

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

FBPE Launches New Phases of Outreach Program

The mission of the Florida Board of Professional Engineers (FBPE) is to protect the interest of public health and safety by properly regulating the practice of engineering. The FBPE is obligated to accomplish this by exercising its legislative authority to review and approve engineering applications; to manage, update and enforce the rules that govern the practice of engineering and to guard against the unlicensed practice of engineering; all while serving the best interests of its licensees.

As discussed in my last article, to help accomplish this mission the FBPE has launched both phases of its Outreach Program, *Unlicensed Activity* and *Professional Involvement*.

One of the tasks identified under the heading of *Unlicensed Activity* included interfacing with professionally aligned regulatory authorities. Which is why in February of this year, the FBPE held a joint board meeting with the Florida Board of Architecture and Interior Design (FBAID). During this meeting both boards agreed to appoint three of each board's members to a *Joint Architecture/Engineering Task Force*. While the scope of this task force remains undefined, its objective is to establish a dialogue between the boards so as to address common conflicts facing our respective licensees.

One of the tasks identified under the heading of *Professional Involvement* included working to develop relationships with FBPE's licensees' engineering associations and societies. To begin this process the FBPE will be sending out letters to the engineering associations and societies known to the FBPE with an invitation to establish a working relationship. Once established, each engineering association or society will be able to provide its Florida licensed members with an opportunity to participate on FBPE committees and in rule-making matters. Likewise, each organization will be able to bring industry-related issues and concerns directly to the attention of the FBPE. In addition the FBPE will:

- Add each organization to the list published by the FBPE;
- Provide a link from the FBPE website to each organization's website;
- Make the Chair, Vice-Chair and select staff members available to present or speak to each organization on behalf of the FBPE regarding laws and rules or on FBPE activities;
- Afford each organization the ability to submit articles as outlined in *FBPE's Style Guide & Information for Outside Authors* for consideration and possible publication on the FBPE's website; and
- Afford each organization the ability to submit event announcements and activities or recent accomplishments for consideration and possible publishing on FBPE's social media outlets (Facebook, LinkedIn, etc.)

On behalf of the Florida Board of Professional Engineers, we certainly hope that those engineering associations and societies currently serving Florida's licensed engineers will consider assisting the FBPE by creating and maintaining a working relationship with the Board.

William C. Bracken, PE, SI, CFM
FBPE Chair

To initiate a relationship, request additional information on any aspect of the *Outreach Program*, or address the Board with any questions or concerns, please contact *Zana Raybon*, FBPE's Executive Director at zraybon@fbpe.org or *Shannon McCoy*, FBPE's Public Information Officer at smccoy@fbpe.org.



William C. Bracken, PE, SI, CFM is a licensed Professional Engineer and Special Inspector in the State of Florida and is the President and Principal Engineer for Bracken Engineering located in Tampa, Florida. Mr. Bracken has served on the FBPE Board since 2012 and was the Board's Vice-Chair for 2013-2014. He is currently serving his first term as FBPE's Chair.