

## Exploring the Public's Perception of Professional Licensing

Guest column by the Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing

Occupational licensing reform has emerged as a hot topic in statehouses across the country.

Conversations around licensing have been shaped largely by groups, which claim that occupational licensing laws create harmful, unnecessary barriers to workforce participation and should be eliminated.

The Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing (ARPL) contends that calls to eliminate or weaken licensing make no distinction for highly complex professions that have direct impact on public health, safety and welfare. ARPL is concerned that broad-brush legislation would deregulate licensing wholesale and cause potentially dangerous and unintended consequences.

Benenson Strategy Group (BSG) conducted a recent national study to understand public opinion toward professional licensing standards.

BSG conducted interviews with 952 “likely voters”—individuals who were registered to vote and had voted in the 2016 or 2018 elections or indicated that they were likely to vote in the 2020 election. This was a national opinion study with a diverse respondent pool—with a mix of gender, age, race and political ideology. Research was conducted from October 25 through November 6, 2019.

### Key Findings

The public overwhelmingly supports licensing regulations for complex, highly technical professions that have direct impact on public health, safety and wellness. However, the public is not entirely opposed to deregulating licensing standards for trades and occupations.

Members of the public acknowledge that such reform initiatives may be warranted in some instances, but they are largely opposed to legis-

lation that is not narrowly tailored to those ends. They are deeply concerned by overbroad licensing reform that would jeopardize licensing standards for highly complex, technical professions.

The public expects that professions tasked with safeguarding their physical and financial well-being are regulated.

Moreover, licensing standards are the public's preferred default position.

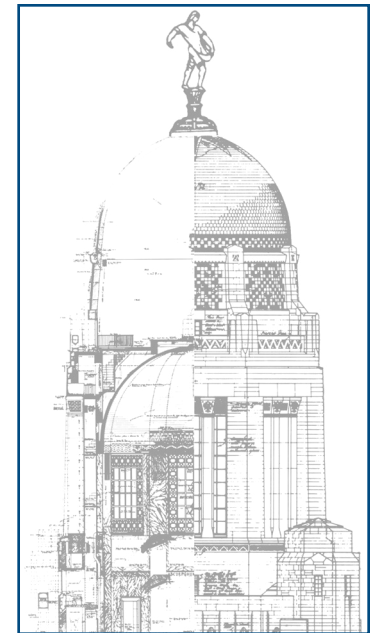
71% of voters believe professional licensing should be required unless it can be proven that eliminating licensing will not have a negative impact on public and health safety.

The public is wary of the alternate approach: requiring licensing only when it is proven necessary. Professional licensing boards are also viewed favorably and are seen as critical regulatory entities.

67% of voters believe that consumers are best protected by a system that regulates education, examination and experience standard—all of which are overseen by a professional licensing board. And the public intuitively understands what roles the boards play and why those roles are important.

A majority of the public believes that it is “very important” that the boards oversee qualifications to enter a profession and regulate continuing education and education and certification.

*ARPL is composed of national associations that represent highly complex, technical professions, and their state licensing boards. Members of ARPL are licensed in all 50+ US states and territories. Associations within ARPL have established uniform education, examination, and experience standards and a proven national mobility path for professionals. Both NCEES and NCARB are members of ARPL. ■*



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# University of Nebraska—Lincoln Team Wins NCEES Award

By Kennedy Stowater, Marketing & Communications Specialist

A team from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Charles W. Durham School of Architectural Engineering and Construction was a recipient of the 2021 NCEES Engineering Award.

As Covid-19 canceled the students' chances to compete in 2020, this year's class was finally able to submit their project.

For their award submission, the Architectural Engineering Institute had several students, faculty and dozens of professional engineers design the structural, mechanical and electrical engineered systems for War Memorial Hall on the campus of Virginia Tech University.

Students in their fifth year, receiving their Master's, worked on the design for two semesters for their capstone.

One of the faculty members and leaders of the project, Professor Clarence Waters, Ph.D., P.E., F.AEI, says, "This project very much prepares them for the building industry."

According to Waters, it teaches the students mechanical, electrical, and structural engineering disciplines, along with teamwork and much more.

The NCEES Engineering Award's evaluation criteria includes:

- Demonstration of successful collaboration amongst faculty, students, and licensed professional engineers;
- Protection of public health, safety, and/or welfare of the public;
- Raising students' awareness about the impact of engineering decisions;
- Highlighting multi-discipline and/or allied profession participation; and
- How the knowledge and skills gained contribute to the professional practice of engineering.

The design goals for War Memorial Hall were to maintain the building footprint, develop a wellness hub, introduce natural ventilation with operable windows, create a cohesive façade aesthetic, increase building envelope performance by 30 percent and increase spatial daylight autonomy by 40 percent. All of this had to be done within a \$45 million budget for the 220,000 square-foot hall.

The project required the design and integration of mechanical, electrical, and structural systems in the building. The AEI student design competition is the most highly regarded student design competition in Architectural Engineering and continues to raise the bar for quality, depth, and completeness of the student submissions and presentations.

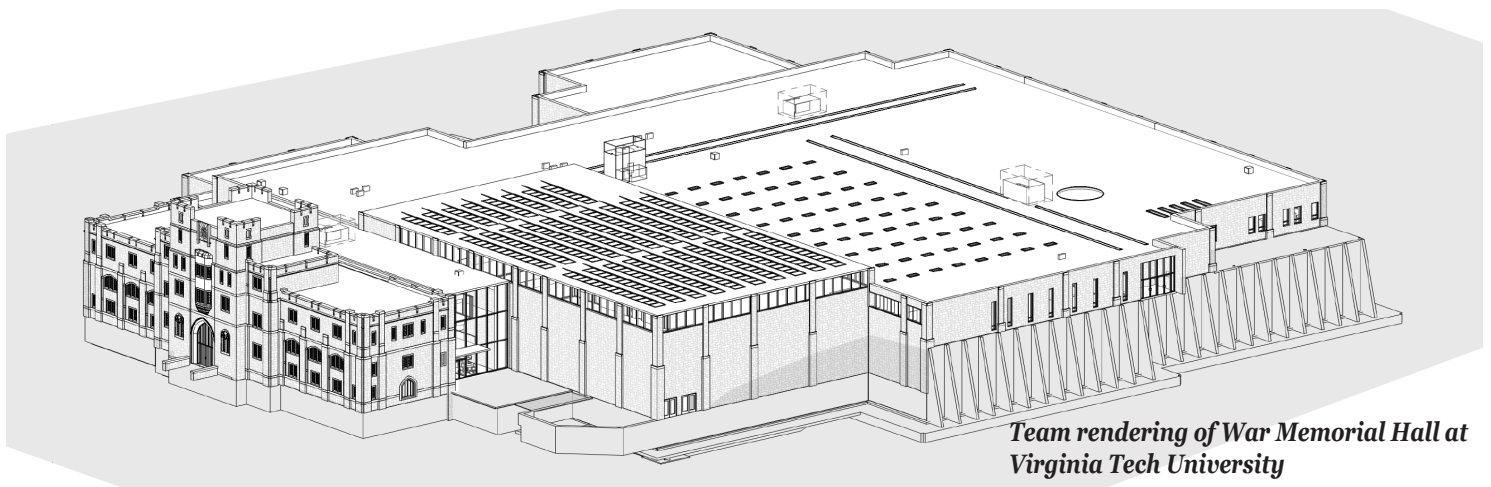
The UNL students submitted their design online. It included a project description, their goals, and a description of the knowledge and skills they gained and how they would put this design into action.

The display board also shed light on industry collaboration. Professionals mentored students to help identify problems early in the design and brainstorm solutions. They also met regularly for guidance.

Professor Waters applauds the industry's contribution to the course, saying, "They are exceptional," continuing, "We are so lucky to be in Nebraska, and have this kind of support."

UNL has competed for the NCEES Engineering Award seven times. They received first place in 2016 and 2019, and received awards in 2015, 2016 and in 2021, winning \$10,000. Milwaukee School of Engineering walked away with the grand price of \$25,000 this year. Engineering programs accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET are eligible. The award is open to programs from all engineering disciplines.

If you would like to read all the details of the design and the display board, visit: <https://ncees.org/university-of-nebraska-lincoln-2021/>



*Team rendering of War Memorial Hall at Virginia Tech University*

# New Licensee Ceremony held at Capitol



**Newly-licensed architects and professional engineers pose with their license certificates in the Rotunda of the Nebraska State Capitol on November 5, 2021. In total, 10 architects and 133 professional engineers were licensed by exam since November 2020.**

**This is the 17<sup>th</sup> year the Board has held a ceremony honoring individuals licensed by exam. ■**

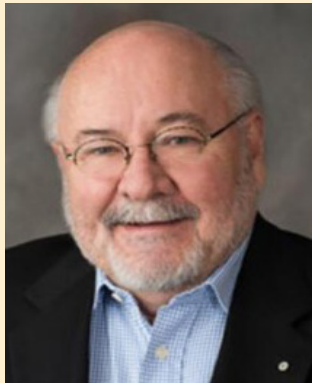
## In Memoriam

### Albert C. Hamersky, 1924-2021

Albert C. Hamersky served on the Board of Engineers and Architects from 1991 to 2011. He contributed to dozens of professional, civic and religious organizations throughout his career. He received many honors and awards throughout his career, including 25 design awards and the Harry F. Cunningham Gold Medal for Architecture from AIA Nebraska.

Hamersky once said, “the primary social function of the architect is not to simply fulfill utilitarian needs, but to create a work of art.”

During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army, 533rd Engineer Boat & Shore Regiment, as part of the 3rd Engineer Special Brigade, attached to Sixth Army, as well as the Eighth Army for special assignments. He did reconnaissance work and took part in invasions in the South Pacific. He was awarded five Battle Stars representing major invasions, a Bronze Arrowhead for initial assaults on enemy beaches, Philippine Liberation medal with two bronze battle stars, and a special commendation for outstanding service.



### W. Cecil Steward, 1934-2021

W. Cecil Steward was a member of the Board of Engineers and Architects from 1994 to 1996, serving as the faculty representative of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln’s College of Architecture.

In 1973, Steward became the first dean of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln’s College of Architecture. Steward earned numerous awards and accomplishments throughout his lifetime including the Joint Award for Excellence in Architecture Education; the Topaz Medallion by the AIA and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture with the title, Distinguished Professor, ACSA/AIA; W. Cecil Steward Distinguished Chair for Sustainable Design, founding recipient, University of Nebraska Foundation; Outstanding Educator of the Year, University of Nebraska–Lincoln; and the first living recipient of AIA Nebraska’s Harry F. Cunningham Gold Medal for Architecture.

He was well respected throughout the allied professions for his numerous contributions in educational outreach, the elevation of professional standards and his passion for sustainability.

# NCARB NEWS

## Enhanced Exam Calculator

To improve the tools available to Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®) candidates, NCARB released an enhanced calculator within the ARE software, available to all testers on Monday, November 29.

The enhanced calculator includes an updated interface, a history feature that displays all recent calculations, and improved memory functionality allowing testers to store multiple values at the same time.

The updated calculator maintains the existing functionality of the current calculator, including trigonometric functions. In addition, the new calculator defaults to degree units for ease of use to allow candidates ample time to plan their future testing strategy.

Candidates can test out the new calculator by launching the ARE Demonstration Exam through their *MyNCARB* account. All candidates should become familiar with the enhanced functionality prior to testing. ■

## Participate in NCARB's Analysis of Practice

Alpine Testing Solutions, Inc., in partnership with Schlesinger Group, is investigating the current and near future practice of architecture in the United States, including how architects and other professionals contribute to the creation of the built environment. NCARB is sponsoring the project to inform the future development of its licensure programs and to advance general understanding of how the profession is evolving.

### What's being studied?

- Architects' roles and responsibilities in the United States, including how these overlap with the work of related professionals in the built environment
- Skills and competencies architects have, do not have, or need more of
- Common experiences throughout an architect's career
- The value of licensure and the role of health, safety, and welfare in architecture
- The impact that ethics has on the practice of architecture
- Likely influence of technology on the near future practice of architecture
- The impact of equity, diversity, and inclusion
- The perspectives and expectations of architecture clients
- Current and near future areas of practice in architecture

### How will the findings be used?

- To inform updates to competency expectations for practicing architects
- To re-evaluate existing competency assessments
- To inform updates to the requirements of NCARB's licensure programs and services

### Who can participate?

- All architects and individuals working in architecture in the U.S., including students, retired architects and those pursuing a license

- Any individual working a related profession that works closely with architects, such as landscape architecture or engineering
- Human resource managers or hiring managers who are knowledgeable about the roles and responsibilities of architects and/or other professionals who work closely with architects

### How to participate?

- All eligible individuals may participate in a practice-wide survey
- Some individuals may be asked to participate by sharing their experiences through a blog, story submission or webinar

Based on the needs of the study and responses, some individuals will be invited to participate in one-on-one web interviews, electronic bulletin board discussions, mini surveys, in-person focus groups or by documenting their daily work activities through the use of mobile application--- these individuals may receive a small stipend for their time.

**When?** Now until April 2022

**If you would like to participate, please visit [analysisofpractice.com](https://analysisofpractice.com) or use the QR code below** ■



Open the camera app from your device. Hold your device so that the QR code appears in the viewfinder and until a notification link appears.

# NCEES NEWS

## Spring 2022 Civil PE Exam Changes

The NCEES PE Civil exam had its last paper administration in October 2021. Beginning November 1, 2021, examinees will be able to register and schedule computer-based testing (CBT) appointments, which will be available year-round starting on April 1, 2022. ■

## April 2022 PE Structural exam administration

Registration for the NCEES PE Structural exam administration will open December 13, 2021, and close February 24, 2022, at 2 p.m. CST. The exam will be administered at select locations throughout the United States. Locations are based on the number of structural examinees that previously tested near these locations. NCEES will monitor these locations to determine if additional or different locations are required for future PE Structural exam administrations.

If requesting accommodations, all requests, appeals, and supporting documentation must be received by 2 p.m. CST on February 24, 2022.

- Lincoln, NE
- Anchorage, AK
- Pomona, CA
- Denver, CO
- Hartford, CT
- Kissimmee, FL
- Atlanta, GA
- Guam
- Honolulu, HI
- Chicago, IL
- Topeka, KS
- Minneapolis, MN
- Reno, NV
- Houston, TX
- Salt Lake City Area, UT
- Richmond, VA
- Seattle, WA

### Thursday, April 21, 2022: PE Structural Vertical

To help ensure the health, safety, and welfare of examinees and proctoring teams, NCEES is implementing the following measures for the April 2022 PE Structural exam administration. Examinees who enter the exam site must follow these guidelines on exam day.

- Examinees will be seated alone and properly distanced from other tables.
- Examinees and proctors are required to wear face masks at all times. This is required at all exam sites including locations with no local or state face mask mandates.
- Face shields may not be used as a substitute for face masks but may be worn in addition to face masks. Face coverings must be removed for proper identification when instructed by a proctor. Proctors may visually inspect face coverings.
- Examinees must practice social distancing at all times.

### Friday, April 22, 2022: PE Structural Lateral

- Examinees will be allowed to have hand sanitizer and wipes, extra face coverings, and disposable gloves in the exam room; they must be placed on the floor during the exam.
- Examinees understand that they will be dismissed from the exam and their exam scores will be invalidated if they do not adhere to the COVID-19 safety requirements for this site.
- Examinees understand that they are allowed to lower masks to eat or drink for brief moments as defined by the proctors and that proctors will issue a warning to examinees before they are dismissed.

NCEES will not require a signed form or ask about an examinee's health and well-being on exam day. However, people who are sick or suspect they are sick should not enter the exam site. ■

## NCEES Completes Licensure Study

NCEES recently partnered with research and marketing consultants McKinley Advisors to uncover the types of resources, information, and initiatives needed to raise awareness of and boost recruitment in the professions of engineering.

### NCEES Marketing and Outreach

Strategist Jacob Barker worked with McKinley Advisors to define the goals of the research. He explained NCEES' reasons for undertaking this project: "With objective, third-party qualitative and quantitative research, we can use evidence-based findings and recommendations to guide the organization and its communication efforts in the future."

Continued on Page 6

## NCEES NEWS

Continued from Page 5

The primary focus of the research was to capture the perceptions and needs of elementary and college educators, high school guidance counselors, engineering college students, and current practicing engineers.

Barker noted that these audiences play a critical role in raising awareness of the profession and fostering interest and excitement among students—all to support a more robust and diverse workforce pipeline in the future. Barker said that research identified opportunities for NCEES, including development of specific resources and initiatives that will help NCEES better meet the needs of these audiences in the advancement of professional licensure. A secondary focus was to better understand awareness and perceptions of NCEES.

### Finding highlights

- With a primary focus on reading, math, and science at the elementary and high school levels, looking for opportunities to integrate engineering into the current reading, math, and science curriculum enables greater exposure to students, as teachers currently do not have time needed for distinct engineering classes.
- Engineers commonly decide on their career studies in high school.
- Being able to have a positive impact on society is a growing reason that engineering college students and young professionals are choosing engineering as a field of study or career as compared to those who have been practicing for 10–15 years or more.
- Engineering faculty are primarily turning to state licensing boards for licensure information.
- Most practicing engineers respondents are aware of NCEES, satisfied with its services, and would recommend using NCEES services to a colleague. ■

## Recently Resolved Compliance Cases

**The following complaints were reviewed for compliance by the Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects, and resolved via the action noted. These summaries are provided for licensee education and information, and should not be interpreted as a full description of the complaints described. In complaints where disciplinary action was taken by the Board per Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-3444, the names of the individuals and/or organizations involved are included.**

### Case 20.22 – Unlicensed Practice

**SUMMARY:** The Board was notified of the submission of unsealed plans to another state agency for the construction of a single-story building [Assembly (A) Occupancy] comprising approximately 8,400 square feet. The plans did not bear the seal of a Nebraska-licensed architect or professional engineer.

**ACTION:** This project was subject to the Act due to the building area comprising more than 1,000 square feet of an Assembly occupancy.

The Board authorized remediation to bring this project into compliance with the Act. The project owner engaged licensees to remediate the project. Deficiencies were identified, but the owner chose not to have them removed. The Board then held a formal hearing and imposed a civil penalty and costs for the investigation on the project owner. After the hearing, the project owner did remove the deficiencies.

The Board dismissed the complaint without seeking enforcement of the civil penalty upon removing all deficiencies.

### Case 20.27 – Unlicensed Practice

**SUMMARY:** The Board was notified of the submission of unsealed plans to another state agency for the renovation of a single-story building [Assembly (A) Occupancy] comprising approximately 1,500 square feet. The plans did not bear the seal of a Nebraska-licensed architect or professional engineer.

**ACTION:** This project was subject to the Act due to the building area comprising more than 1,000 square feet of an Assembly occupancy.

The Board authorized remediation to bring this project into compliance with the Act. The project owner engaged licensees to remediate the project. Deficiencies were identified, but the owner chose not to have them removed. The Board then held a formal hearing and imposed a civil penalty and costs for the investigation on the project owner. After the hearing, the project owner did remove the deficiencies.

The Board dismissed the complaint without seeking enforcement of the civil penalty upon removing all deficiencies.

### Case 20.30 – Unlicensed Practice

**SUMMARY:** The Board was notified of the submission of unsealed plans to another state agency for the renovation of a single-story building [Educational (E) Occupancy] comprising approximately 1,806 square feet. The plans did not bear the seal of a Nebraska-licensed architect or professional engineer.

**ACTION:** This project was subject to the Act due to the renovation adversely impacting more than 1,000 square feet of an Educational occupancy.

The Board authorized the remediation process to bring the project into compliance with the Act. Per Board Rule 8.4, the remediation professionals reviewed the project, identified deficiencies, and recommended corrections. The complaint was dismissed upon removal of all deficiencies.

### Case 20.34 – Unlicensed Practice

**SUMMARY:** The Board was notified of the submission of unsealed plans to another state agency for the renovation of a two-story, 8,000 square foot mixed occupancy [Assembly (A) and Daycare (I-4) Occupancies] building that did not bear the seal of a Nebraska-licensed architect or professional engineer.

**ACTION:** This project was subject to the Act due to the renovation area adversely impacting more than 1,000 square feet of Assembly occupancy. Board Rule 10.3.11 says any structure which contains two or more occupancies is governed by the most restrictive occupancy for the purpose of utilizing the Exemption Matrix (Rule 10.3).

The Board authorized the remediation process to bring the project into compliance with the Act. Per Board Rule 8.4, the remediation professionals reviewed the project, identified deficiencies, and recommended corrections. The complaint was dismissed upon removal of all deficiencies

### Case 20.37 – Unlicensed Practice

**SUMMARY:** : The Board was notified of the submission of unsealed plans to another state agency for the construction of a single-story commercial building [Factory (F) Occupancy] comprising approximately 6,000 square feet. The plans did not bear the seal of a Nebraska-licensed architect or professional engineer.

**ACTION:** This project was subject to the Act due to the building area comprising more than 5,000 square feet of a Factory occupancy.

A licensee serving as the remediation professional reviewed the project and did not identify any deficiencies. The complaint was dismissed with no disciplinary action.

### Case 21.05 – Unlicensed Practice

**SUMMARY:** The Board was notified of the submission of unsealed plans to another state agency for the construction of a single-story, approximate 13,500 square foot commercial building classified as [Business (B) and Storage (S) Occupancies]. The plans did not bear the seal of a Nebraska-licensed architect or professional engineer.

**ACTION:** This project was subject to the Act due to the building area comprising more than 3,000 square feet of a Business occupancy. Board Rule 10.3.11 says any structure which contains two or more occupancies is governed by the most restrictive occupancy for the purpose of utilizing the Exemption Matrix (Rule 10.3).

The Board authorized the remediation process to bring the project into compliance with the Act. Per Board Rule 8.4, the remediation professionals reviewed the project, identified deficiencies, and recommended corrections. The complaint was dismissed upon removal of all deficiencies.

### Case 21.20 – Unlicensed Practice

**SUMMARY:** The Board was notified of the submission of unsealed plans to another state agency for the renovation of a single-story commercial building [Daycare (I-4) Occupancy] comprising approximately 3,200 square feet. The plans did not bear the seal of a Nebraska-licensed architect or professional engineer.

**ACTION:** This project was subject to the Act due to the building area being two stories and adversely impacting more than 2,000 square feet of Daycare occupancy.

The Board authorized the remediation process to bring the project into compliance with the Act. Per Board Rule 8.4, the remediation professionals conducted reviews, identified deficiencies, and recommended corrections. The complaint was dismissed upon the correction of all deficiencies.

### Case 21.28 Unlicensed Practice

**SUMMARY:** The Board was notified of the submission of unsealed plans to another state agency for the renovation of a single-story commercial building [Storage (S) Occupancy] comprising approximately 18,380 square feet. The plans did not bear the seal of a Nebraska-licensed architect.

**ACTION:** This project was subject to the Act due to the renovation adversely impacting more than 5,000 square feet of a Storage occupancy.

The Board authorized the remediation process to bring the project into compliance with the Act. Per Board Rule 8.4, the remediation professional reviewed the project and did not identify any deficiencies. The complaint was dismissed with no disciplinary action.

## Licensure Updates

April 7 - December 5, 2021

### ARCHITECTS BY EXAM

Kenneth Kirkpatrick	Omaha, NE
Allyson Pierce	Omaha, NE
Joseph Kotulak	Omaha, NE
Gregory Scheplmer	Lincoln, NE
Weishi Wang	Omaha, NE

### PROF. ENGINEERS BY EXAM

#### Architectural

William Schmit	Omaha, NE
James Minturn	Omaha, NE

#### Civil

Zachery Thurber	Lincoln, NE
Andrew Rudeen	Golden, CO
Wilfried Hougbe	Bennington, NE
Joseph Gronewold	Omaha, NE
Lucas Christensen	Pisgah, IA
Todd Pernicek	Colon, NE
Joseph Brakenhoff	Lincoln, NE
Paige Schneider	Lincoln, NE
Zachary Hammelmann	Lincoln, NE
Aaron Matzke	Lincoln, NE
Alex Lindenstain	Gibbon, NE
Foad Foolad	Salinas, CA
Rafael Estrada Moncada	Saint Paul, MN

#### Electrical and Computer

Mark McCormick	Council Bluffs, IA
Yuye Peng	Omaha, NE
Tiffany Teter	Columbus, NE

#### Mechanical

Joshua Devereaux	Omaha, NE
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### EMERITUS

#### Architects

Larry McChesney	Omaha, NE
Gary Nielsen	Omaha, NE
Michael Wright	Parkville, MO

#### Professional Engineers

Jeffrey Nissen	Little Rock, AR
Gary Schumacher	Grand Island, NE
Richard Symms	Argo, IL
Thomas Wentz	Burnsville, MN
Michael Wolterman	Gretna, NE

### IN MEMORIAM

Gary Harris	Turlock, CA
William Franz	Fort Worth, TX
Albert Hamersky	Lincoln, NE
Matthew Metcalf	Lincoln, NE
Howard Jessen	Winnetka, IL
W. Cecil Steward	Lincoln, NE
George Woolstrum	Lincoln, NE
Rodney Oathout	Parkville, MO



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JAN	21	Board Meeting
FEB	18	Board Meeting
	21	Board Office Closed in Observance of President's Day
	24	NCEES SE Exam Registration Deadline
MAR	11	Board Meeting
APR	08	Board Meeting
	21-22	NCEES SE Exams
	29	Board Office Closed in Observance of Arbor Day
MAY	20	Board Meeting
	30	Board Office Closed in Observance of Memorial Day
JUNE	10	Board Meeting

**CONTINUING EDUCATION CERTIFICATE  
NEBRASKA BOARD OF ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS**

This is to certify that the person named below has earned 0.25 continuing education hours for Architects and Professional Engineers by thoroughly reading the Fall 2021 edition of the Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects newsletter, *The Nebraska Professional*.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**NAME**

I attest, by the responses recorded below, my signature, and on my professional honor, that I have personally read and am familiar with the Fall 2021 edition of the *The Nebraska Professional*.

1. When does the Board Rule 9.3.4 go into effect?	
2. What percentage of voters believe professional licensing should be required?	
3. What is one criteria of the NCEES Engineering Award- ?	

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**License No.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

If you claim credit for reading the newsletter and are audited, you will be required to produce this completed certificate as documentation.