

ASCE "Raise The Bar"  
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ASCE has continued its effort to raise the educational requirements for civil engineers practicing at the professional level. This is a long-term and important effort. This newsletter lists recent and on-going activities to achieve this timely and necessary goal.

### **Completed Activities**

ASCE BOD approved the formation of a board-level committee to oversee this effort—the Committee on Academic Prerequisites for Profession Practice (CAP<sup>3</sup>). This replaces the prior task committee of the same name, and recognizes the long-term effort facing ASCE to augment and update educational requirements.

The "Body of Knowledge-First Edition" has been completed and was released at a press briefing on Wednesday, February 25, 2004 at 10:00 am at the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) during National Engineers Week. The BOK defines the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to **enter** the practice of civil engineering at the professional level and is described in the report, *Civil Engineering BOK for the 21st Century: Preparing the Civil Engineer for the Future* [www.asce.org/raisethebar](http://www.asce.org/raisethebar).

A Curricula Committee has been initiated. This committee consists of ASCE Institute members and representatives of engineering programs at various universities. Their charge is to review the BOK "design on paper," a program that fulfills the BOK, and document and share their learning and results. Currently the following schools are participating: Colorado State Univ., Iowa State Univ., Case Western Reserve Univ., California State Univ., LA, Bucknell Univ., Western Michigan Univ., Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Univ. of Louisville, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Univ. of Oklahoma, Pennsylvania State Univ., and Norwich Univ.

### **On-Going Activities**

Gerry Galloway is working with multiple federal agencies on our behalf to inform them of our objectives, progress, and challenges. Specifically, the Army Corps of Engineers has agreed to allow us to survey their civil engineers to determine how much of the BOK they individually have acquired. Lieutenant General Robert B. Flowers has also provided a strong letter of support for our effort. Gerry is also working with the Air Force and Navy to enlist their support.



## Curricula Committee

BOK workshops are continuing to be held. Our goal is to engage the CE faculty and department heads/chairs across the nation. We have conducted 12 BOK workshops with a variety of CE departments throughout the US. We plan to interact with the following departments in the next 2 months: South Dakota State Univ., Mississippi State Univ., Ohio State Univ., Washington State Univ., Univ. of Idaho, and Univ. of Nebraska.

## Licensure Committee

The licensure committee has prepared an article for the publication in the March issue of the *Licensure Exchange*, published by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES). The article makes a case for raising the bar based upon a reduction in the core technical subjects, technical breadth, and technical depth in the face of increased complexity and technical specialization. The committee will be making presentations at four NCEES zone meetings this spring. The committee has been working on developing a list of candidate states that may consider increasing their educational requirements at some point in the future.



## Accreditation Committee

The accreditation committee has recently met and developed a master plan for implementation. Under the leadership of Ernie Smerdon (former Dean of Engineering at Univ. of Arizona) and Rich Anderson (currently President-Elect of Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET)), the committee is working on some possible changes to the basic-level civil engineering Program Criteria and the advanced level General Criteria. This work is preliminary, and there is an explicit intent to engage all interested stakeholders within ASCE (EdAC, DHCEC, CC&A, and Department Chairs/Heads).

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