



The History of NSBE

National Society of Black Engineers

“If a race has no history, if it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated.”

“Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history.”

Quotes of Carter G. Woodson - Father of Black History

This document is a brief summary of the history of the National Society of Black Engineers. “The History of NSBE” is a living document updated yearly to capture significant highlights of NSBE over the years.

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NSBE in General

The mission of NSBE is to increase the number of culturally responsible Black Engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally and positively impact the community.

NSBE was founded at Purdue University in 1975 by six people: John Logan (*deceased*), Edward Coleman, George Smith, Stanley Kirtley (*deceased*), Brian Harris, and Anthony Harris. Their nickname is 'The Chicago Six.'

The NSBE Torch symbolizes our everlasting burning desire to achieve success as engineers in our present society. The lightning bolts represent the striking impact that will be felt upon society and industry as a result of the contributions and achievements made by the National Society of Black Engineers.

NSBE Headquarters is located in Alexandria, VA.

NSBE is the largest student-managed organization in the country with hundreds of pre-college, college and alumni/technical professional chapters all over the world. These chapters are geographically divided into six regions.

In 1975, the first National Conference was held at Purdue University. 48 students from 32 schools attended the conference. Five important things happened at this conference:

- The National Symbol was chosen
- A rough draft of the National Constitution was written
- The organization was divided into six geographic regions
- The first National Chairperson was elected, John Cason
- The name for the group was selected, "The National Society of Black Engineers"

In 1976, NSBE was incorporated as a nonprofit organization in the State of Texas. NSBE also became recognized as a tax-exempt organization under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

NSBE offers academic excellence programs, scholarships, leadership training, professional development and access to career opportunities for thousands of members annually. With over 2000 elected leadership positions, 12 regional conferences and an annual convention, NSBE provides opportunities for success that remain unmatched by any other organization. NSBE also publishes three national magazines; the NSBE Magazine, the Career Engineer and the NSBE Bridge.

Conferences

1975	The 1st NSBE National Conference is held at Purdue University
	The 1st NSBE Camping Conference is held in San Bernardino Mountains, California
1976	The 2nd Annual National Conference is held in Pomona, California; Cal State Polytechnic University
1977	The 3rd Annual National Conference is held in Atlanta, Georgia
	The 1st Regional Conference is held by Region I at MIT
1978	The 4th Annual National Conference is held in Columbus, Ohio
1979	The 5th Annual National Conference is held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
1980	The 1st NSBE National Technical Conference is held
	The 6th Annual National Conference is held in Palo Alto, California
1981	The 7th Annual National Conference is held in Boston, Massachusetts
1982	The 8th Annual National Conference is held in Detroit, Michigan
1983	The 9th Annual National Conference is held in Atlanta, Georgia
	The 1st NSBE Forum is held at the National Conference entitled "NSBE future"
1984	The 10th Annual National Conference is held in Washington, D.C.
	The 1st Regional Leadership Conference is held in Region I
1985	The 11th Annual National Conference is held in San Francisco, California
1986	The 12th Annual National Conference is held in Boston, Massachusetts
1987	The 13th Annual National Conference is held in Dallas, Texas
1988	The 14th Annual National Conference held in Washington, D.C.
1989	The 1st Annual National Leadership Conference is held in Houston, Texas
1989	The 15th Annual National Conference is held in Cincinnati, Ohio
1990	The 16th Annual National Conference is held in Orlando, Florida
	The 2nd Annual National Leadership Conference is held in Atlanta, Georgia
1991	NSBE sponsors the first Emerging Technologies Conference
	The 17th Annual National Conference is held in Los Angeles, California
	The 3rd Annual National Leadership Conference is held in Greensboro, NC
1992	The 18th Annual National Conference is held in New York City, NY
	The 4th Annual National Leadership Conference is held in Atlanta, GA
1993	The 19th Annual National Conference is held in Houston, TX
	The 5th Annual National Leadership Conference is held in East Lansing, MI

Conferences (continued)

1994	The 20th Annual National Conference is held in Pittsburgh, PA
1995	The 21st Annual National Conference is held in Detroit, MI
1996	The 22nd Annual National Conference is held in Nashville, TN
1997	The 23rd Annual National Conference is held in Boston, Massachusetts
1998	The 24th Annual National Convention is held in Anaheim, California
1999	The 25th Annual National Convention is held in Kansas City, MO
	The 1st NSBE International Conference was held in Ghana, West Africa
2000	The 26th Annual National Convention is held in Charlotte, NC
	The 2nd NSBE International Conference was held in Ghana, West Africa
2001	The 27th Annual National Convention is held in Indianapolis, In
2002	The 28th Annual National Convention is held in Orlando, FL and is the largest convention ever
2003	The 29th Annual National Convention is held in Anaheim, CA
2004	The 30th Annual National Convention is held in Dallas, TX
2005	The 31st Annual National Convention is held in Boston, MA
2006	The 32nd Annual National Convention is held in Pittsburgh, PA
2007	The 33rd Annual National Convention is held in Columbus, OH
2008	The 34th Annual National Convention is held in Orlando, FL
2009	The 35th Annual National Convention is held in Las Vegas, NV
2010	The 36 th Annual National Convention will be held in Toronto, Canada

People

1971	Edward Barnette, Fred Cooper, and Faculty Advisor Arthur Bond form the Black Society of Engineers whose mission is the recruitment and retention of Black Engineering Students.
	The Chicago Six (the late) John Logan, Brian Harris, Edward Coleman, Anthony Harris, George Smith, and (the late) Stan Kirtley, among several others are the Charter Members of the Black Society of Engineers
1974	Anthony Harris becomes President of the Society of Black Engineers; John Logan becomes Vice President; Brian Harris becomes Treasurer
1975-76	John Cason becomes the 1 st National Chairperson of the National Society of Black Engineers; though elected in 1975, he did not serve.
1976-77	William A. Johnson serves as National Chairperson
1977-78	Richard L. Toler serves as National Chairperson
1978-80	Virginia Booth serves as National Chairperson; she is the first woman and first person to serve two terms as National Chairperson
1979	The first black woman to run for the Presidency of the United States, The Honorable Shirley Chisholm, addresses the 1979 National Conference
1980	Dick Gregory addresses the 1980 National Conference
1980-81	Carolyn Cooper serves as National Chairperson
1981-82	Peter Goodeau serves as National Chairperson
1982-84	Brian K. Sanders serves as National Chairperson
1984-85	Karl Reid serves as National Chairperson
1985-87	Donna O. Johnson serves as National Chairperson
1986	The Reverend Jesse Jackson addresses the National Conference
1987	Judge LaDoris Hazzard Cordell addresses the National Conference
	Rev. Dr. Florence Morehead (Executive on Loan) becomes the 1 st full time Executive Director
1987-89	Dr. Gary May serves as National Chairperson
1988	Dr. Na'im Akbar addresses the National Conference
	Robert S. Bright is the first Alumni Extension Chairperson
1989	Tony Brown addresses the National Conference
	NSBE National Executive Director Florence Morehead becomes a full-time NSBE employee
1989-91	David Fleming serves as National Chairperson
1991-93	William Gideon Jr. serves as National Chairperson
1993	Charles Walker is appointed National Executive Director

People (continued)

1993-94	Kevin Harris serves as National Chairperson
1994-95	Carl Conliffe serves as National Chairperson
1995-97	S. Gordon Moore serves as National Chairperson
1997-98	Regenia Sanders serves as National Chairperson
1998-2000	Andre Willis serves as National Chairperson
2000	Michele Lezama is appointed National Executive Director
2000-01	Damaune Journey serves as National Chairperson
2002	Kwesi Mfume (NAACP) delivers keynote at the 2002 National Convention Closing Event
2001-03	Delano White serves as National Chairperson
2003-04	Mario Church II serves as National Chairperson
2004	Founder, Stanley Kirtley, passes away.
2004-06	Chanceé Lundy serves as National Chairperson
2005	Carl Mack is appointed National Executive Director
2006-07	Ainsley A. Stewart Jr. serves as National Chairperson
2007-08	Darryl Dickerson serves as National Chairperson
2008-09	Stevenson A. Dunn Jr. serves as National Chairperson
2009-10	Stacyann P. Russell serves as National Chairperson

Milestones

1974	Anthony Harris changes the name of the Black Society of Engineers to the Society of Black Engineers. He also created the now famous symbol of the torch and lightening bolts, with the initials "SBE". Harris summarized the mission in the tag line "Dedicated to a better tomorrow."
1975	At the 1st National Conference. 48 students representing 32 schools chose the new organization's national symbol by adding the letter "N", wrote a rough draft of the National Constitution, divided the organization into six geographic regions, and chose the name "The National Society of Black Engineers"
	Purdue becomes the National Headquarters
1976	NSBE is incorporated as a non-profit organization in Austin, TX by Barry Barrell, Pamela Mukolu, and William Johnson
1978	NSBE begins to receive national coverage by participating in the National Academy of Science's Conference, "Minorities in Engineering"
1979	NSBE grows from 5 chapters to 88 chapters throughout the country
	NSBE has it's first National Job Fair and National Awards Banquet
	NSBE holds a seat on the United Nations (UN) as an observer.
1982	NSBE retains the services of a Black-owned management firm
	The 1st Headquarters is established in Washington, D.C.
1983	The National Executive Board 1st developed and implemented the 'zoning' concept in order to increase its operating effectiveness
1984	The 1st statistical membership profile was conducted
	The National Program Fund for regional programs was established
1985	The National Conference grosses over \$100,000 for the first time
1986	NSBE publishes it's first annual report
1987	NSBE purchases 1st WHQ building at 344 Commerce St., Alexandria, VA
1988	The Board of Corporate Affiliates is established. Approximately 40 companies make up the BCA
	NSBE National Pre-College Initiative (PCI) was launched
	The 1st National Strategic Plan was announced
	The NSBE Alumni Extension is formed
1989	NSBE's budget exceeds \$1,000,000
	NSBE International Committee is formed
1990	NSBE Jr. chapters are formed
	NSBE begins the tradition of wearing African Attire at National Conference Banquet
	NSBE membership increases to over 7,000 students in 180 chapters

Milestones (continued)

1991	The 1st International NSBE chapter since the 70s is chartered by McGill University
	NSBE Academic Excellence Committee is formed
	New Headquarters building is established at 1454 Duke St., Alexandria, VA
	The National Executive Board (NEB) Meeting is held at California State University Northridge. This is the 1st N.E.B. meeting to be held on a college campus since the mid 80s
1992	The 1st European NSBE chapter is founded in London, England
	The 1st International Summit held at National Headquarters in Alexandria, VA
	NSBE's budget nears two million dollars
	NSBE Academic Technical Bowl is held at the New York City Convention
	National Technical Symposium is held at the New York City Convention, the 1st since the NSBE National Technical Conference in 1980
	2nd International Chapter is chartered at the University of the West Indies, Trinidad
1995	2nd WHQ building established at 1454 Duke Street, Alexandria VA
1996	The University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign is named the National Chapter of the Year
1997	Texas A&M University is named the National Chapter of the Year
	Hip—Hop artist KRS-ONE performs at National Conference and does a workshop
	NSBE serves as lead sponsor for National Engineers Week, the 1st minority organization to do so. The theme is "Engineers Make a World of Difference"
2004	Long term investment policy and accounts established
2005	First ever national convention rates for international members established
	3rd WHQ building is established at 205 Dangerfield Road, Alexandria, VA

Communications

1974	The Cornerstone magazine/newsletter becomes the first publication of the Society of Black Engineers. Also the first SBE resume book was published.
1978	The 1st National Charter/Membership packet is developed
1979	The 1st NSBE videos are released
1980	A book of the proceedings about the presented technical research is published from the first NSBE National Technical Conference
1984	NSBE publishes its first national magazine as a conference edition called NSBENEWS
1985	NSBENET, the society's first computer network is developed by Richard Z. White
	The 1st Edition of the NSBE Journal is published
	The 1st National Finance Handbook to aid chapters in soliciting and controlling funds is produced
1989	NSBE publishes its own magazine under the direction of editor/publisher Norris Hite and advertising specialist, Guy Mitchell
1990	The NSBE Bridge is published
	The NSBE Journal becomes the NSBE Magazine
1992	The NSBE Bridge is published four times per year
	The NSBE Magazine is published five times per year
1993	The Career Engineer is published by NSBE

Acronyms

AE	Alumni Extension
AEx	Academic Excellence
AEB	Alumni Executive Board
AEC	Academic Excellence Committee
AEO	Alumni Executive Officers
AOG	Alumni Operating Guidelines
APC	Administrative and Personnel Committee
BCA	Board of Corporate Affiliates
BD	Business Diversity
CCI	Community College Initiative
CDP	Chapter Development Program
CEB	Chapter Executive Board
CPC	Conference Planning Committee
DRC	Document Review Committee
FRC	Fall Regional Conference
GTA	Golden Torch Awards
IC	International Committee
LRP	Long Range Plan
NAB	National Advisory Board
NEB	National Executive Board
NEO	National Executive Officers
NEW	National Engineers Week
NLC	National Leadership Conference
NLI	National Leadership Institute
PCI	Pre-College Initiative
PDC	Professional Development Conference
RAB	Regional Advisory Board
RAEB	Regional Alumni Executive Board
RAOG	Regional Alumni Operating Guidelines
REB	Regional Executive Board
REO	Regional Executive Officers

Acronyms (continued)

RLC	Regional Leadership Conference
SEC	Standards and Ethics Committee
SRC	Spring Regional Conference
TPC	Technical Professional Conference
USTR	Undergraduate Students in Technical Research
WHQ	World Headquarters