



# TheOregonExaminer.

Published by the Oregon State Board of Examiners for Engineering & Land Surveying

*Inside the 2025 Winter edition:*

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- Director’s Corner
- NCEES: Beyond the Exams
- Staff Spotlight

**Mission**

*The mission of the Oregon State Board of Examiners for Engineering & Land Surveying (OSBEELS) is to regulate the practice of engineering, land surveying, photogrammetric mapping, and water right certification in the state as they relate to the welfare of the public in safeguarding life, health and property.*

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## On the cover: Mt. Hood

Mount Hood, also known as Wy'east, is an active stratovolcano in the Cascade Range and is a member of the Cascade Volcanic Arc. It was formed by a subduction zone on the Pacific Coast and rests in the Pacific Northwest region of the United States. It is located about 50 mi (80 km) east-southeast of Portland, on the border between Clackamas and Hood River counties, and forms part of the Mount Hood National Forest. Much of the mountain outside the ski areas is part of the Mount Hood Wilderness. With a summit elevation of 11,249 ft (3,429 m), it is the highest mountain in the U.S. state of Oregon and is the fourth highest in the Cascade Range. Ski areas on the mountain include Timberline Lodge ski area which offers the only year-round lift-served skiing in North America, Mount Hood Meadows, Mount Hood Skibowl, Summit Ski Area, and Cooper Spur Ski Area. Mt. Hood attracts an estimated 10,000 climbers a year.

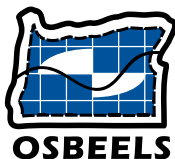
## Upcoming at OSBEELS:

**April 2: Rulemaking Hearing**

**April 10-11: Committee Meetings**

**May 13: Board Meeting at Oregon State University**

[Download the full 2025 OSBEELS Calendar here.](#)



*The Oregon Examiner* is published by the Oregon State Board for Engineering & Land Surveying (OSBEELS). To stay up-to-date with all things OSBEELS, find us online at [www.oregon.gov/osbeels](http://www.oregon.gov/osbeels)



# Director's Corner

*From the desk of Jason Barbee, Board Administrator & Agency Director*

For the first edition of the 2025 OSBEELS Examiner, I want to highlight Board membership and remind everyone of what the requirements are related to serving on the Board (ORS 672.240). The OSBEELS Board consists of 11 volunteer positions made up of five registered professional engineers, two registered professional land surveyors, one photogrammetrist (can be substituted by an additional registered

PE or PLS), one dual licensee and two unlicensed members of the public. We are also required to have a member from each of the six congressional districts in the state. While we currently have a full Board, we anticipate having one PLS and two PE positions open in mid-2026.

It can take months to go through the application process before a decision on Board membership is made by the

Governor's Office. Therefore, I encourage you to reach out to me early if you are interested in serving on the Board at [Jason.Barbee@osbeels.oregon.gov](mailto:Jason.Barbee@osbeels.oregon.gov).

There's a [great article](#) in this Examiner that is co-written by two current Board members which talks about what it's like to be an OSBEELS Board member.

## NCEES: Beyond the Exams

by Renee Clough, Board Vice President

When I joined OSBEELS, I only knew NCEES (National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying) as the organization who writes and scores the national licensure exams. Since then, I have a better understanding that NCEES is much more than that. I'd like to share with you some of the things I've learned about NCEES.

NCEES operates under the supervision of a board of directors. Members of the NCEES Board are nominated and elected to serve by the Council's engineering and surveying member licensing boards from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and four territories. The individual members of these state and territory licensing boards are appointed to serve by their respective governors and are considered active members of NCEES.

Interestingly enough, not all licensing boards are like OSBEELS, which includes both engineers and surveyors as well as photogrammetrists and certified water right examiners. Some states have a separate board for engineers and a separate board for surveyors. Some states mix in architects, geologists, or even professions such as landscape architects and certified interior designers under the same board. Illinois is especially interesting – they have a separate surveying board, a separate engineering board, and a separate structural engineering board.

NCEES was started in 1920 (originally CSBEE, Council of State Boards of Engineering Examiners). In 1932, the first edition of Model Law for Registration of Engineers and Land Surveyors was

published. The first Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam was administered in 1965 with the first Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) exam following in 1966. The first Fundamentals of Land Surveying (FS) exam was administered in 1973 with the first Principles and Practice of Surveying (PS) exam following in 1974.

Today, NCEES is divided into four zones – Western, Central, Southern and Northeastern. Each zone has a meeting in the spring to discuss regional topics and network with neighboring state boards. In late summer, NCEES and all member boards come together for an Annual Meeting. Throughout the year,

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more than a dozen standing committees and ad hoc task forces meet to work on accomplishing council goals. For example, the Committee on Education has been coordinating with educators over the last year to ensure curriculums are in line with the NCEES Education Standard while the Committee on Member Board Administrators has been studying whether it is possible to bring more consistency to Professional Development Hour standards throughout the country.

One of the primary charges of NCEES is to provide Model Laws and Model Rules to the member boards. The purpose of these laws and rules is to encourage consistency and provide pathways to licensure throughout licensing jurisdictions. These laws and rules are discussed, debated, and eventually voted on by those same member boards. Most states, including Oregon, utilize these documents as a resource when considering regulatory changes. There is no obligation to adopt these laws and rules, but they provide a roadmap that can make cross-state licensure easier to accomplish.

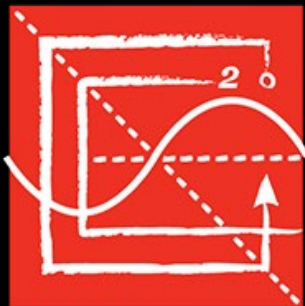
Beyond the exams themselves, there are several services that NCEES provides directly to registrants or potential registrants, including the extremely valuable service of providing practice exams for most of the exams administered. Another service offered is a Credentials Evaluation, which is primarily for applicants with an international degree or non-ABET accredited degrees. These applicants can obtain a Credentials Evaluation to show a licensing board that their degree is equivalent to an ABET accredited degree. If the evaluation shows their degree is not equivalent, it will identify where their degree is deficient in credit hours. In addition, the Credentials Evaluation will also identify which credits are qualifying if a state allows an education for experience substitution.

Other examples of services that NCEES provides is an International Registry and a Records Program, which are both designed to facilitate licensure in multiple jurisdictions by putting documentation such as transcripts, exam results, and work experience details in one place that can be

forwarded to licensing boards as requested by the registrant. Also, the Continuing Professional Competency (CPC) Tracking service allows registrants to record and track their continuing education credits in one place online. Many boards, including Oregon, accept the NCEES CPC Tracking documentation as part of the renewal process.

As part of their outreach program, NCEES grants Engineering and Surveying Education Awards to recognize programs that have a broad and robust curriculum, and that best reflect NCEES's mission. The awards are intended to encourage programs to engage their students with other professionals, introduce them to new technology, and promote licensure.

Prior to my time on the OSBEELS Board, I was not aware of the wide variety of ways NCEES supports the licensing boards and registrants throughout the country. Since serving on the Board, I've realized all the valuable work NCEES does and continues to do for OSBEELS and the professions.



# NCEES

# PEO CON2025

## LEADING THROUGH INFRASTRUCTURE

**May 7, 8, 9, 2025**

**Salishan Coastal Lodge, Gleneden Beach, OR**

**[www.oregonengineers.org](http://www.oregonengineers.org)**



PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS OF OREGON  
A chapter of the National Society of Professional Engineers



The Professional Engineers of Oregon (PEO) invite you to join them for their annual conference, May 7-9, 2025 in Gleneden Beach, Oregon. As a sneak peak to their event, below is a highlight of this year's keynote presentation:

**Title: Oregon Infrastructure Report Card: A State and National Perspective**

The Oregon Infrastructure Report Card provides an assessment of the current state of infrastructure within Oregon. This presentation will delve into the findings of the report, highlighting key areas of strength and concern. Ana Tijerina Esquino, Engineer III at Mott MacDonald, will share her insights from leading the 2024 Oregon Infrastructure Report Card effort. Additionally, we will compare Oregon's infrastructure performance with the national report card results, offering insights into how Oregon fits into the broader national picture. The discussion aims to inform and engage Oregon engineers on the critical infrastructure challenges and opportunities facing the state. Ana will be joined by Perrin Falkner, Project Engineer at Toole Design. This event is an excellent opportunity to discuss the current state of Oregon's infrastructure and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. You are invited to join the conversation.

Online registration is available through their [website](http://www.oregonengineers.org). OSBEELS will be presenting and hosting a booth so we hope to see you there!

OREGON



WATER RESOURCES  
DEPARTMENT

### ***A Note from the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD):***

OWRD is happy to announce we will be continuing the CWRE workshops! Please keep an eye on your mail - we are sending out letters to all CWREs with instructions on updating their contact information. OWRD is working towards being paperless, so it's important to follow the instructions and update your information, including a current email address. Watch for updates in the *OSBEELS Examiner* and on their [website](http://www.oregonengineers.org) as well, as we start sending out registration packets for this year!

# Meet OSBEELS

## Ashley *Registration Specialist*

### **How long have you worked for OSBEELS?**

6 and a half years. I started out as a File Clerk, then moved into my current role as the Lead Registration Specialist.

### **What do you enjoy about your job?**

Helping people from all walks of life achieve their goals! It's exciting when you get to work with an applicant from when they start out as an intern to become a licensed professional. I especially enjoy helping applicants with nontraditional education and backgrounds navigate the path to licensure. When they get their license, I'm celebrating right along with them.

### **What is your favorite place in Oregon?**

That's tough! My husband and I actually moved to Oregon from the plains because we loved the idea of having the mountains and the ocean a car ride away. Visiting Silver Falls State Park for the first time is what really sold us. The waterfalls and mossy branches were like something out of a fairytale, so it's still one of my favorite places to visit in any season.

### **What are some of your hobbies?**

I enjoy riding my gravel bike around local trails and hiking. I also like attempting to surf even though I'm pretty bad at it. Getting out



into the water and paddling around on a sunny day is fun even when I can't catch a wave. I've recently gotten into birding and mushroom spotting as well. The top of my bird wish list is to see puffins at Cannon Beach this year.

### **From the viewpoint of your role, can you share some reminders or tips for our registrants?**

We on staff know the Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) and licensure processes can be dense to navigate, so we're happy to help you and answer any questions you have. When in doubt, give us a call or send any of us an email even if you're not sure who to contact. We'll make sure it gets into the right hands and you get the answers you're looking for. Sometimes, because of the Board's schedule, things can move slowly. Just bear with us and we'll try to make the wait as painless as we can.





# Help us help you!!

## Speaking Engagements:

Do you have a meeting or event in Oregon involving engineers, land surveyors, water right examiners, or photogrammetrists? We are available to give presentations on who we are and what we do, including how the licensure process works. We're also happy to set up an informational booth and be available during your event to answer any OSBEELS related questions.

## Continuing Education Opportunities:

How are you earning your PDHs toward your biennial renewal? Send us opportunities that we can share on our webpage and in our Examiner newsletter of learning opportunities for our professionals. We want to help everyone keep up on those continuing education requirements.

## Photos of Your Work:

We invite you to share your work experiences with the OSBEELS community! We're looking for photos of noteworthy projects, monuments, or work site locations that you think others will appreciate. They may be featured in future issues of the Examiner as well as our social media pages.

Send your event info, learning opportunities, and work photos (.jpg or .png format preferred) to our Communications Coordinator, Ashlee Graybeal at [ashlee.d.graybeal@osbeels.oregon.gov](mailto:ashlee.d.graybeal@osbeels.oregon.gov)

## Continuing Education Opportunities

### 2025 PEO Conference

May 7-9, 2025

Salishan Coastal Lodge

Gleneden Beach, OR

<https://oregonengineers.org/annual-conference>

### OSU Workshop: GNSS & Geodesy

September 4-5, 2025

Owen Hall @ Oregon State University

Corvallis, OR

<https://gcapgeospatial.org/workshop-gnssgeodesy>

### 2025 OSBEELS Symposium

September 25-26, 2025 (virtual)



# Board Life is Not Boring

by Tim Fassbender, Board President, and Renee Clough, Board Vice President

**A**s Board members for the Oregon State Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying (OSBEELS), we're often asked what serving on the Board entails. Here's a little insight:

Board members are appointed by the Governor to a four-year term with an opportunity to apply for re-appointment to a second four-year term.

Board membership is intentionally diverse to benefit from a wide variety of experiences and viewpoints. The law in ORS 672.240 requires that the Board have representation from all congressional districts in the state and license types, as well as two "public" members who are not licensed by OSBEELS. There is also an intent to gather differing perspectives in areas of professional practice and social demographics.

OSBEELS is made up of two parts: the volunteer members serving on the Board, and the agency staff which is led by the Board Administrator. The Board is the policy and decision-making body, and the Board Administrator is responsible for agency operations and Board support.

While the Board is the decision-making body, most of the actual work happens through a committee structure. The Board has tasked each of the committees to perform certain duties on behalf of the Board. Committee membership is determined by the Board President. Here are the five main committees and their high-level summary of duties:

The Law Enforcement Committee (LEC) is the primary agent for the Board in reviewing complaints or information

that is submitted to the Board relating to alleged violations of OSBEELS rules or statutes.

The Examinations and Qualifications Committee (EQC) assists the Board in determining the qualified individuals who meet the requirements for registration in the State. In addition, the EQC frequently addresses unintended barriers to licensure of qualified applicants.

The Rules and Regulations Committee (RRC) provides recommendations for revisions, as needed, to the Board's administrative rules.

The Professional Practice Committee (PPC) is the primary agent for the Board

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in responding to questions relating to professional practices in the State of Oregon as provided in the statutes and rules.

The Finance Committee (FC) assures that the Board is adequately funded to operate effectively within the constraints and mandates of the Oregon Law.

At times, there are additional committees and task forces formed to handle special or unique situations that need attention. One past example is the Land Surveying Qualifications Task Force, which was created to review and make recommendations for updates to the Land Surveying Qualifications in the Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs).

All committees are made up of a Chair and a maximum of four OSBEELS Board Members. No more than five members can be on a committee since more than five would constitute a Board quorum.

OSBEELS Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of odd numbered months. The committees meet on the second Thursday and Friday of even numbered months. On occasion, special meetings are called to respond to situations that need a more immediate response. The public is allowed to

attend any Board or committee meeting; however, the public is not allowed to participate in a meeting unless specifically asked. During each meeting, time is set aside for the public to comment but the Board or committee members will not respond or engage in discussion at that time.

A typical Board meeting requires approximately three hours of preparation time for each member. The preparation time for a committee meeting varies greatly depending on the committee. The LEC and EQC members may need four to six hours to review all the materials to be presented. Most of the other committees require an hour or less of preparation time. It is critical that Board members come to the Board and committee meetings prepared.

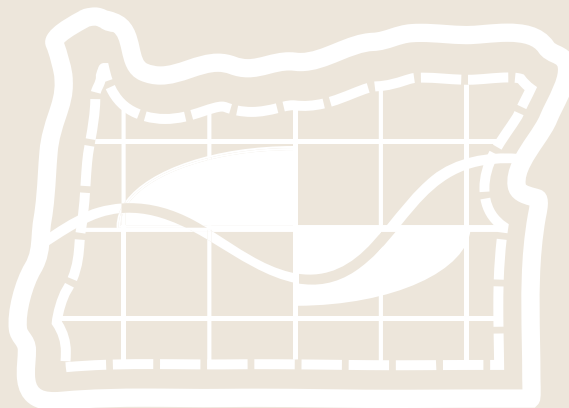
The Board sets policy and direction. The OSBEELS staff handles the heavy lifting of the work that needs to be accomplished. They handle all calls, licensure applications, renewals, and they organize submitted complaints, just to mention a small portion of their work. Prior to any Board or committee meeting, staff works with the committee chair to set the agenda and distribute meeting material to the committee members. This enables

the Board and committees to function in an efficient manner.

Being an OSBEELS Board member also provides the opportunity to represent Oregon at the national level. The National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) holds zone and national meetings during the year. Licensing boards send their members to the meetings to debate and vote on council business. OSBEELS Board members can also hold NCEES office positions and/or serve on NCEES committees or task forces.

While being an OSBEELS Board member is an unpaid voluntary position, expenses incurred as part of being a Board member are reimbursed. There should be no cost to you to be a member, other than the value of your time.

OSBEELS Board members give their time and expertise to protect the public while simultaneously gathering a deeper understanding of the professional practices regulated by OSBEELS and how these practices work together. It is a rewarding experience!



# OSBEELS



Board Vice President Renee Clough and Ashley Setzer presenting at PLSO 2025.



Dave Malone



# Symposium 2025

September 25 & 26  
Registration opens August 1



# SHARE YOUR WORK

*Retaining Wall Progress for a Waste Transfer Station in Manzanita (Tillamook County)*  
*Submitted by: Michelle Langdon, PE – GreatWest Engineering*





*It's pretty cool because it highlights a much lesser-known area of civil engineering: waste management. It also brings together environmental, structural, transportation and hydrology portions of the field into one project.*

*Michelle Langdon, PE*





The work of our licensees can be exciting and unique, and we invite you to share your experiences with our OSBEELS community! We're looking for photos of noteworthy projects, monuments, or work site locations. Send your photos in either .jpg or .png format to [ashlee.d.graybeal@osbeels.oregon.gov](mailto:ashlee.d.graybeal@osbeels.oregon.gov) and they may be featured in the next *Oregon Examiner*!