

## NSBE kicks off national convention

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By American staff |

Black engineers – thousands of them – are coming to St. Louis. The National Society of Black Engineers will host its 37th Annual Convention in St. Louis March 23-27 at the America's Center.

The annual convention attracts more than 8,000 black engineers and 250 corporate and government entities, including each of the arms of the military. The convention is projected to have a \$22 million impact on the St. Louis economy.

NSBE recently hosted a convention kick-off event for the St. Louis community at Washington University, drawing some 250 engineers, corporate leaders and educators.

"We were trying to get information out to corporate leaders and educators in the local school systems," said Ronald Moore, a coordinator for NSBE's Pre-College Initiative Program.

Approximately 250 people attended the kick-off event. Local host leaders in attendance included Arnold Donald, president and CEO of the Executive Leadership Council; James E. McLeod, a dean at Washington University; St. Louis City License Collector Michael McMillan; Abe and Nicole Adewale, principals of ABNA Engineering; and Brad Jones, director of U.S. Air Force Development, Boeing Company.

Other attendees included Art J. McCoy, the new superintendent for the Ferguson-Florissant School District; Jeffrey Theerman, executive director, Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District; Eddie Davis, executive director, Center for the Acceleration of African American Business; Mattie C. Moore, deputy director, Office of U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill; and Edwilla Massey, director of Constituent Services for U.S. Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay.

Moore said the kick-off event aimed "to get excitement going among the St. Louis community" for the March conference, though it is essentially a closed event.

"The conference is more geared toward young people going into the engineering field and alumni looking for professional development," Moore said.

To that end, St. Louis Public Schools, Ferguson-Florissant School District and other public school districts in the area will send hundreds of students interested in science, engineering and math to the NSBE conference, Moore said. Confirmed

conference speakers include Calvin Mackie of Xavier University and Lonnie Smith, inventor of the SuperSoaker. There will be a special awards presentation by actor/rapper James Todd Smith (a.k.a. LL Cool J).

NSBE, with more than 35,700 members, is one of the largest student-governed organizations in the country. Founded in 1975, it includes more than 394 chapters in the United States and abroad. NSBE's mission is "to increase the number of culturally responsible black engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally and positively impact the community." For more information, visit the local website at [nsbe-stl.org](http://nsbe-stl.org) or the national site [www.nsbe.org](http://www.nsbe.org).

The St. Louis American will produce a special section on black engineers to coincide with the conference. To contribute or be included, contact [cking@stlamerican.com](mailto:cking@stlamerican.com) with "black engineers" in the subject line.



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