



ALABAMA BOARD OF LICENSURE  
FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS  
& LAND SURVEYORS

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

[WWW.BELS.ALABAMA.GOV](http://WWW.BELS.ALABAMA.GOV)

P.O. Box 304451 | Montgomery, Alabama 36130-4451 | [www.bels.alabama.gov](http://www.bels.alabama.gov)

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 promulgated thereunder.



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*

NATHAN JOHNSON

*PLS / PE*

RICK HUETT,  
*Executive Director*

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

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

Governor Ivey:

We hand you herewith the 2019-2020 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,

**Randy Whorton, Chair, 2019-2020  
Alabama State Board of Licensure  
for Professional Engineers & Land Surveyors**

**Joseph Breighner, Secretary, 2019-2020  
Alabama State Board of Licensure  
for Professional Engineers & Land Surveyors**



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



Randy Whorton | PE  
**Chair**  
Anniston



Helen Adams-Morales  
PE | **Vice Chair**  
Mobile



Joseph Breighner | PLS  
**Secretary**  
Birmingham



Donald Vaughn | PE  
Montgomery



John Averrett | PE  
Montgomery



Nanette Baldwin | Public  
Birmingham



Elaine Walton | Public  
Birmingham



Nathan Johnson | PLS/PE  
Huntsville



Marc Barter | PE  
Mobile

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. From that list, the Governor ultimately, makes the appointment.





Students gather for a quick picture as part of the Career Discovery fair held in Montgomery (top). ALDOT was one of the groups to take part in Troy's second GeoDay (center). Members of ASPLS (right) gather and discuss the profession at their annual conference.



## ZOOMING INTO THE NEW NORMAL

Outreach efforts, for the past four years, have been a calculated approach to bring the message of public protection to as many different parts of the state as possible. This year (fiscal year) things were different as the number of in-person presentations dwindled to zero as the pandemic facing the world began to take shape.

Prior to, BELS Public Info Specialist Griffin Pritchard attended an ASCE meeting in Mobile where fistbumps had taken the place of a firm handshake and no one really had the hang of social distancing.

A month later, in January, Troy's second GGeoDay event and then a career-discovery fair in Montgomery.

That was it.

Events began to be canceled

and the world eventually shut down in March and remained that way through the better part of the summer.

Things changed, though.

Events changed from in-person to virtual as Zoom, Microsoft Teams and WebX became a part of the cultural lexicon and fostered people gathering and interacting.

Virtually, Pritchard presented to Auburn University students twice and added a first-time presentation to students from the University of South Alabama.

Professionally Pritchard presented during Ethics Day to the members of ASPE, to a group of flood-plain managers offering a one-hour ethics course

He also joined with a representative from the state ethics commission to present as part of the

ASCE Winter Conference.

Overall, the audience number is down from the thousands that BELS had been building toward. While 2020 interactions may have been fewer – they were a bit more on the quality side as it offered and fostered better opportunities for conversations and discussions on the topic at hand.

Social media also became vital following the lockdown. BELS social media, integrated as part of the redesigned website, gained a personality and worked to engage with the stakeholder community to striving to create content that was open for discussion and then Pritchard began hosting a weekly Facebook Live – Behind the BELS / BELS live at 9:05 (ish) – that has been slowly gaining an audience and then has been viewed multiple times.



# FY 2020 BY THE NUMBERS

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

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### LAND SURVEYING

**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.



### ENGINEERING

**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, processes, 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.

# Numbers of Professionals

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

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### INDIVIDUAL LICENSES

#### PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

15,728  
TOTAL

14,830

RENEWED FOR FY 2017-2019

905

LICENSES ISSUED

54

LICENSES REINSTATED

#### PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS

1,078  
TOTAL

1,060

RENEWED FOR FY 2017-2019

25

LICENSES ISSUED

3

LICENSES REINSTATED



# Numbers of Interns

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

### ENGINEER INTERNS

**166**  
ISSUED / DO NOT EXPIRE

### LAND SURVEYOR INTERNS

**8**  
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.



### THE NEW STANDARD

A key change BELS made in terms of outreach was evolving our traditional newsletter into a magazine. The BELS Bulletin, in January 2020 transformed into The STANDARD, a quarterly publication that focuses on telling more in-depth stories and better involving the licensee community.



# Certificates of Authorization

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

### PE FIRMS

2,885

TOTAL

2,634

RENEWED

233

CERTIFICATES ISSUED

18

FIRMS REINSTATED

### PLS FIRMS

438

TOTAL

410

RENEWED

24

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.

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

### 2020 COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

**29**  
TOTAL  
**12**

UNLICENSED PRACTICE

### 2020 COMPLAINTS RESOLVED

**31**  
TOTAL  
**9**

UNLICENSED PRACTICE

### RECEIVED TREND

	Professional Engineers	Professional Land Surveyors	Unlicensed Engineering	Unlicensed Land Surveying
FY 2020	8	9	10	2
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

# ALABAMA BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS & LAND SURVEYORS

	UNAUDITED — Fiscal Year 2020
FY 2019 Carry Forward	\$985,478.59
Renewals	\$1,929,600
Late Penalties	\$70,750
Reinstatements   Reissuance	\$19,200
Applications   Licensure	\$146,675
Exams	\$2,400
Fines   Costs   Civil Penalties	\$39,435.43
Civil Penalties to General Fund	(\$16,500)
Duplicate Certificates	\$425
Returned Checks   Replacements	(\$2,125)   \$2,225
Returned Check Charges	\$90
Sale of Surplus & Miscellaneous	\$145.60
Prior Year Refund	0
Status Change	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,192,321.03</b>

**SUBTOTAL OF APPLICATIONS | LICENSURE | EXAMS: \$140,075**

**RENEWALS | REINSTATEMENTS | STATUS CHANGE: \$210,270**

**SUBTOTAL FOR FINES  
\$22,935.43**

**REVENUES TO DATE  
\$2,192,321.03**

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.



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

	AUDITED — TOTAL FY 2020
Personnel Costs	\$408,628.60
Employee Benefits	\$148,278.60
Travel (In-State)	\$9,032.40
Travel (Out-of-State)	\$7,324.71
Repairs   Maintenance	\$2,381.14
Rentals   Leases	\$113,580.82
Utilities   Communications	\$30,389.92
Professional Services	\$114,157.22
Supplies, Materials   Operating Expenses	\$50,912.95
Transportation Equipment Operations	\$616.45
Transportation Equipment Purchases	0
Other Equipment Purchases	\$5,681.50
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES TO DATE</b>	<b>\$884,984.31</b>
<b>TRANSFER TO GENERAL FUND (33%)</b>	<b>\$322,965.63</b>
<b>2019 ENCUMBERANCES</b>	<b>\$84,861.64</b>

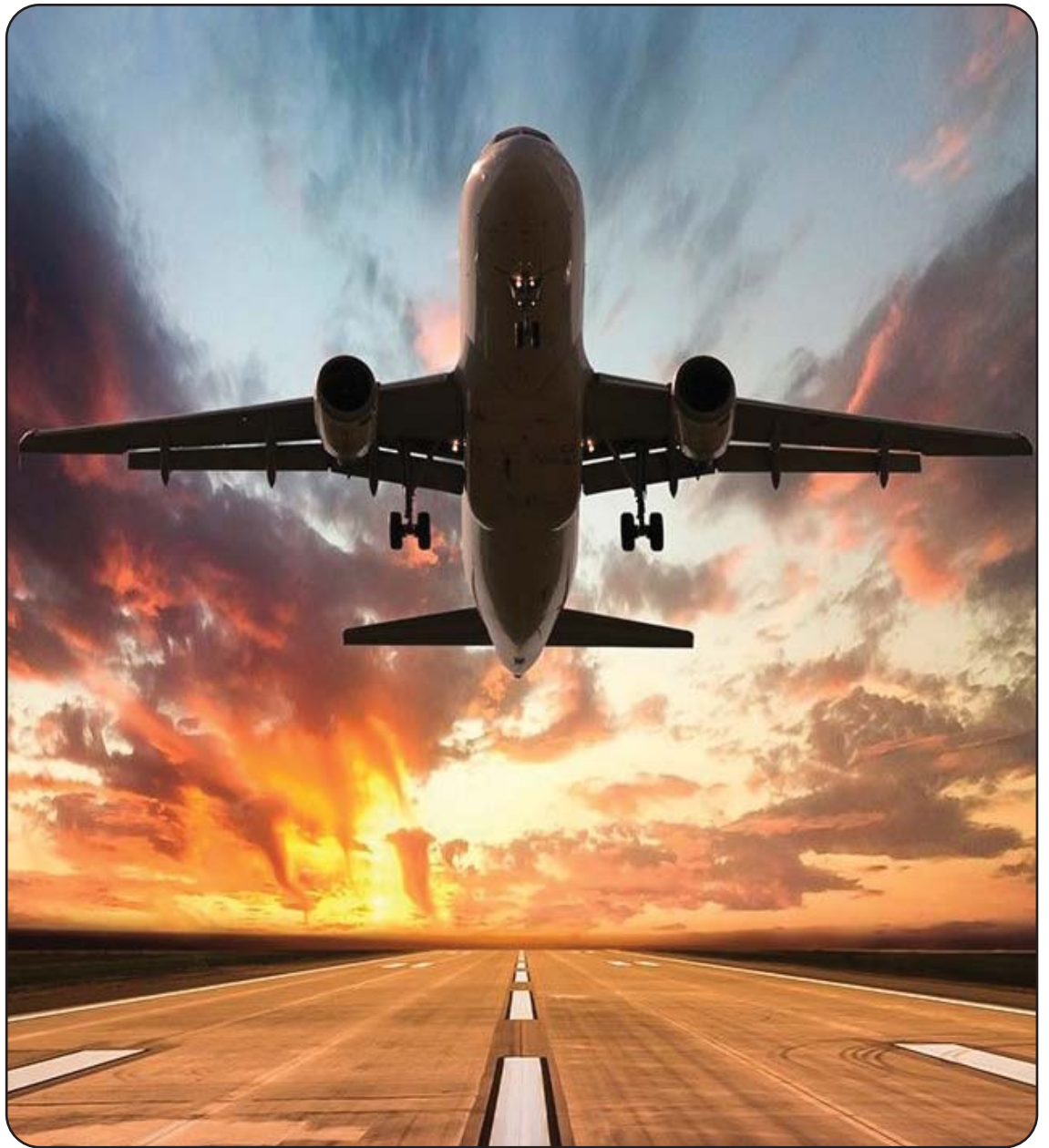
**FUND BALANCE: \$1,885,168.04**



### THE PANDEMIC

When battling the Covid-19 and the Coronavirus, solutions turned into all-hands-on-deck opportunities to address the impending pandemic. College students in engineering programs across the State of Alabama turned their attention to helping those infected. Professors at UAB (pictured) along with Auburn University shifted their lessons from theoretical to the practical as they began developing face shields, PPEs and other types of protective devices used by frontline workers.

# One Last Look (2019-2020)



**“The bad news is time flies. The good news is that you’re the pilot.”**

*Michael Altshuler / Speaker & Marketing Expert*



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