



our MISSION

The Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors was established by legislative action in 1935. Its charter is to protect the public by helping to safeguard life, health, and property, and to promote the public welfare by providing for the licensing and regulation of persons in the practices of engineering and land surveying.

This purpose is achieved through the establishment of minimum qualifications for entry into the professions of engineering and land surveying, through the adoption of rules defining and delineating unlawful or unethical conduct, and through swift and effective discipline for those individuals or entities who violate the applicable laws or rules.

our CONTACTS

PHYSICAL ADDRESS
100 N. Union Street
Suite 382
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

OFFICE HOURS
7:30—4:30
Telephone Numbers
Toll free: 866-461-7640
Fax: 334-242-5105

WEB: www.BELS.ALABAMA.gov



FB: **ALABAMA BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS**

TWITTER: **@BELS382**

THE BOARD Bulletin



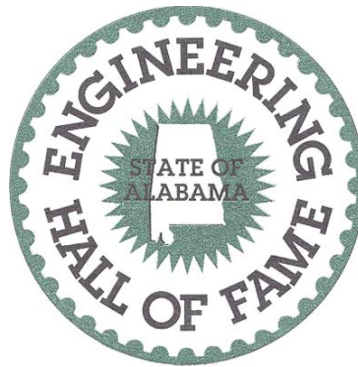
After 43 years of service, Frazier Christy was honored for his work in Engineering.

Photos courtesy Engineering Hall of Fame.



Christy inducted into Hall

By Griffin Pritchard |
Public Information Specialist



Good news can change a life. When Frazier Christy found out he was to be elected into the State of Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame, he nearly had a wreck.

“I found out in September when Perry Hand (President of the Hall of Fame) called me,” Christy said. “I didn’t expect to hear from him. When he called me I was driving and I had to pull my car out of the ditch and back up on the road again.”

Christy, who currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors

See **CHRISTY PAGE 8**

- BELS Board Vice Chairman Frazier Christy was inducted into the State of Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame Feb. 20 during a reception and dinner in Mobile.
- Christy has been a practicing engineer for 43 years. He is also a licensed land surveyor.
- Christy has formed the E&LS Group with the goal of providing education assistance to veterans and encourages them to grow as engineers and land surveyors.

our BOARD



Marc Barter, PE
Chair



Frazier Christy,
PE & PLS / Vice Chair



Liz Hyde, PE
Secretary



Richard Grace, PE/PLS



Nathan Johnson,
PE/PLS



Randall Whorton, PE



Charles Willis, PE



Members of the BELS Board pause for conversation during a 2015 meeting.

BELS Board enters 80th year

By Griffin Pritchard |
Public Information Specialist

To understand where you are going, you must first understand where you've been.

The Alabama Board of Licensure for Engineers and Land Surveyors was founded many years ago, 80 to be exact. In the early 1900s, Wyoming was the first state to pass registration laws (1908), Louisiana followed a year later. Between 1917 and 1935, an 18-year span, 31 states passed regulation laws.

By the end of this boom, 33 states had formed and were operating engineering boards.

Alabama, which falls into the latter end of that rush, passed the Alabama Registration Law (known as Act No. 271) in 1935 as a way to monitor and regulate the practice of land surveying and engineering throughout the state of Alabama. The act was approved Sept. 2 of that year and then Governor Bibb Graves took nominations presented by the state's national engineering societies.

On April 22, 1936 he appointed five men -- J.A.C. Callan of Auburn (five-year term), J.B. Gallalee of Talladega (four-year), J.B. Converse of Mobile (three-year), R.A. Polglaze of Birmingham (two-year) and A.C. Polk of Birmingham (one-year) -- to form and organize the State

- The state legislature passed the Alabama Registration Law in 1935 as a way to monitor and regulate the practice of engineering and land surveying throughout the state. By this time, 33 states had similar boards in place.

- Act No. 271 set forth definitions of a "Professional Engineer" and a "Professional Land Surveyor."

- In the Board's first year as a collective, more than 600 applications had been accepted and reported to then-Gov. Bibb Graves. Of the total, 508 were approved for registration.

our STAFF



Regina Dinger
Executive Director



Rick Huett
Asst. Executive Director / Investigation



Bonnie Kelly
Executive Assistant
PE/PLS Applications



Kevin Putnam
Special Investigator



Bob Herbert
Special Investigator



Anna Loehr
Renewals, Certificates
of Authorization /
PDH Audits



Denise Hooper
FE (EI) FS (LSI)
Applications / Exam &
License Verifications



Shawndala Harrison
Accountant



Griffin Pritchard
Public Information

Alabamians to chair National

Turner, Harding step in as engineering, architecture leaders during summer months

By Griffin Pritchard |
Public Information Specialist

The state of Alabama will have a voice on the national stage as a pair of residents will assume president positions this summer. Dr. Dan Turner (NCEES) and Kristine A. Harding (NCARB) have been elected to the head of their respective boards.

Turner, who is a past board member and chairman of the Alabama Board of Licensure for Engineers and Land Surveyors (BELS), was voted into the position of President-Elect at the 94th annual meeting of the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying (NCEES) in August 2015.

Harding, who served as a board member and chair of the Alabama Board for Registration of Architects (ABRA), was elected First Vice President / President-Elect of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards at its 96th meeting.

Both Turner and Harding will drop the “elect” from their titles over the summer. Harding’s



Daniel Turner



Kristine Harding

- Daniel Turner (NCEES) and Kristine Harding (NCARB) are set to become presidents of their respective boards in July (Harding) and August (Turner).
- Turner was voted National Council’s President-Elect during the board’s 94th annual meeting. Harding was given the same honor during her discipline’s 96th annual meeting.
- Both have served in leadership positions within the State of Alabama’s licensing and regulatory boards as well as the national level.

presidency will begin in July, while Turner will take over in August.

TURNER BIO INFORMATION:

A resident of Tuscaloosa, Turner (Ph.D., PE, PLS) has served as a member of the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors and is a past chairman. He also has NCEES board experience, serving as a past NCEES Southern Zone Vice President and assistant vice president and has served on a number of NCEES committees including the Committee on Examinations for Professional Engineers. Turner is

See NATIONAL PAGE 7

our IDENTITY

The Board is comprised of seven members (five professional engineers and two professional land surveyors) each appointed by the Governor to serve a five-year term.

The Board reviews applications, offers national licensing examinations, develops and administers the state-specific licensing exam, licenses qualified applicants and regulates the professional practice of licensing throughout the state.

Our Board has the power to discipline those individuals who are not licensed in the state but who are performing engineering and or land surveying in the State.

our FAQs



Q — How do I verify engineering or land surveying experience if my supervisor is not licensed?

A — Engineering Experience - If your supervisor is not a PE but is a graduate engineer, you can have them complete a Background Information Form on the website (under Applicants then under PE Application Forms) as well as the Experience Verification form. The Board would review and determine that if, when you were working together, this person had applied to become licensed whether or not they would license them. If so, you would get credit for the experience. If not, then you would not.

Land Surveying Experience - If your supervisor is not a PLS but is a graduate land surveyor, you can have them complete a Background Information Form on the website (under Applicants then under PLS/ALLS Application Forms) as well as the Experience Verification form. The board would review to determine that if, when you were working together, this person had applied to become licensed would they have licensed them. If so, you would get credit for the experience. If not, then you would not.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

• Case No. 2014-28-B

James C. Traywick, PE 4937

Mr. Traywick submitted proposals for work that were representative of the performance, or offer of the performance of engineering services, during a period when his firm “Shook & Fletcher Mechanical Contractors Inc.,” did not hold a valid Certificate of Authorization.

He agreed to a consent order that required his license to be suspended for six months, with that suspension stayed, to pay a \$2,000 fine to the Board and the consent order and final order would be a public record.

• Case No. 2015-42-B

Robert A. Unger, PE 15347

Mr. Unger was unable to provide documentation to the Board that indicated he had completed the professional development hours (pdh) he reported on his 2015 license renewal application when selected for audit.

He indicated that he had not paid registration fees for the conferences he attended and the organizations would not provide him certificates of attendance.

He agreed to a consent order that required him to pay a \$1,500 fine to the Board; to provide documentation that indicated he had completed 15 professional development hours prior to Dec. 1, 2015; his license be suspended until he provided the documentation; to cease and desist attending professional development activities without providing the re-



• Since Oct. 1, 2015, the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors has received 11 complaints and resolved 11 complaint investigations.

• The result of those investigations led to four consent orders being assigned, six complaints with no action taken and one reprimand.

quired payment and the consent order and final order would be a public record.

**• Case No. 2015-39-C
ClearSpan Fabric Structures -
Uncertificated**

The firm produced a catalog that contained language indicating it offers to provide engineered solutions for building requirements; to provide engineering services to meet any wind and snow load requirements and, upon request, could provide engineered drawings without holding a certificate of authorization to offer engineering services in the State of Alabama.

The firm agreed to a consent order that required it to cease and desist the practice or the offer to

See **ENFORCEMENT PAGE 5**

our **WEBSITE**



The Board's website (www.bels.alabama.gov) includes all the releasable information that is provided to the public. This includes, Name, Address, Type of Licenses Number, License Status, and a Disciplinary indication. These requests are generally from firms seeking to purchase a list of names for advertising purposes, however we do also get requests from individuals seeking to employ a professional surveyor or engineer. These type of inquiries are referred to the appropriate professional society. The Board does not release social security numbers, dates of birth, telephone numbers, or email addresses. The Board cannot recommend professionals.

Under Alabama Open Records Law, public record requests may be made of the Board. The records, or information, sought should provide enough detail for our agency to adequately respond.

Requests should be addressed to the attention of Griffin Pritchard.

our **MEETINGS**

The Alabama Board of Licensure for PE & PLS have scheduled meetings for the remainder of the 2015- 2016 fiscal year. The first meeting of the new year was scheduled for Jan. 12 with a second on Feb. 9-10 inside the conference room located in our offices on the third floor of the RSA Union Building. The third meeting of the Board was held March 30-31.

Meetings follow in June (1-2) and July (13-14). Agenda items must be turned into the Board office no later than May 12 and July 1, respectively for the back-to-back meetings.

Meetings are also scheduled for Sept. 21 and 22 (Sept. 1 is the deadline). The Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors will close out the calendar year meeting one last time Nov. 16 and 17 (Oct. 27 is the agenda deadline).

IN MEMORIAM

We remember those of our Professional Engineering and Professional Land Surveying community who passed away in 2014-2016:

Richard R. Wallace	PE	Todd R. Olson	PE	Gerald D. Myrick	PE
Veston Bush	PLS	David L. Zimlich	PE	Michael L. Oatts	PE
Bobby R. Mullinix	PE	George M. Cloyd	PE	James J. Porebski	PE
Carroll E. Schmidt	PE	Robert C. Goss	PE	M. D. Arrington	PE/PLS
Mark J. Ajluni	PE	W. P. Albritton	PE	David H. Best Jr.	PE
Louis J. Martinez	PE	James E. Springer	PE	L. W. Gregson Jr.	PE
William J. Coad	PE	John T. Irving	PE	Paul Taylor	PE
Richard B. McCain	PE	James E. Trammell	PLS	Ken G. Britton	PE
Louis A. Trama	PE	Joseph Marques	PLS	Luther O. Jones Jr.	PE
Lee Roy Willis	PE	Robert L. Cangelosi	PE	Bob Almon	PE
Steven J. Morin	PE	Robert L. Wolfe	PE	Philip Austin Perry	PE
William M. Baldwin	PE	Charles D. Peters	PE	William Harry Johnson	PE
Dwight L. Evans	PE	Joseph P. Bullock	PE	Richard Lee Blackwell III	PE
Alexander P. Foley	PE	David Myers Bufkin	PE	James E. Waite	PE
James N. Swords	PE	Ashby B. Moon	PE/PLS	Joseph P. Thomas	PE
Richard K. Harsh	PE	Gene Hutto Dale	PLS	Dennis Anthony Dudley	PE
James N. Hill Jr.	PLS	Virgil D. Browning	PE	Jeffrey Lee Moehring	PLS
Melinda Nye	PE	Myles M. Standish	PE	Gary Lee East	PE
Henry L. Faucett	PE	Edward A. Munns	PE	Douglas Hungate	PE
Buddy Cox	PE	Earl Parsons Jr.	PE	Anil Khare	PE
Richard C. Bishop	PE	Wilton T. Hataway	PE	Dewey J Gray	PE
James O. Tinney	PE	Augustine A. DiGiacomo	PE	Howard B Johnson	PE
Michael N. Ponder	PLS	Brian Scott Brown	PE		
Robert S. Dahlin	PE	William Keith Davis	PE		

ENFORCEMENT

From Page 4

practice of engineering in the State of Alabama; to pay the Board \$257 for the cost of the investigation; to pay a \$1,243 civil penalty to the State of Alabama General Fund and the consent order and final order be made a public record.

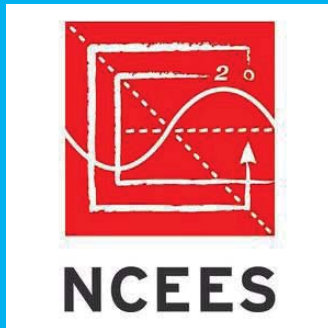
• Case No. 2015-49-B

Richard P. Daniel, PE 26539

Mr. Daniel was unable to provide documentation to the Board that indicated he had completed the professional development hours (pdh) he reported on his 2015 license renewal application. The application indicated he completed activities that totaled 11.5 pdh, and seven pdh were carried over from the previous year.

The documentation he provided only verified completion of courses totaling two pdh in 2014 and three pdh in 2013. He agreed to a consent order that required him to pay \$225 to the Board for the cost of the investigation, to pay a \$1,500 fine to the Board, that his license to practice engineering was suspended for six months, with that suspension stayed, to provide certificates showing completion of 15 pdh to the Board by May 1, 2016, and the consent order and final order would be a public record.

OUR ANNOUNCEMENTS



NCEES is seeking licensed professional engineers practicing in computer engineering to participate in a professional activities and knowledge study (PAKS) to update specifications for the PE Electrical and Computer Engineering exams. The study, which was originally launched in June 2015, requires professional engineers practicing in all areas of electrical and computer engineering. While NCEES has enough participants practicing in electrical/electronic and power engineering, it is extending the study to find additional computer engineering participants.

NCEES requires a cross section of licensed professional engineers practicing computer engineering—including those working in industry, consulting, the public sector, and academia—to complete an online survey about the tasks and knowledge required of a licensed electrical or computer engineer with 4 to 6 years of experience to practice in a manner that safeguards the health, safety, and welfare of the public. The survey can be completed in about 20 minutes.

"These studies help NCEES ensure its licensing exams remain relevant to current professional practice," explained Director of Exam Services Tim Miller, P.E. "We've had a great response across most areas of this discipline, but we need more participants practicing in computer engineering."

For access to the online survey, visit bit.ly/PEElecComp. For more information, contact NCEES Exam Development Engineer Tom Dodd, Ph.D., P.E., at tdodd@ncees.org or 864-624-5453.

BELS

From Page 2

Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

The creation of The Board wasn't the only byproduct of the Alabama Registration Law (Act No. 271). The act also set forth the requirement that "a professional engineer be a graduate of an approved course in engineering and have four years of engineering experience or eight years of engineering experience and be able to pass a written examination. As for the land surveyors governed and licensed through the board the requirements were just a bit different.

The law required a professional land surveyor be a graduate of an approved course in surveying and have two years of land surveying experience, or have six years of land surveying experience and pass a written exam.

The language of the law, in this formative year, also created a "Grandfather Clause" which provided that at any time within one year of after the act became effective, the Board could issue a certificate of registration, without oral or written examination, to an professional engineer or land surveyor who submitted evidence that he was of good character, had been a resident of the state for at least one year immediately preceding the date of his application and was practicing professional engineer or land surveyor.

The first application was received June 1, 1936, 17 days after the Board's birth. Applications,



however, were slow to arrive. By Sept. 1 of that year, 140 applications had been received. That number nearly doubled (255 total) on Sept. 2.

A little more than 600 applications (627, to be exact) had been received by the Board in its first report submitted to then-Gov. Graves. Of that 627, 508 were approved for registration, 34 had been rejected and 85 were pending. Dues were \$25 and the expense of sending delegates to the National Council Meeting was \$30. Dues doubled by the time of the second annual report and the cost of attending National Council skyrocketed to \$224.

The Board office was established in Birmingham's Webb Crawford Building in 1938. Two years later, the Board gathered for five meetings. Also in 1940, the office was moved from its original location to the First National Bank Building (1940-1943) and then moved to the Empire Building (until 1944).

Clifton C. Cobb was hired as an assistant secretary and confidential employee and investigator for the Board. Fay Burnett was added to the staff later in 1944 as stenographer.

our FUTURE ENGINEERS**UAB SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING****FROM UAB SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING:**

Many dream of a future when homes will be completely self-sufficient, powered by renewable energy. At UAB, that future is here.

A team of students, faculty, and staff are already laying the groundwork for a solar-powered house that will be built on campus over the coming months as part of the 2017 U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon. UAB, in partnership with the University of Alabama, Huntsville and Calhoun Community College, is one of 16 collegiate teams selected to participate in the event. UAB's team will be made up of students from a variety of disciplines across the university who will be working on the house over the next two years. During that time, the team will design, construct and test their house before reassembling it at the Solar Decathlon 2017 competition site in October 2017.

Hessam Taherian, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering will advise the students on the engineering portion of the project. Taherian previously advised a group of students at a Canadian university for the 2009 Decathlon.

"The U.S., and particularly Alabama, lags behind the rest of the world in the number of net-zero energy buildings built," said Taherian. "By searching for innovative ways of harnessing and conserving energy, UAB students will have opportunities to develop technology that will be customized to meet the particular challenges of the local environment — from seasonal heat and humidity to surprise tornadoes and thunderstorms."

Because the houses must be suited to the local climate, the UAB house will be designed with tornadoes in mind. The house will include at least one room with tornado-proof walls, incorporating building panels designed by materials engineers at the Materials Processing and Applications Development (MPAD) Center.

NATIONAL**From Page 3**

an emeritus professor of civil engineering at the University of Alabama following more than 30 years of service to the university. In his three decades at the capstone, Turner has served as head of the university's civil engineering department and is also a former director of the University Transportation Center for Alabama.

A professional land surveyor since 1978, Turner also has been a licensed professional engineer since 1985. He received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in civil engineering from the University of Alabama and his doctoral degree in civil engineering from Texas A&M University.

Currently, Turner serves as chair of the Technical Activities Council of the Transportation Research Board. He is a past president of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the County of University Transportation Centers. He is a former member of the board of directors of ABET, Inc., and the board of governors for the American Association of Engineering Societies. He has also serve as a Fellow of the Institute of Transportation Engineers.

HARDING BIO INFORMATION:

Harding is a graduate of Rice University with a Bachelor of Architecture, holds an NCARB Certificate and is licensed to practice architecture in Alabama and Tennessee. She resides in Scottsboro, Alabama and works out of Huntsville. She is the vice president and group manager of the Huntsville office of KPS Group, Inc., which provides architecture, design and property consulting throughout the Southeast with offices in Birmingham, Huntsville and Atlanta. She also sits on the Cummings Research Park Design Control Committee, is past chair and member of the Huntsville Sports Commission, the Huntsville Madison County Marina & Port Authority, and committees for Huntsville-Madison County Leadership, and Leadership Alabama.

Robert Bentley, Alabama Governor, appointed Harding to ABRA in 2004 and then she assumed the mantle of Chairman in 2009. Two years later she was elected to the NCARB Board of Directors where she served as the director of NCARB's Southern Conference (2010-2011) representing Boards from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

In 2011 she chaired NCARB's Professional Development Committee and the Committee on Procedures and Documents. She co-chaired the Intern Development Program Advisory Committee, NCARB and the American Institute of Architects' joint committee reviewing issues and initiatives related to internships.

OUR FUTURE SURVEYORS

A key component in earning a license as a Professional Land Surveyor through the BELS Board is to attain at least a bachelor's degree in the field of land surveying.

(INSTATE)

- **TROY UNIVERSITY:** Troy University's Surveying and Geomatics Sciences Program has been described as a practical one. The general course of study is a four-year program combining a mixture of classroom theory and practical work experience in the field and with the tools of the trade. For additional information about Troy University's Surveying and Geomatics Sciences program, contact Dr. Steve Ramroop by phone at 334-670-5693 or via email at sramroop@troy.edu.

(OUT OF STATE - NEARBY)

- **EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY:** ETSU offers a Bachelor of Science in Surveying and Mapping and is ABET Accredited. The course will allow students to become familiar with new and emerging technologies in the fields of GPS, GIS, computerized mapping, robotics, scanning and wireless communications. For additional information, contact Department Chair Dr. Keith Johnson via phone at 423-439-7813.

- **KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY:** Formerly Southern Polytechnic State University. The Geospatial Technology Program, housed under The School of Architecture and Design, is the only ABET accredited surveying program in the State of Georgia. Courses in mathematics, business principals and core requirements to fulfill the degree program provide added depth to the student's experience. For additional information, visit www.kennesaw.edu or 470-578-6000.

- **THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA:** Located in Gainesville, Florida, The University of Florida offers the opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree in the field of Geomatics as part of the university's School of Forest Resources and Conservation. The program features courses in surveying, remote sensing, digital mapping, GIS, GPS, satellite imaging and other emerging technologies related to geospatial science. Visit the University of Florida's School of Forest Resources and Conservation at sfrc.ufl.edu 352-846-0850.

(ONLINE)

- **GREAT BASIN COLLEGE:** The online land surveying / Geomatics bachelor degree program is approved and recognized by the BELS Board. Great Basin's program was created in 2005 and is a four-year program. Students will proficiently apply sound measurement methods, mathematics, sciences and use surveying tools to collect, analyze and edit spatial information within professional applications. For additional information about Great Basin's program, visit the college online at www.gbncv.edu.



Christy, front row, is joined by 2016 inductees into the State of Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony was held Feb. 20 in Mobile.

Photos courtesy Engineering Hall of Fame.

CHRISTY

From Page 1

arrived safely to the Feb. 20 induction ceremony in Mobile.

"I started on my speech right away," Christy said. "I tried to keep it short and thank people that helped me along the way."

Licensed originally as a Professional Engineer and later a Professional Land Surveyor, he has more than 43 years as a practicing engineer eventually becoming president of Paragon Engineering and overseeing projects that exceeded \$500 million.

"I've always looked at my employees as more than just employees," Christy said. "It's so rewarding to be able to provide them with a place to be able to provide for their families."

Paragon was acquired by Hatch Mott McDonald in 2007 and Christy continued to serve the company as sub-division manager, division manager and in-house consultant until his retirement in 2012. Christy graduated from Auburn University in 1968 with a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering. From the Loveliest Village to the open seas, Christy left the Plains to join the United States Navy where he graduated from the Mine Warfare School. In the late 60s, Christy volunteered for duty with the Seabees, the U.S. Naval Construction Forces and was transferred to the U.S. Naval Construction Battalion 4 serving in Danang, Vietnam and Port Hueneme, Calif.

Retired from the industry, but not completely removed from it, Christy has a new pet project he's developing. He has formed the E&LS Group with the goal of providing education assistance to veterans and encouraging them to develop as engineers, engineering technicians and land surveyors.

Christy is the second member of his family to receive Hall of Fame honors, as his wife, Lowell, became the first woman inducted into the Association of General Contractors (Alabama) Hall in January.

"It's been a good year for us," Christy said.

The Board Bulletin is a publication of the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors. Digital editions will be posted on our website and linked on our social media pages. To subscribe, email griffin.pritchard@bels.alabama.gov