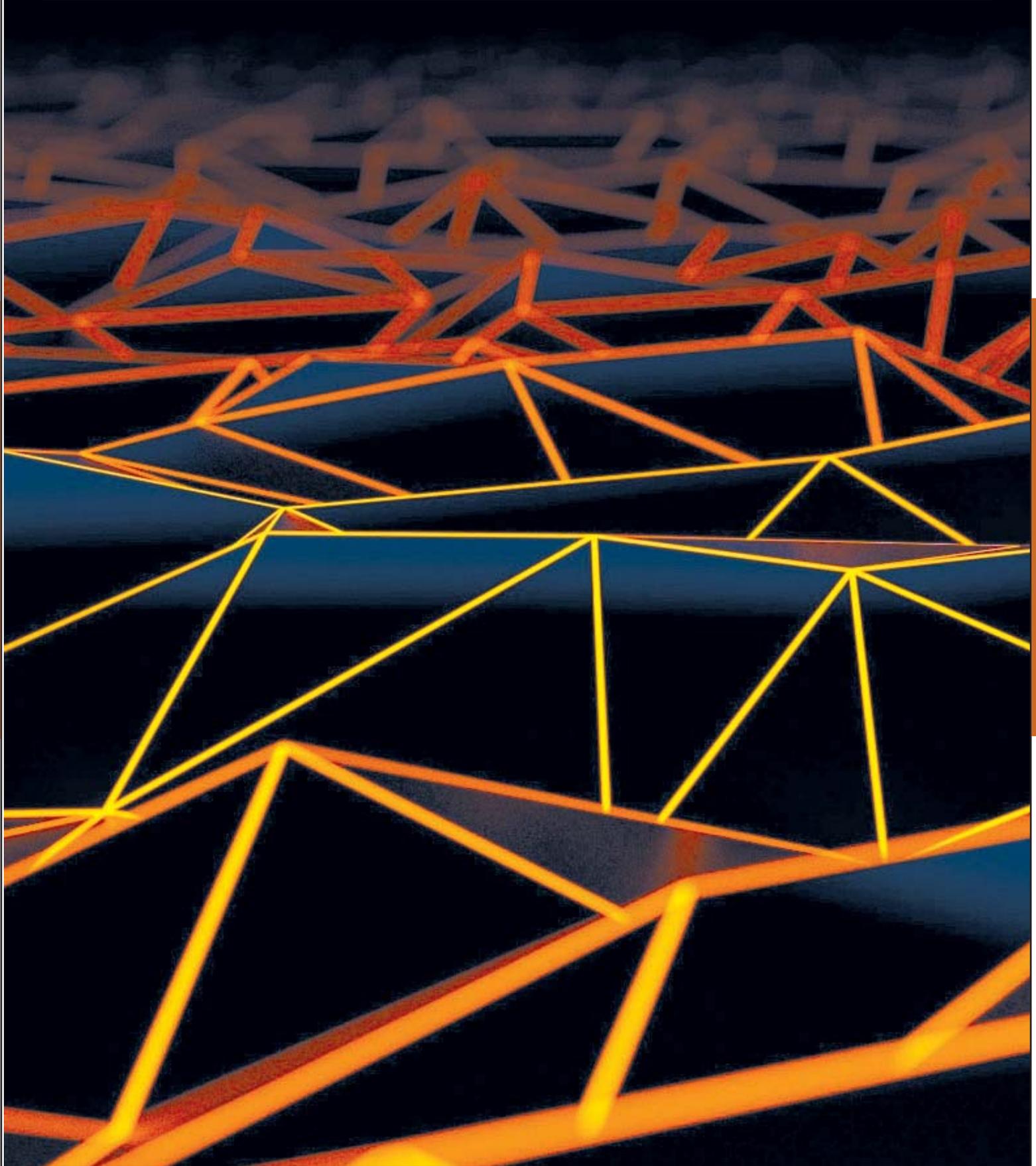
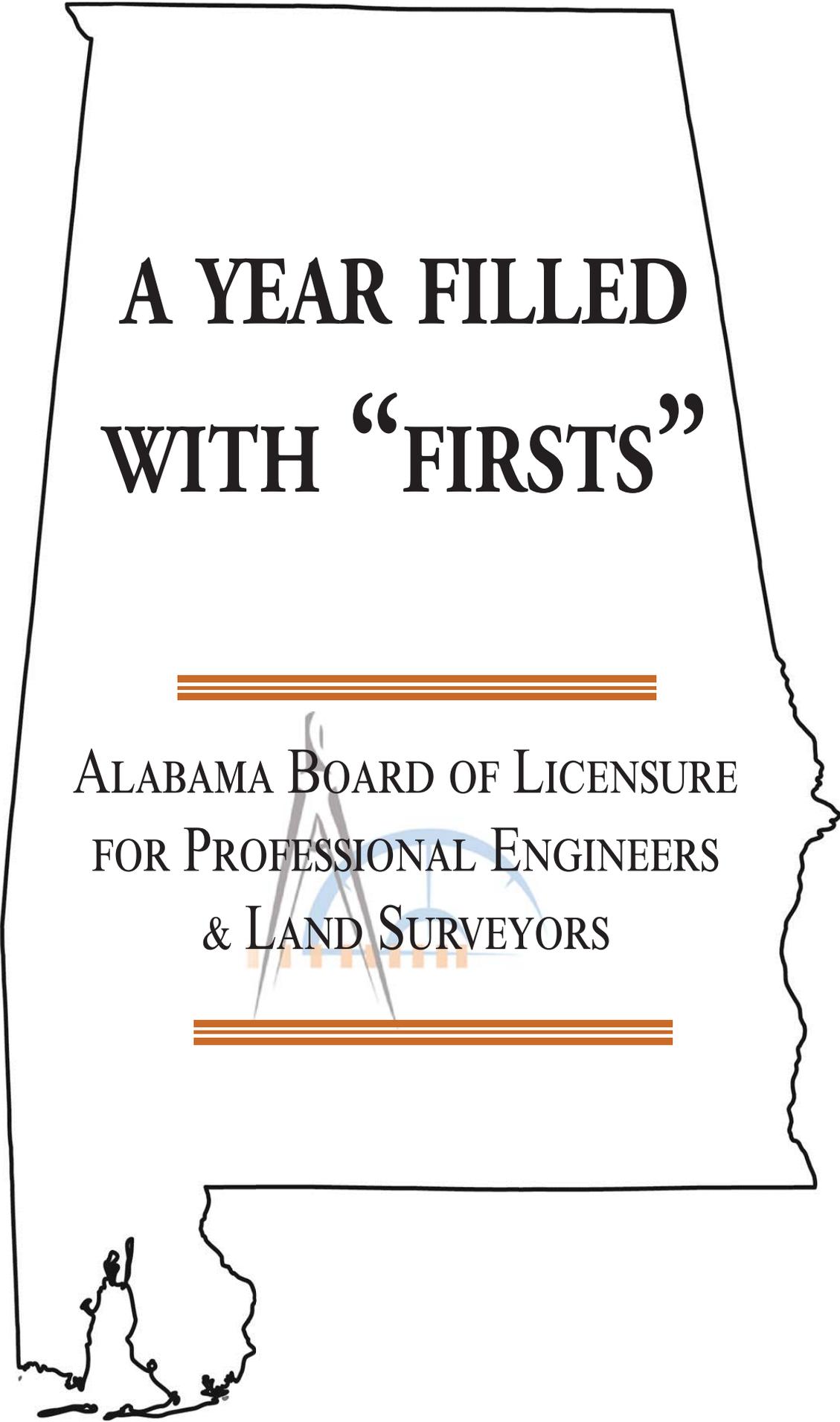


# BELS FY 2019





**A YEAR FILLED  
WITH “FIRSTS”**

---

---

ALABAMA BOARD OF LICENSURE  
FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS  
& LAND SURVEYORS

---

---



## Alabama Board of Licensure For Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors

---

100 North Union Street, Suite 382  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104-3762  
Phone: 866-461-7640  
Fax: 334-242-5105

NATHAN JOHNSON,  
PLS|PE

RANDALL WHORTON,  
PE

HELEN ADAMS-MORALES  
PE

MARC BARTER,  
PE

JOSEPH BREIGHNER,  
PLS

DONALD VAUGHN,  
PE

JOHN AVERRETT,  
PE

ELAINE WALTON,  
Public Member

NANETTE BALDWIN,  
Public Member

---

### Term Expired in 2019

ELISABETH HYDE,  
PE

RICHARD GRACE,  
PE|PLS

---

RICK HUETT,  
Executive Director

**To The Honorable Kay Ivey:  
Governor of the State of Alabama  
Montgomery, Alabama**

Governor Ivey:

We hand you herewith the 2018-2019 Annual Report of the Alabama State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors as provided under Title 34, Chapter 11 Code of Alabama 1975.

Respectfully submitted,

**Nathan C. Johnson, 2018-2019  
Alabama State Board of Licensure  
for Professional Engineers & Land Surveyors**

**Helen Adams-Morales, Secretary, 2018-2019  
Alabama State Board of Licensure  
for Professional Engineers & Land Surveyors**



# From the Director's Desk



Kay Ivey  
Governor

## Alabama State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors

100 N. Union Street, Suite 382  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104-3762

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 304451  
Montgomery, AL 36130-4451

Phone: (334) 242-5568  
Toll Free: (866) 461-7640  
Fax: (334) 242-5105  
[www.bels.alabama.gov](http://www.bels.alabama.gov)

Greetings and Thank you,

Now in its 84<sup>th</sup> year, the Board continues to strive to find ways to strengthen its mission of public protection, and this is reflected in this report.

A side note, this fiscal year the Board welcomed two public members to its existing membership of five professional engineers and two professional land surveyors.

I appreciate you taking a moment to glance at our annual report. Inside you will find financial, enforcement, and licensing information for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

Happy Reading,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William R. Huett".

William R. (Rick) Huett  
Executive Director

# From the Board Room



Randall Whorton and Joseph Breighner (top) review the agenda during a board meeting.

Elaine Walton (right, top) discusses being a board member with past appointees Frazier Christy and Richard Grace.

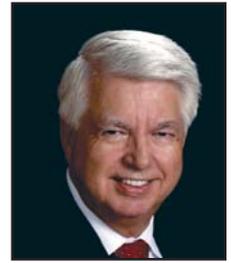
Attorney Ben Albritton and Executive Assistant Bonnie Kelly (right, bottom) share a laugh during a reception.



The Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors was created by legislative action in the 1930s and continues to protect the citizens of the State of Alabama by putting a focus on the public's health, safety and welfare. BELS is comprised of nine individuals representing the professionals within the fields of engineering and land surveying and the people of the state at large. The five professional engineers and the two public members are selected through a nomination process encompassing nine engineering societies and (separately) six representatives of the business community. The professional land surveyors are nominated through the Alabama Society of Professional Land Surveyors. Each nominating committee submits a trio of names to the Office of the Governor. She ultimately makes the appointment. The PE, PLS and one of the Public Member appointments will serve five-year terms. The second Public Member's term is two-years (initially) and then will move to a five-year term.



Nathan Johnson | PLS/PE  
**Chair**  
Huntsville



Randy Whorton | PE  
**Vice Chair**  
Anniston



Helen Adams-Morales  
PE | **Secretary**  
Mobile



Marc Barter | PE  
Mobile



Joseph Breighner | PLS  
Birmingham



John Averrett | PE  
Montgomery



Donald Vaughn | PE  
Montgomery



Nanette Baldwin | Public  
Birmingham



Elaine Walton | Public  
Birmingham



## BELS WELCOMES NEW APPOINTEES

When the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors convened its September meeting, nametags and introductions were included in the agenda as a quartet of new faces were tapped to fill seats at the table.

John Averrett and Donald Vaughn are the Professional Engineer Appointments, replacing Liz Hyde and Richard Grace. And Elaine Walton and Nanette Baldwin were appointed by Governor Ivey to be the first public members to serve as part of BELS.

“This is a new opportunity, and I’m still in the process of learning the full responsibilities of the board and my role and responsibilities in supporting the mission of the Board,” wrote Vaughn in an email prior to the September meeting.

“The Board has developed a stellar reputation as a highly professional body and I will perform my duties with honesty and integrity to preserve, and hopefully enhance, that reputation.”

Nathan Johnson technically becomes the Board’s fifth appointment, after being reappointed to the Professional Land Surveyor position. Johnson’s second term will now conclude in 2024.

For Averrett, service itself is a reward.

“I have always been involved in community service and feel that giving back to your community is a very rewarding experience,” wrote Averrett. “As my engineering career has developed, my understanding of the importance of BELS has also developed. Seeing that I could

give back to my community and still be in the engineering realm really appealed to me.”

Baldwin and Walton – representatives of the state’s business communities - were appointed following the 2018 law change, Act 550-2018.

“Whenever you have new members on a board, there are new perspectives, new energy and drive that moves the board in a positive direction,” Walton said. “Having met and interacted with the previous and new members, I believe that strong work relationships will continue to develop which will result in a stronger board with a vision to excel with their tasks at hand. I look forward to be a part of that positive drive during my tenure.”

For Baldwin and Walton, as the first public members, they will be setting the standards for public members to follow.

“My plan is not to recreate the wheel but with a fresh set of eyes and ears to understand how everything works together in order to make sure our (The Board’s) responsibilities and duties are accomplished,” Walton said. “The citizens of the State of Alabama deserve the best! This includes me, my family, as well as others I have and have not met but gave an oath to serve. Simply put, I will use my experience to give my best.”

Baldwin – who serves as the Vice President of the Birmingham Business Alliance – brings a different perspective to her appointment.

“My goal is to make a meaningful impact on the board by utilizing my skillset and experience in Community and Economic Development and Public Relations / Marketing,” she said.

# 51

YEARS OF STATE SERVICE



For more than half a century Denise Hooper has dedicated herself to service of the State of Alabama and celebrated her anniversary on June 26. She has been a BELS' fixture for the past 47 years. Prior to that, Denise began her career of state service with the Real Estate Commission in 1968.

From there, she moved over to Conservation and worked in the Water Department before ultimately finding her home with the Board of Engineers and Land Surveyors.

In her 47-year career with the Board, she has been responsible for processing Certificates of Authorization applications, converting thousands of paper documents to an electronic format and license verifications. She performed her job so well that the Board was recognized by NCEES as being in the top 3 agencies that verify licensure for applicants wishing to become licensed in other states the fastest. The BELS staff and Board would like to take a moment and thank and recognize Denise for her 51 years of dedicated service.



## CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Congratulations to Troy University for being recognized as one of the top survey/geomatics programs in the country. The NCEES Surveying Education Award recognizes programs that have a broad and robust curriculum and best reflect NCEES' mission to advance licensure for surveyors in order to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the public. This award is in recognition of Troy University's outstanding efforts and is intended to encourage students to engage with other professionals, introduce them to both historical and emerging technology and promote licensure. The NCEES Surveying Education Award (a second win for Troy) brings with it \$10,000.

Pictured presenting the award are: Joseph Breighner, (board member), Dr. Steve Ramroop (Troy), Nathan Johnson (board chair), Steven Taylor (Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences), Dr. Xutang Niu (Troy) and Rusty Blackwell (ASPLS president).



## GROWING OUR AUDIENCE

To better interact with our community as the renewal year approached, BELS made the decision to utilize the video platform YouTube as a way to offer free Professional Development Hours.

Videos were posted throughout the year and, through promotion and word-of-mouth, licensees found their way to the website and the number of views steadily climbed.

The videos - based off previous live webinars and content generated just for the OnDemand format - have been viewed 3,230 times.

## FUTURE CITY AWARD

After attending the yearly Future City Competition in Huntsville as, a spectator, BELS was invited to partner with Future City and became one of the many judges utilized to select the top teams. BELS Public Information Specialist Griffin Pritchard judged the Best Project Plan competition in the days leading up to the event and then got to interact with the teams and see what they actually created within the theme of the competition. Straughn Middle School won the award. Being able to present an award also afforded Pritchard the opportunity to address the students gathered and convey the importance of education.



Straughn Middle School (joined by Griffin Pritchard) pose with their plaque after winning the Best Project Plan award at the 2019 Future City Competition. (Below) teams present their different model cities to judges earlier in the day.



## TROY HOSTS FIRST GEO-DAY EVENT

More than 300 high school students descended upon Troy University in March looking to learn about the land surveying profession. The students – from high schools in Elmore and Montgomery counties and throughout the Wiregrass – learned the history of the profession and then the many different facets and tools used to successfully take measurements of the earth.

GEODay – as it was billed – served as an opportunity for Troy University’s Geomatics Sciences programs to introduce itself and the profession to students who may not yet have made a decision upon where they are going to college. The topics ranged from Drones to GPS and 3D

Laser Scanning; of which was demonstrated in realtime as part of the presentation.

GEODay classes were around 25 minutes each and utilized different buildings throughout Troy University’s campus with the event beginning and ending in the theatre at Crosby Hall.

“Lack of awareness of surveying and geomatics is the largest recruitment problem that the profession faces,” wrote Troy’s Steve Ramroop after consulting the University’s Geospacial Informatics Department. “Without massive efforts to overcome this problem, all recruitment efforts can only chip away at the edges or reach people already aware of our existence.



Scenes from the first GeoDay, hosted by Troy University. Students were able to get hands-on with the tools used by Land Surveyors.

# Outreach Events

<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Role</u>
Alabama Association of Floodplain Managers	Orange Beach	Oct. 22, 2018	Speaker
Alabama Association of Regulatory Boards	Montgomery	Oct. 28, 2018	Speaker
North Alabama Code Officials	Decatur	Oct. 31-Nov. 2, 2018	Exhibitor / Speaker
ACEC Winter Meeting	Tuscaloosa	Dec. 12, 2018	Speaker
Future City Regional Competition	Huntsville	Jan. 19, 2019	Event Judge
Greater Montgomery Homebuilders Showcase	Montgomery	Feb. 1-3, 2019	Exhibitor
Auburn University	Auburn	Feb. 6, 2019	Speaker
Environmental Professionals	Pelham	Feb. 26, 2019	Panelist
ALSITE: Alabama Transportation Engineers	Prattville	Feb. 28, 2019	Speaker
ASPLS: Birmingham Chapter	Homewood	Feb. 28, 2019	Speaker
GEODay	Troy	March 11, 2019	Speaker
IEE Southeastern Conference	Huntsville	April 11-14, 2019	Speaker / Exhibitor
League Of Municipalities Code Officials Association of Alabama	Mobile	May 5-6, 2019	Exhibitor
Code Officials Association of Alabama	Orange Beach	May 13-16, 2019	Exhibitor / Speaker
Redstone Arsenal	Huntsville/ Redstone	May 29, 2019	Speaker
ASPE / MES Conference	Biloxi, Miss	June 9-12, 2019	Speaker / Exhibitor
KBR Engineers	Hoover	June 19, 2019	Speaker
Gulf States Engineering Conference	Orange Beach	June 23-26, 2019	Speaker / Exhibitor
ASCE / APWA Conference	Gulf Shores	July 16-18, 2019	Speaker / Exhibitor
ALMS Water JAM	Mobile	July 28-31, 2019	Speaker / Exhibitor
Fire Chiefs of Alabama	Orange Beach	Aug. 11-14, 2019	Exhibitor
Auburn University	Auburn	Sept. 16, 2019	Speaker

# Outreach Events



For the second year, BELS Outreach efforts traversed the state from top to bottom and over into Mississippi. In 2018 BELS staff (Public Information Specialist Griffin Pritchard and Investigators Bob Herbert and Bruce Thornell) attended 28 events. In 2019, there was a more cerebral approach to the events chosen to attend.

For instance, Thornell and Herbert took turns making trips to the Alabama Fire College to present to the soon to be firefighters and to help develop the curriculum that will be taught to master plumbers looking to install residential sprinkler systems.

Thornell also attended both the Alabama Sheriff's Association event and the state's Disaster Conference.

Pritchard, for the first time, took part in the IEEE Southeastern Regional Conference. In Huntsville, he had the opportunity to interact with a mixture of professionals and students from throughout the southeast. Fire Chiefs, Hydrological Engineers and Rocket Scientists were among the new groups that reached out to and were visited by BELS as part of the past fiscal year.

Bruce Thornell (in pictures 1 and 4), Griffin Pritchard (picture 2) and Bob Herbert (pictures 3 and 5) traveled throughout the state and into Mississippi during in 2018-2019 to meet with stakeholders.

**FY 2019**

**BY THE  
NUMBERS**

---

---

ALABAMA BOARD OF LICENSURE  
FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS  
& LAND SURVEYORS

---

---

## ALABAMA BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS & LAND SURVEYORS

	AUDITED — TOTAL FY 2019
Personnel Costs	\$410,756.77
Employee Benefits	\$155,421.44
Travel (In-State)	\$24,045.85
Travel (Out-of-State)	\$23,972.89
Repairs   Maintenance	\$6,882.07
Rentals   Leases	\$115,433.97
Utilities   Communications	\$24,357.09
Professional Services	\$138,241.09
Supplies, Materials   Operating Expenses	\$80,578.08
Transportation Equipment Operations	\$7,592.12
Transportation Equipment Purchases	\$55,470.34
Other Equipment Purchases	\$48,654.75
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES TO DATE</b>	<b>\$1,091,346.46</b>
<b>TRANSFER TO GENERAL FUND (33%)</b>	<b>\$322,965.63</b>
<b>2018 ENCUMBERANCES</b>	<b>\$21,592.31</b>

### FUND BALANCE

**\$ 985,478.59**

Denise Hooper was honored with a Senate resolution celebrating her more than five decades of state service. But she was not the only one. In the past year, BELS recognized past board members Frazier Christy, Richard Grace and Liz Hyde with Senate Resolutions highlighting their BELS' terms.



# Financials | Revenues

## ALABAMA BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS & LAND SURVEYORS

	UNAUDITED — Fiscal Year 2019
FY 2018 Carry Forward	\$1,587,716.98
Renewals	\$237,300
Late Penalties	\$51,500
Reinstatements   Reissuance	\$32,970
Applications   Licensure	\$150,285
Exams	\$1,900
Fines   Costs   Civil Penalties	\$42,115
Civil Penalties to General Fund	(\$21,200)
Duplicate Certificates	\$375
Returned Check Replacements	\$125
Returned Check Charges	\$30
Sale of Surplus & Miscellaneous	\$125.82
Prior Year Refund	\$2,674.56
Status Change	\$12,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,098,417.36</b>

**SUBTOTAL OF APPLICATIONS | LICENSURE | EXAMS: \$152,185**

**RENEWALS | REINSTATEMENTS | STATUS CHANGE: \$282,770**

**SUBTOTAL FOR FINES  
\$20,915**

**REVENUES TO DATE  
\$2,098,417.36**

BELS is a self-funded agency. The authorization to spend funds is granted to BELS by the state legislature through the annual passage of the General Fund Budget. The funds needed to cover expenditures are derived from the various fees charged by BELS and the fines collected from formal disciplinary actions taken against licensees and those holding certificates. Civil penalties collected are not kept as Board funds but are deposited to the State General Fund. By law there is a fixed amount of funds that can be carried over from one fiscal year to the next. Any excess funds over 33% of the previous Annual Budget are transferred to the State General Fund.

# Intern Information

## ALABAMA BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS & LAND SURVEYORS

ENGINEER  
INTERNS

**181**  
ISSUED / DO NOT EXPIRE

LAND SURVEYOR  
INTERNS

**3**  
ISSUED / DO NOT EXPIRE

The **INTERN** certification is one that doesn't expire, following the 2018 law change. Unlike the professional licenses that are renewed every two years, INTERN statistics will only be reflective of the number issued during the fiscal year.

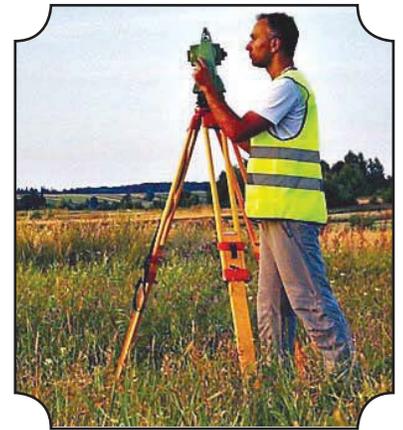
Throughout the state of Alabama, engineering students have the opportunity to learn the different facets of the engineering profession. At UAB, for instance, (pictured right) Materials Engineering is one of the smallest disciplines but is growing and provides students the opportunity to learn and create different materials that could be used in future projects.



## ALABAMA BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS & LAND SURVEYORS

### PROFESSIONAL DEFINITIONS

**THE PRACTICE OF LAND SURVEYING** is defined as a professional service that includes, but is not limited to, consultation, project coordination, investigation, testimony, evaluation, planning, mapping, assembling and interpreting reliable scientific measurements and information relative to the location, size, shape, areas, volumes, or physical features on the earth, or any part of the earth, and the utilization and development of these acts and interpretation into an orderly survey map, plan, report, description, or project. Professional Land Surveyors, like Professional Engineers, also renew on a biennial basis.



**THE PRACTICE OF ENGINEERING** is defined as any professional service or creative work, the adequate performance of which requires engineering education, training, and experience in the application of special knowledge of the mathematical, physical and engineering sciences to such services or creative work as a consultation, investigation, evaluation, planning, design and design coordination of engineering works and systems, planning the use of land and water, performing engineering surveys and studies, and the review of construction or other design products for the purpose of monitoring compliance with drawings and specification; any of which embraces such services or work, either public or private, in connection with utilities, structures, buildings, machines, equipment, process-



es, work systems, projects and industrial or consumer products; equipment of a control system, communications, computer, mechanical, electrical, hydraulic, pneumatic, or thermal nature, insofar as they involve safeguarding life, health or property. Professional Engineers renew on a biennial basis.

# Professional Licenses

## ALABAMA BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS & LAND SURVEYORS

### INDIVIDUAL LICENSES

#### PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

15,728

TOTAL

14,830

RENEWED FOR FY 2017-2019

844

LICENSES ISSUED

54

LICENSES REINSTATED

#### PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS

1,078

TOTAL

1,060

RENEWED FOR FY 2017-2019

15

LICENSES ISSUED

3

LICENSES REINSTATED

# Certificates of Authorization

---

---

## ALABAMA BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS & LAND SURVEYORS

---

---

### PE FIRMS

2,813

TOTAL

2,522

RENEWED

254

CERTIFICATES ISSUED

37

FIRMS REINSTATED

### PLS FIRMS

446

TOTAL

424

RENEWED

18

CERTIFICATES ISSUED

4

FIRMS REINSTATED

A company desiring to offer engineering or surveying services to the public is permitted to do so through individual licensed Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors. Certificate of Authorizations are renewed on an annual basis.

# Investigations

## ALABAMA BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS & LAND SURVEYORS

### 2018-2019 INVESTIGATIONS

#### 2019 COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

**31**  
TOTAL

**11**

UNLICENSED PRACTICE

#### 2019 COMPLAINTS RESOLVED

**44**  
TOTAL

**19**

UNLICENSED PRACTICE

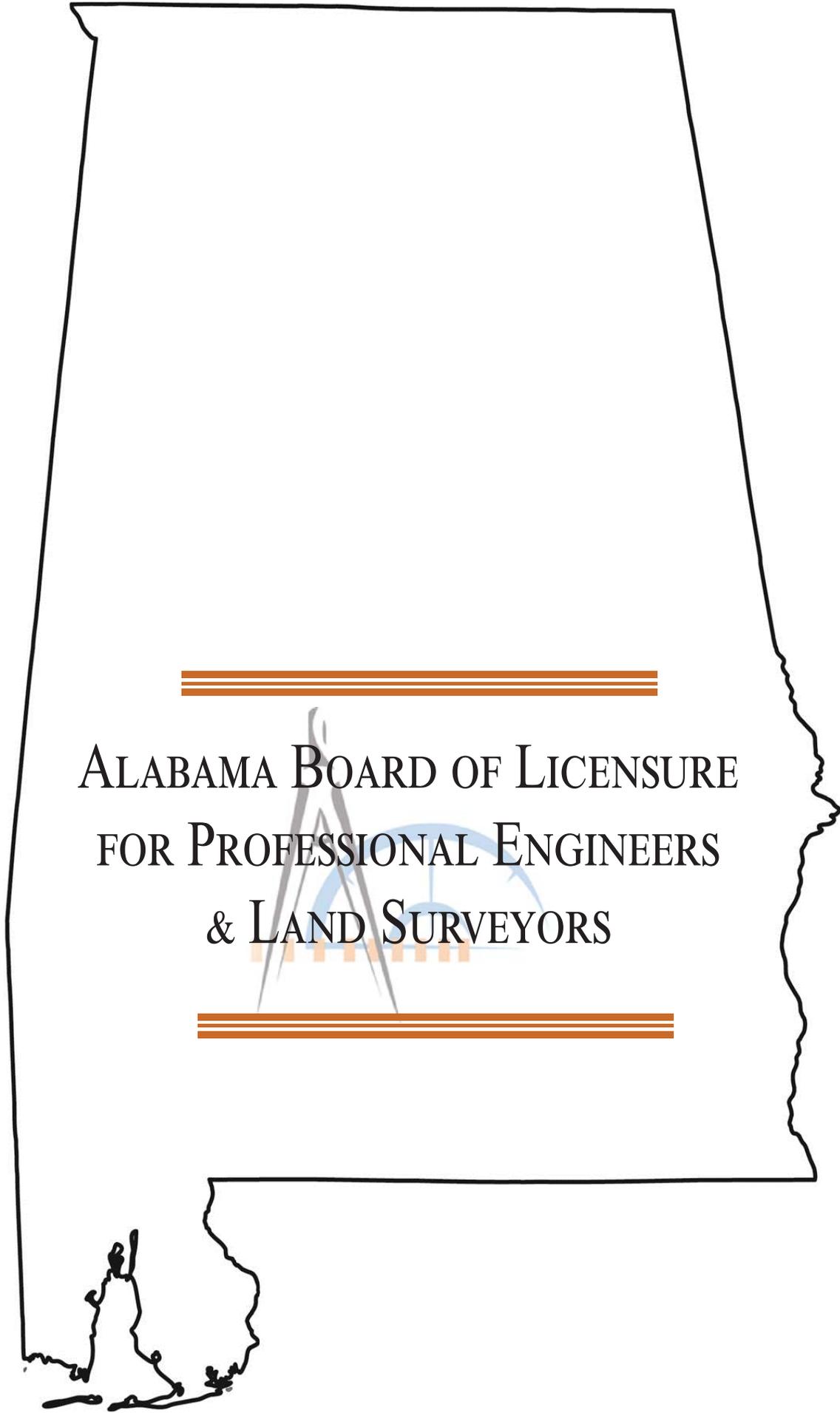
### RECEIVED TREND

	Professional Engineers	Professional Land Surveyors	Unlicensed Engineering	Unlicensed Land Surveying
FY 2019	15	5	11	0
FY 2018	13	7	9	4
FY 2017	14	4	13	3
FY 2016	9	9	9	0
FY 2015	20	12	17	2
FY 2014	17	11	3	3

# A Look Back at FY 2019



Throughout the 2019 Fiscal Year, BELS was part of many different events including the ASPLS Fall Conference (top), a joint meeting between the Board of Licensure and the Board of Architects (second row, right), a reception to recognize past board members (second row, left) the IEEE Southeastern Conference (left) and facilitated the inaugural meeting of the Public Member nominating committee (above).



ALABAMA BOARD OF LICENSURE  
FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS  
& LAND SURVEYORS

