Sexton
David Stickles
David Bryan Towles

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!



Available now – NCEES 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 at your school.



A Leap of Faith.

An article written by Jonathan Kiser, PE, PTOE, PTP



Two years ago, I took a real leap of faith and decided to start my own Traffic Engineering and Transportation Planning firm after 28 years of private industry consulting. And the phrase 'leap of faith' is an understatement!



While pondering this career pivot, I called upon some of my former bosses and mentors for advice, as many had made significant job changes throughout their own careers. Everyone I spoke with told me that I was ready for this step. One colleague and business owner told me that he didn't have a single day of regret from starting his own firm. With where I am now, I understand what he was telling me, and I haven't had any regrets about going out on my own for a single day.

I decided to keep my business plan and my firm's footprint simple and never intended global pursuits with my business. I perform most of the work myself, I hired a dedicated drafter, and I use student interns for part-time data processing. I prefer it this way for now: it gives me 100% control of the output and the projects we take on and allows me to have a more thorough relationship with my clients.

Kiser Traffic & Engineering recently celebrated its 2-year anniversary, which makes now a great time for me to reflect on my journey thus far. I enjoy client service and dedicating myself to my craft and to my industry. This year marks my 30th year in consulting engineering and my 29th year of marriage. I would not have been able to start this business without the emotional support of my wife who has made several long-distance moves to support my career throughout the years. I have leaned on many of my friends and colleagues for advice through the years. I am active in the professional organization the *Institute of Transportation Engineers* (ITE), and it is truly the premier support net for traffic professionals. These members, colleagues, and friends have all served as numerous mentors for me for decades. I have been able to make connections with industry professionals across the US and internationally, and I still call on them for support and advice.

I maintain my Professional Engineering license in eight states and strive to give my clients the best service at a good price. I have many clients that I have worked with through the years that continue to call on me for work. Sometimes it can be challenging to service all aspects of your own firm... having to perform every aspect of every job from proposals to invoices and accounts receivable...and even a receptionist who answers the phone always!

One lesson I learned happened while I was attending an ITE meeting in Kentucky. It wasn't so much the expense of travel and hotel at the conference, as it was the fact that I was out of the office and therefore, not generating any revenue for a week. It occurs to me that I had never considered traveling to attend a conference with that perspective before, and underscores how I must be even more thoughtful with out-of-office scheduling while considering upcoming project deadlines and their scopes.



Overall, I have no regrets about making the decision to start my own firm. I have learned a great deal more about running a business, client relations, and future business opportunities while growing both my network and support team of people who are confident of my success. I can't rewrite the past, but the timing for my decision worked out very nicely for me both personally and professionally, and I am grateful for the successes I have accomplished thus far.

About the Author: Jonathan is 29 years married and is the owner of Kiser Traffic and Engineering, LLC.

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





Renewal Season kicks off October 1, 2023

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>

Are you Retiring?

Notify the Board in writing at information@pepls.state.ms.us or via regular mail along with your renewal fee.

*"The Three E's—education, experience, and examination
—constitute the essential benchmarks that licensed professionals must meet.
These standards collectively uphold professional proficiency and prioritize public safety."
- Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing*

ARPL Alliance for Responsible
Professional Licensing

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

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

1. 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.

2. If I take an exam, when will I receive my exam results?

Exam results for computer-based exams are typically available 7–10 days after you take the exam. You will receive an email notification from NCEES with instructions to view your results in your MyNCEES account. Results will include information specific to your licensing board regarding how you should proceed based on your performance.

All results are reported as pass or fail. If you fail the exam, you will receive a diagnostic report showing your performance for each of the major topics covered on the exam. The diagnostic report is provided to help identify the knowledge areas where improvement is needed before retaking the exam. The purpose of this report is to provide general information on performance; it is not designed or intended to be used for any other purpose.

3. Can I get a temporary license?

Mississippi law does not allow for temporary licensure, or “one-project-only licensure”.

4. How can I be listed as a Structural Engineer?

Mississippi doesn't 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>

About Complaints

How do I file a complaint?

Complaints must be submitted in writing on the Board's complaint form. You can download the complaint form at this link: <https://www.pepls.ms.gov/how-file-complaint>

Can the Board help me recover money or property?

No, the Board cannot recover or order the refund of any money or property to which you may be entitled.

Can I withdraw a complaint after filing it with the Board?

Complaints may not be withdrawn after filing it.

More information on the complaint process is available at the following link: <https://www.pepls.ms.gov/how-file-complaint>



Why Professional organizations matter!

An article written by Colby Willis-Kimmel, PE

Professional organizations such as the Mississippi Engineering Society (MES), Women in Transportation (WTS) Mississippi and the Mississippi Association of Professional Surveyors provide us, as licensed professionals, with a host of resources.

From networking and conferences to continuing education and professional development, the benefits of membership in these types of organizations are invaluable. However, while these assets are all critical to our success as licensed engineers and surveyors, the one area I find to be the most important and rewarding, although often not utilized enough, is the opportunity for student outreach.



I am the immediate past President of both MES and WTS and serve as the Assistant Chief Engineer – Preconstruction Division with the Mississippi Department of Transportation. One common theme I hear in these roles is the difficulty in recruiting and retaining new talent.

We are all in the same boat: struggling to recruit and retain quality engineers and staff to support the ever-growing and constantly changing infrastructure needs of our communities statewide.

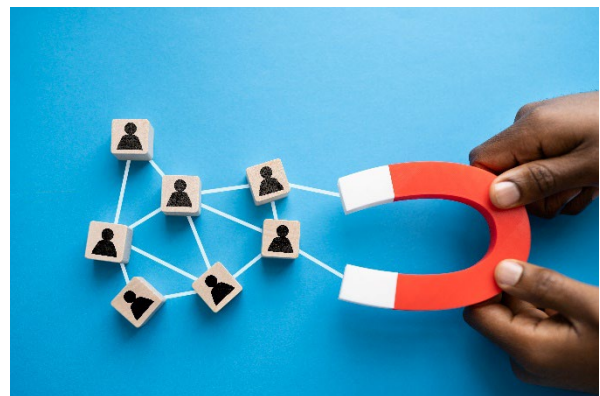
So, what does student outreach have to do with the employee deficit that most businesses and professional organizations are experiencing? **EVERYTHING!** (Well, maybe not *everything*, but just go with me here.) We constantly hear the terms “recruit” and “retain,” but what about “attract?”

We must have students interested in engineering if we wish to have graduates to recruit and employees to retain. Enter student outreach.

Our local professional organizations do an incredible job of hosting and sponsoring events, providing volunteer opportunities, and advocating for our industry.

So, what do we need to do?

First, we must volunteer. Make the time. You will not regret it. Even if you do not get to mentor the next Albert Einstein, you will have done something good for someone else, and you will feel and sleep better for it. Trust me!



Second, we must be engaged. Students, young and old, know when we are paying attention and when we are interested. As a child and even as a college student, I was asked repeatedly, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” I did not know then and, although I am not entirely certain I know the answer to that question now, I do have a much better idea of “who” I want to be.

As human beings, and especially as children, we tend to model our career goals after a person as opposed to a specific trade. Instead of asking what they want to be, ask them who they want to be or what change they would like to see in their neighborhood. I can assure you there are many kids right here in our own community that just want clean drinking water and a safe street to play on. As engineers, we can demonstrate to them how our jobs positively and directly impact our communities.

We may not ever convince them that math is fun, and let’s be honest, if we try, they will call us liars when they get to Calculus II. What we can do, however, is tell them a story about how we are making a difference and how our jobs enable us to do that.



Third, we must make a consistent investment. Let them see you more than once. Show them a variety of ways that what they are interested in can be utilized, for the greater good, as an **Engineer**. While we cannot be guaranteed that they will choose a field in engineering, we are at least opening their minds to the idea.

By taking the time to invest in our youth, we are not only providing them with positive role models, but also introducing them to a career with endless possibilities, and hopefully, encouraging them to want to be an engineer when they grow up.

And we all will benefit from the effort!

About the author: Colby Willis-Kimmel works in transportation with the Mississippi Department of Transportation and is the proud mother of two adorable sons.

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” – Gandhi

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So, you want to be an Engineer and /or Surveyor!

Come see us at Science Fest to find out how to make that happen.



THE 8TH ANNUAL MISSISSIPPI SCIENCE FEST (MSF) - SEPTEMBER 14-16, 2023

MSF showcases science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) industries, organizations, and innovation 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 16. Learn more by visiting the Mississippi Science Fest at the following link: <https://www.mssciencefest.org/>

- September 14: [Science After Hours](#)
- September 15: [Field Trip Friday](#)
- September 16: [MS Science Fest](#)



**10th Annual P2P Gulf Coast Mississippi
Wednesday & Thursday
November 15th & 16th 2023
Mississippi Gulf Coast Convention Center, Biloxi, MS
For more information contact:
Karen Sock, P2P Co – Founder & Project Manager
karensock52@gmail.com**

PEpLS In the Community



Board member Steve Twedt spoke at the Alabama Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers 2023 Summer meeting in connection with the American Public Works Association, July 12th – 14th in Orange Beach, Alabama.



Board Member Steve Twedt speaks to attendees at the Mississippi Engineering Society summer meeting on the structure of the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES).



PEPLS staff participate in the 2023 Science Makers Event at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in March 2023.



Board members and agency staff attend the NCEES Interim Zone Meeting, Houston, Texas, April 2023.



Board members and agency staff attend the NCEES Annual Meeting in early August 2023.

K-12 STEM outreach activity at the NCEES 2023 annual conference with



Looking for resources to support your STEM outreach efforts?

Discover E has lots of them. Learn more at the link below:

<https://discovere.org/stem-activities/>



LPA. . .more than an acronym.

An article written by Lee Frederick, PE

The question often arises, "What does LPA stand for?" It is a rather enigmatic acronym, seldom encountered unless one has experienced recent Federal Awards facilitating local infrastructure projects. We used some artificial intelligence (see article on AI written by Sarah Tracy in this newsletter), i.e., Siri, and asked what does the acronym LPA stand for? Siri gave us everything from Lasting Power of Attorney to. . .Locally Preferred Alternative to. . .Local Planning Authority. The last of which is somewhat close but still not quite there.

LPA in this instance stands for Local Public Agency.

So naturally, this tidbit engenders yet another inquiry, "What constitutes a Local Public Agency?"

A valid query, as Local Public Agencies encompass a multitude of entities, including all 82 counties, 433 cities and towns, and some 19 villages (yes, they still exist in Mississippi), as well as Institutions of Higher Learning (Public Colleges and Universities), all located throughout the State of Mississippi.

In the State of Mississippi, LPA projects are facilitated through the LPA Division of the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT). The LPA Division oversees the planning, design, and construction of LPA projects funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The LPA Division is comprised of the State LPA Engineer, Assistant LPA Engineer, and six (6) other esteemed staff members. The division is located in MDOT's Administration Building in downtown Jackson and is tasked with lending support to each of MDOT's six (6) District LPA Engineers. The District LPA engineers offer hands-on assistance across the state to local communities on federal infrastructure projects within their respective areas.

In a nutshell, as federal aid graces local projects via the FHWA, MDOT's LPA Division shoulders the responsibility of overseeing fund allocation.



However, of critical note is the fact that the infrastructure projects belong to the LPAs and that they own the design and construction of their respective endeavors.

Nonetheless, LPA projects represent a collaborative process that includes a vast support network, featuring local governments, LPA consultants, and various MDOT Divisions offering expert guidance.

Some LPA projects from our local area have included:



The Lake Harbor Bridge Project, Ridgeland, MS:

This project was approximately \$21,000,000.00 in Design, Right of Way, and Construction costs and provided a much-needed east west corridor for the City of Ridgeland. The project included drainage improvements, pedestrian facilities, grade and bridge work.

The West County Line Road project, Jackson, MS:

This project was funded through a TIGER Discretionary Grant , MPO Funding, and various Federal Earmarks, and the total project cost \$19,000,000.00. This project provided for a new Railroad alignment and a grade separated Railroad crossing and allowed for better access to Tougaloo College from I-55.



Halls Avenue West in Hattiesburg, MS:

This project was funded through a BUILD discretionary grant that provided approximately \$13,000,000.00 in Federal assistance with a total project cost of \$26,000,000.00. This project consisted of safety improvements by designing and constructing a new grade separated crossing of Halls Avenue West over an existing railroad line. This project also provided pedestrian facilities and drainage improvements.

Within MDOT's LPA Division lies a rare privilege - the oversight of federal aid, from fund allocation to project completion. This Division actively assists the LPA throughout each phase of work, fostering a profound sense of pride.

For questions regarding the type of projects typically undertaken by LPAs or to learn more about ongoing projects or eligibility, please contact MDOT's Public Affairs Division at 601-359-7074 or MDOT's LPA Division at 601-359-7277.

About the Author: Lee Frederick is a licensed Professional Engineer and proudly serves as the State LPA Engineer at the Mississippi Department of Transportation.

The **MDOT LPA Division** oversees the planning, design, and construction of Local Public Agency (LPA) projects funded by the Federal Highway Administration.

Lee Frederick : State LPA Engineer
Phone: 601-359-7031

Mitchell Young : Assistant State LPA Engineer
Phone: 601-359-9837

Will Andrews : LPA Program Coordinator
Phone: 601-359-7284

Paula Morgan : TAP Coordinator
Phone: 601-359-7222

Donna Ellis : Special Projects
Phone: 601-359-7217

Bridget Fletcher : Admin Support Assistant
Phone: 601-359-7277

Callie Rush: Program Specialist
Phone: 601-359-7702

Lindsey Killebrew : Program Specialist
Phone: 601-359-7602



The graphic is a 'Save the Date' announcement for the Mississippi Science Fest. It features a blue background with a green circular logo on the left containing the text 'MISSISSIPPI SCIENCE FEST' and a stylized atom symbol. Below the logo is a white house-shaped box containing the text 'SYNERGIZED BY THE LEFLEUR MUSEUM DISTRICT' and 'presented by cspire' with a sun-like logo. To the right, the text 'SAVE THE DATE' is written in large white letters, followed by a green arrow pointing right with the dates '9.14.23 - 9.16.23' in white. At the bottom right, the text 'Learn more at MS SCIENCE FEST.ORG' is written in white.

MISSISSIPPI SCIENCE FEST

SAVE THE DATE

9.14.23 - 9.16.23

SYNERGIZED BY THE
LEFLEUR MUSEUM DISTRICT

presented by **cspire**

Learn more at
MS SCIENCE FEST.ORG

LOCAL ENGINEERS IN THE NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Is Quiet Quitting Affecting the Industry?

BY JENNIFER SLOAN ZIEGLER, P.E., P.A.



JENNIFER SLOAN ZIEGLER, P.E., P.A.

(QUIET QUITTING)

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I'm sure you've all heard the dreaded term quiet quitting by now (and I'm sure you either just thought of somebody you think has "quiet quit" or thought about something you quit quit). It became a movement in the workplace after COVID-19, and a June 2022 Gallup poll showed that over 50% of the US workforce is made up of "quiet quitters", especially among younger millennials (27 to 34 years old) and Gen Z (25 years old and younger).

In the quiet quitting trend hitting the civil engineering industry? If it is, is this a problem and how do we address it? I point that you, based solely on mathematics, the quiet quitting trend is alive and well in our industry. However, depending on how you define the term, I don't think it's a problem. It might be the solution to an industrywide crisis.

I personally define quiet quitting as establishing healthy boundaries around work, and I live a little deeper into the controversial subject to a Flat Panta product. While many people may disagree with my definition (don't worry - my husband disagrees with me!), I ask you to examine the general trends we see in the industry year in and year out. In an industry that has come to expect 56 hours of billable work a week, only "working" 40 to 42 hours can seem like you're doing the minimum. I want to challenge your thoughts on this issue.

Since when has fully committing to your job for 40 hours a week and upholding your obligations to your employer and clients ever been thought of as giving up? How good of a work product are you actually producing at hour 50? 60? 70? Think back to the last time you had a real vacation where you didn't check email, didn't answer work calls, didn't do any work - how did you perform the week after you got back to the office?

Have you ever stopped to think that maybe more time away from work can help you perform your job better and more efficiently? If you don't trust me, that's fine; there are multiple studies that show that working longer is detrimental to your health and your work production (both quality and quantity) and is leading to workforce turnover and burnout.

I even think overwork and burnout are resulting in the high attrition rates we're seeing in the civil engineering

industry and consequently in the decreasing enrollment

we're seeing in civil engineering programs across the US. So how do we address this concern? Only you can answer that for yourself, but I can tell you some industrywide changes I'd like to see:

1. More people setting healthy boundaries at work and working, on average, no more than 40 hours a week. This includes real emergencies.
2. Employees not being penalized for setting boundaries, taking true vacations, and saying "I'll think that over."
3. Better workforce management and planning. In no world can you make me believe scheduling somebody for 100 billable hours in a month with 40 billable hours in it is not the result of poor planning and workforce management.
4. Increased engagement with our work. We need to feel passionate about our jobs to feel fully engaged. Sadly, many of us have lost the wonder that attracted us to the industry in the first place.

I hope this article will make you think and, perhaps, implement some changes in your life and in the way you manage and teach others. The only way we're going to see a change in our industry is if we lead by example. [PE](#)



PepTalks news article "Quiet Quitting" written by Jennifer Sloan Ziegler, P.E. featured in the Spring issue of the National Society of Professional Engineer's PE magazine.

Cristiane (Cris) Surbeck, PE, PhD, F, EWRI, ENV SP received the ASCE Margaret Peterson Award in May 2023.



Lucy Priddy, PE, PhD has been named the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center's (ERDC) Associate Director. Dr. Priddy also received the Engineer of Service Award at her alma mater, the University of Mississippi earlier this year.



AI: Should Engineers Be Worried?

An article written by Sarah Tracy, PE

When you hear the words, “artificial intelligence,” or the initials, “AI,” do you first think of science fiction? R2D2 and C3PO in Star Wars, HAL in 2001: A Space Odyssey, Data in Star Trek: The Next Generation, The Terminator, the computer in War Games. . .pop culture is full of machines that are sentient or become that way as a plot device.

Those movies and TV shows and the sentient characters they introduced debuted decades ago. In some cases, they became treasured memories of our childhood or early imagination of what a robot could bring to our lives. They looked either friendly or menacing and oft times intrigued us because of their human qualities such as sense of humor or quick wit. Fast forward to 2023, and we are now much more *science* than *fiction*, especially since AI is now broader than just self-aware machines. Now we are reminded daily due to current news headlines or events that AI could replace us and the jobs that many depend on.



AI was first proposed in the 1950s, when computing machinery became more prevalent. In simple terms, AI refers to machines that can “think” or make decisions based on inputs and parameters. Since the early days of automation, society has seen the use of AI expand further and further into our everyday lives. When telephones first showed up in our homes, we had to talk to an actual human operator to make a call.



Later, you dialed a number, but there was still a person at a switchboard who connected the lines to allow that call to go through. Now, not only does a machine connect your call, but you most likely have to talk to another one on the other end of the line.

Phone calls are just one example. AI seems to be everywhere. We “chat” with virtual assistants on websites and within computer software packages.

Many of us have our own personal virtual assistants on our phones and in our homes that do everything

from searching the internet for us to adjusting our thermostats and telling us jokes. We even get trolled by bots on social media.

Yet, the latest AI advancement to capture the public eye, generative AI, caused an almost visceral reaction in people. ChatGPT, along with a few others, seemingly burst on the scene last fall.

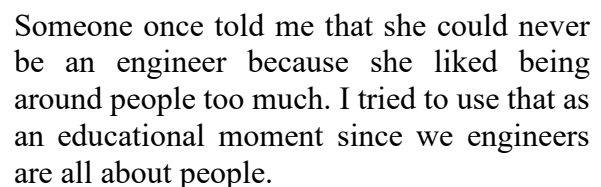
So, what is generative AI? I asked Siri and here's where she sent me:

All ages seem to be aware of generative AI. At a recent elementary school STEM fair in Jackson, a third grader's project was to write a paragraph on a particular topic, ask ChatGPT to write a paragraph on the same topic at a third-grade level, and then have test subjects (both students and teachers) read each paragraph and decide which one was his. For the record, most folks thought the AI paragraph had been written by the student, but in general, students chose correctly more often than the teachers did. (Personally, I just hope this kid becomes an engineer one day!)

I do not think so.

A man with a grey beard, wearing a dark blue suit, white shirt, and striped tie, sits on a white chair. He holds a white disposable coffee cup in his right hand. To his right, a humanoid robot with a white and black body sits on a similar white chair. The robot has a human-like face with a single visible eye and holds a black briefcase with both hands. They are positioned against a plain, light blue-grey background. Two other empty white chairs are visible on either side of the man and robot.

Further, machines lack a fundamental aspect that we humans have: emotion, particularly empathy.



You may scoff at that sentiment but think about it this way: our very nature is problem-solving.

Yes, we like to use math and science to solve those problems and many of our solutions are focused on the physical world. However, the primary purpose of our work is improving the human condition, making the world a better place, and that involves interacting with people to determine their needs and desires.

So, just as GPS has assisted surveyors in their work but does not replace them (see Blake Collins' article "Has technology made the surveyor obsolete?"), AI can be another tool for engineers. The important thing to remember is, no matter how advanced it may be, we should not rely solely on AI for our decision making or for the care of our clients. We should continue to use our education, to lean on our experiences, and to seek input from trusted advisors. While computers can perform all the needed calculations, engineering is about more than numbers.

AI may give us a helping hand, but it's no substitute for a diligent and conscientious PE.

Want more information on this topic?

- How Is Artificial Intelligence And Machine Learning Used In Engineering? – Forbes magazine, February 7, 2020
- The Impact of AI and Automation on the Engineering Workforce – amtec blog post, March 25, 2023
- AI for AEC: Business Development & Marketing Transformed (Four-part webinar series) offered by the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC).
 - Content Development & Application Integration - September 14, 2023, 12:00 - 1:00 PM Eastern
 - Adopting AI Into Your Firm - October 25, 2023, 12:00 - 1:00 PM Eastern
 - A Legal and Ethical Review - November 14, 2023, 12:00 - 1:00 PM Eastern

You can register for the AEC sessions on their website (www.acec.org).



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 2023.

Learn more about these individuals on our website under the *Community & Advocacy* tab at the following link:

<https://www.pepls.ms.gov>

Engineer Interns:



Jessica Simms
May 2023



Anna Norris-Jones
June 2023



Justice Moran
July 2023



Cody Peak
August 2023



Kathleen McMackin-Inman
September 2023



Spotlight features are selected randomly from a pool of respondents. To be considered, you must have responded to the spotlight feature questionnaire and provided a photograph for use, when selected.

Self-nominations are accepted.

MISSISSIPPI SPOTLIGHT FEATURES (CONTINUED)

Professional Engineers and Surveyors



Donald Hendon, P.E.
May 2023



Rachel Weinberg, P.E.
June 2023



Trey Hess, P.E.
July 2023



Trent Holbrook, P.E.
August 2023



William McKercher, P.E.
September 2023



Nominate someone you know for our **Spotlight Features**

___ PE ___ EI ___ PS ___ SI ___ Dual Licensee (PE/PS)

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Phone number: _____

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

BARBIE CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

BY ENCOURAGING GIRLS TO SEE THEMSELVES IN

STEM



Caption This



**“Mom, the Theodolite isn’t level!”
Jocelyn Pritchett, P.E.**



Has technology made the professional surveyor obsolete?

An article written by Michael Blake Collins, PS

I am constantly astounded by the technology that surrounds us daily. We carry computers in our pockets, and there are cameras in our doorbells and thermostats that adjust the temperature in your house based on whether or not you are at home.

Surveying is one of the industries that has benefited from technological advancements. Virtual reference networks for our GPS equipment, drones collecting lidar data, and scanners that will mount to the back of your truck are all incredible advancements that many surveyors take advantage of every day. There is also GPS and LiDAR built into our phones.

So now that the technology that surveyors use is also used by the majority of the people around us, the question must be asked, “Has technology made the professional surveyor obsolete?”

While web-based GIS applications showing land parcels have been used for many years – by county tax assessors, in particular – the transition to mobile device-based apps with GPS integration is a bit newer. Now, with the correct device and app, anyone can look at a map that shows an aerial photograph and property lines together with a tiny blue dot indicating their position and instantly be standing “at their property corner.” With such astounding technology, why do we need to pay professional surveyors for services that anyone with a GPS-enabled cell phone and the correct app can perform on their own?



This issue hit home with me recently when I was surveying a piece of property for my dad. I had a copy of his deed, my GPS rover, data collector, metal detector, shovel, and flagging.

He had his phone.

So, as I am searching for a monument at one of the corners, his phone is telling him that I am looking in the wrong area and should be 15-20 feet away from where I was digging.

Even after finding the rebar with flagging at the corner, he still had a difficult time accepting that the monument I found was the actual corner because it was so far away from where his app showed the corner location to be.

So why should he trust the location that I showed him instead of the location shown on his app?

I would argue that there are basically four reasons why!

Reason 1. Accuracy of the Equipment

Most GPS-enabled smartphones have an accuracy of around 16 feet under ideal circumstances (<https://www.gps.gov/systems/gps/performance/accuracy/>).

That accuracy can decrease dramatically if there are buildings or trees nearby. Again, the technology that allows you to pinpoint your location anywhere in the world to within 16 feet is simply mind blowing.

That level of accuracy is great if you are turned around in the woods and need to find your way back to your vehicle or if you are trying to find that trendy new restaurant.

However, it is not nearly accurate enough for determining the location of a property line, which can affect your tax bill or how well you get along with your neighbor.

By contrast, most modern survey equipment can achieve GPS accuracies of +/- 1/2 inch.

Reason 2. Accuracy of the Data

The data represented in most of the apps that offer these services are obtained from county tax assessors. In essence, it is a tax map of the area. Tax maps are generally a decent indicator of the general size and shape of the parcel of land involved. Sometimes, they even have a good location when you compare it to aerial imagery obtained through Bing or Google Maps. However, on most of the tax assessor's websites, you will find a disclaimer that says something to the effect of:

"The Assessor's Office provides this information in good faith with no warranty and does not accept any liability arising from incorrect, incomplete, or misleading information or improper use. Be advised not to rely solely on the information reflected in these maps. ... The maps and associated data at this website do not represent a survey" (Claiborne County Tax Assessor Web Application). "

Furthermore, the terms of service of one of the web-based apps has a section entitled "Accuracy of Information," which contains the following regarding the accuracy of the data presented in their product:

"...the accuracy, completeness, timeliness, or correctness of (the) data is not guaranteed."

It goes on to state, "The parcel data is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as one. The parcel data ... should be used for reference only. No representation is made that the

The screenshot shows the GPS.gov website. The header includes the GPS.gov logo, the text "Official U.S. government information about the Global Positioning System (GPS) and related topics", and a search bar. The navigation menu has links for Home, What's New, Systems, Applications, Governance, Multimedia, and Support. The breadcrumb trail reads "Home » Systems » GPS » Performance » Accuracy".

SYSTEMS:

- GPS Overview
- Space Segment
- Control Segment
- Performance
 - Performance Reports
 - Accuracy (highlighted)
- Modernization
- Technical Documentation
- Augmentation Systems
- Other GNSS

TAKE ACTION:

- Bookmark this page
- Share this page
- Print this page
- Get website updates via RSS
- Comment on this page
- Get help and support

GPS Accuracy

On this page:

- How accurate is GPS?
- Why does GPS sometimes show me in the wrong place?
- What is the government's commitment to GPS accuracy?
- How accurate is GPS for speed measurement?
- How accurate is GPS for timing?
- Is military GPS more accurate than civilian GPS?
- Doesn't the government degrade civilian GPS accuracy?

What is the government's commitment to GPS accuracy?

The government is committed to providing GPS at the accuracy levels specified in the GPS Standard Positioning Service (SPS) Performance Standard. [VIEW DOCUMENT](#)

The accuracy commitments do not apply to GPS devices, but rather to the signals transmitted in space. For example, the government commits to broadcasting the GPS signal in space with a daily global average user range error (URE) of ≤ 2.0 m (6.6 ft.), with 95% probability, across all healthy satellites in constellation slots. Actual performance is typically much better. On April 20, 2021, the global average URE across all satellites was ≤ 0.643 m (2.1 ft.), 95% of the time.

To be clear, URE is not user accuracy. User accuracy depends on a combination of satellite geometry, URE, and local factors such as signal blockage, atmospheric conditions, and receiver design features/quality.

How accurate is GPS?

It depends. GPS satellites broadcast their signals in space with a certain accuracy, but what you receive depends on additional factors, including satellite geometry, signal blockage, atmospheric conditions, and receiver design features/quality.

For example, GPS-enabled smartphones are typically accurate to within a 4.9 m (16 ft.) radius under open sky ([VIEW SOURCE AT ION.ORG](#)). However, their accuracy worsens near buildings, bridges, and trees.

User Range Error (URE) vs. User Accuracy

features presented accurately reflect true location.” Furthermore, you do not know that the data presented is up to date. If a parcel has been divided or if a strip of land has been conveyed for a road right of way recently, then that information may not be shown on the county assessor’s page or the app.

On the other hand, surveyors physically locate each property corner, measure the angles and distances around the boundary, perform the related calculations, and conduct the necessary research to determine the exact boundaries of your property. Their data is individually gathered and checked for accuracy for each survey.

Reason 3. Awareness of the Law

While these apps and the tax maps that they are derived from are certainly useful tools for visualizing the boundary lines, there is often information in a deed that requires an interpretation by the reader, and awareness of boundary law and the language used in the deed is critical to interpreting that information properly. There may be conflicts in deeds of adjoining parcels that lead to gaps or overlaps.

A deed can even have conflicting information within itself. For example, the deed may say to go 100 feet to the right of way line of Main Street, but the right of way line of Main Street is more than 100 feet away. Would you only go 100 feet and come up short of the right of way line or ignore the distance and go to the right of way line? What if the deed follows a crooked ditch but the county has straightened the ditch to allow for better drainage? Does the property line follow the new line of the ditch or stay where the ditch was before the realignment?

These are all issues where a proper interpretation of boundary law is required to produce the correct location of the boundary line. County Tax Assessors and app developers know their employees often lack the expertise required to make those determinations. That is why they include those previously cited disclaimers on their websites and in their terms of service.

Surveyors, however, have the knowledge and experience to interpret these issues – and countless others like them –in accordance with state law to accurately locate property lines.

Rule 14.3 Seal on Documents

1. The seal, signature and date on a document constitute a certification that the document was prepared by the licensee or under his direct supervision.
 - a. Each sheet of plans, drawings, documents, specifications and reports for engineering practice and of maps, plats, charts shall be signed, sealed and dated by the licensee preparing them, prepared under his direct supervisory control, or reviewed by him in sufficient depth to fully coordinate and assume responsibility for documents prepared by another professional engineer.
 - b. Each sheet of maps, plats, charts, documents, and reports for land surveying practice shall be signed, sealed, and dated by the licensee preparing them or prepared under his direct supervisory control.
2. Where more than one (1) sheet is bound together in one (1) volume, the licensee who prepared such volume, or under whose direction and control such volume was prepared, may sign, seal and date only the title or index sheet, providing that the signed sheet clearly identifies all of the other sheets comprising the bound volume, and provided that any of the other sheets which were prepared by, or under the direction and control of, another licensee, be signed, sealed and dated by said other licensee.
3. Additions, deletions or other revisions affecting public health and safety or state and local codes may be made only if they are subsequently signed, sealed and dated by the licensee who made the revisions or under whose direction and control said revisions were made.

Reason 4. Accountability

Who assumes liability should a landowner mark their boundary line using one of the apps that we have discussed? According to the terms of use quoted earlier, the same company states that they “assume no liability for any errors or omissions.” In other words, the landowner assumes total liability **for any mistakes that this company makes**, and they even take on the liability for inaccuracies in the data that they receive from the app they are using.

Conversely, the Rules and Regulations of the Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors states in Chapter 14

that **a surveyor is required to seal all surveys and that seal constitutes a certification that the document was prepared by the surveyor or under his/her direct supervision.** As such, the liability for errors is shifted to the surveyor who seals the document.

My dad is not a surveyor. He knows very little about what I do and how I do it.

He is an avid wood worker, though. So, as we are standing over his property corner discussing the accuracy of the GPS in his phone and the accuracy of the data that he is trying to retrace, I asked him if he would ever use his miter saw to create a dovetail joint. He gave me a look of disgust, as though he could not believe I would ask such a ridiculous question, and replied with a resounding “NO!” “Why not?” I asked.



“Because it’s the wrong tool for the job.”

Technology is incredible. Phones with GPS and apps that show parcel information are particularly handy.

I know hunters who use them to look for access to their favorite spot. Others want to know who owns the parcel next to them so that they can butter them up and ask for permission to hunt (or at least know whose property they are going to be trespassing onto). Realtors and land developers use them for planning purposes as they work on their next major retail development or subdivision. Surveyors use them to know where to look to find section corners or other corners that will be required for our surveys. They are incredibly useful ***for the purpose for which they are intended.***

However, they are simply the wrong tool for the job when it comes to accurately locating property lines.

Looking to engage with others, but especially youth about surveying? These resources might help:

- Get KIDS into SURVEY (<https://www.getkidsintosurvey.com/usa-west-coast/>)
- On Facebook and YouTube – GetKidsintosurvey
- BE a SURVEYOR.com (<https://beasurveyor.com/get-kids-into-survey/>)
- <https://kids.kiddle.co/Surveying>
- NSPS Trig-Star Competition (<https://trig-star.com/>)
- MATHCOUNTS competitions (<https://www.mathcounts.org/programs/mathcounts-competition-series>)

“A lot of people don't think much about what land surveyors do. In a nutshell, we are the interpreters and providers of landmarks and records that directly impact real property.”

– Mark Mason

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 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 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: <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 or surveyor's work, though may be actionable, upon presentment of substantial evidence to the Board.

Provided below is a recap of the **Engineering complaints/disciplinary actions** that occurred since January 1, 2023

- Case# 0123/01, possible state bidding laws violation, closed
- Case# 0123/02, possible violations, falsifying Engineering report, closed
- Case# 0123/33, possible violation – falsifying engineering report, in process
- Case #0523/35, possible engineering CoA violation, completed / closed
- Case #0523/38. Possible ethics violation, in process
- Case #0723/01, falsifying engineering plans, in process
- Case #0723/02, unlicensed engineering practice, in process

Number of Engineering cases resolved: 3

Number of Engineering cases still in process: 4

Provided below is a reape of the **Surveying Complaints/disciplinary actions** that have occurred since January 1, 2023.

- Case# 0323/34,surveying complaint, completed / closed
- Case #0523/36, Surveying – MS Standards, in process
- Case #0523/37, Surveying – MS Standards, in process
- Case# 0623/39, surveying – practicing with expired / closed license, in process
- Case# 0623/40, Surveying – practicing without a license, in process

Number of Surveying cases resolved: 1

Number of Surveying cases still in process: 4

News you can use

Employment Opportunity. All public and private, not for profit, schools in MS are required to have a Management Plan maintained by an MDEQ certified Management Planner per the AHERA regulations. All activities that disturb asbestos in these same schools also require the use of an MDEQ certified Project Designer. Both certifications have an educational requirement of professional Architect or Professional Engineer if the individual was not grandfathered in as of April 1, 1990. As the individuals that were grandfathered in are aging out of the profession, there is a need for PA or PE individuals to fill the void.

If you are interested in performing this needed work and would like more information on what it would entail, contact Dennis Kelly at MDEQ at 601-961-5630 or dkelly@mdeq.ms.gov.

Upcoming events:

ASCE virtual career fair – September 12, 2023

MDWFP MMNS Mississippi Science Fest – September 15th – 16th

NSPS Fall Business Meeting – September 20th – 22nd

2023 ASCE Mississippi Section Annual Meeting – September 21st – 22nd

Mississippi Section Exam – September 28th

ACEC 2023 Fall Conference – October 15th -18th

ASCE 2023 Convention – October 18th – 21st

2023 Women Surveyors Summit – October 19th – 22nd

ACEC Mississippi's Fall Meeting – November 2nd – 3rd

SHPE 2023 National Convention – November 1st – 5th

10th Annual P2P Gulf Coast Mississippi – November 15th & 16th

ASCE Inspire Conference – November 15th – 18th



We asked you told us. Thanks for the feedback!

In general I thought the process went well. I am licensed in 15 states and some states require a lot of the same information to be submitted in their forms when it is already contained in the NCEES Record.

Thank you and keep up the good work!

The licensure process was easy and straightforward. The website had clear instructions that were easy to follow and the online application process went smoothly.

Best,
Matt

I thought the process was extremely simple compared to the other states where I have become licensed by comity. Thank you for making the process easy to work through. As a busy professional, I appreciated not having to spend hours supplying information which is already included in my NCEES record.

Jill Van Tassel, P.E.

The process for achieving my MS PE was fairly straightforward. There was some confusion on my part when and how information related to my name change needed to be submitted in relation to the overall process. Ultimately, it all worked out, but in comparison to other states, the process is less rigid for Mississippi, so I was concerned that maybe I was missing a step or two. I much prefer the process for Mississippi than other states that require duplicate forms to be mailed with wet signatures and signed and sealed envelopes. While I understand why some states prefer to handle the process in that manner, relying on the NCEES record seems appropriate, as there is substantial work needed to even start and then maintain that record for licensure.

Thank you for seeking my feedback.

Sincerely,

Kristie Di Cocco

I would like to thank the PEPLS for their prompt attention to my PE application.

Without my knowledge, NCEES had withheld my PE information to the MS PEPLS. Because of the follow up from the Board, I was able to have the NCEES issue resolved, and receive my PE certification.

The process was simple enough. Needing to send an example of my stamp is a new requirement among the 20 licences that I hold. Otherwise, nice work!

I was pleased with the MS PE application process. There were no issues or difficulties with my application. Thank you for your attention.

Best Regards,
Joseph McCabe, PE

Thanks for reaching out. I thought the experience of applying for Comity Licensure was quite straightforward. It was definitely one of the better states I've applied for comparatively.

The only constructive criticism I could provide is to include the license number and a link to the Rules and Regulations, specifically Chapter 14, in the congratulations email. I'm sure the paperwork coming in the mail talks about stamp/seal requirements but it would be nice to be referred to that information and be able to order a stamp while waiting on the snail mail.


Instead, I was able to search your website for both easily, but it would be nice to include as "next step" in the approval email.

Thank you,
Jim Huff

K-12 Outreach - Ready to print STEM bookmarks

Cut out and glue to card stock to make a bookmark.

Creating the Future



Soap Boat

Cut a small piece of cardboard into a boat shape, with a V cut into the stern.


Place the boat onto the surface of a large pan of water.

Carefully place a few drops of dishwashing liquid on the water in the "V" shape of the boat.


Watch your boat move forward!

Engineers explore and experiment to find new ways to make things go. Do you think soap could be used as a fuel for ocean liners?

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ENGINEERS WEEK®
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Creating the Future



Bridging the Gap

Engineers figure out the best way to use available materials.

Place 2 stacks of books of equal height 6 inches apart.

Make a bridge by putting a flat sheet of paper across the books.


Put some pennies on the bridge. How many pennies will the bridge support before it falls down?

Now change the shape of the building material and test the bridge again. *Hint: roll, fold, or crumple the paper.*

Will it support more pennies? Make a prediction.

You're an engineer!

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BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

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

October 4, 2023

December 6, 2023 (tentative)

*Dates and times subject to change.

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>

Contact Us

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HOW TO FOLLOW AND CONTACT US

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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