

Pack Out Pittsburgh!

By Taylor Mitcham, NSBE 2011–12 National Convention Planning Committee Chair



I am excited to bring you this update on NSBE's 38th Annual Convention, which will be held March 28–April 1, 2012 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, Pa. Preparation for this event has been both challenging and rewarding.

This year's theme, *"The NSBE Blueprint: Leadership, Teamwork and Inspiration,"* coincides with the National Directives set forth by NSBE National Chair Calvin Phelps: *Academic Excellence* and *Pipeline Development*. When establishing the theme, the Convention Planning Committee and I wanted to make sure it was something all members could identify with, learn from and ultimately utilize. The miniconference coordinators have been working tirelessly to create an insightful and thrilling event for convention participants. From NSBE Jr. attendees to technical professionals, everyone can benefit from this convention.

NSBE Jr. students can look forward to the Pre-College Initiative (PCI) Conference, with its engaging, educational workshops; Engineering Design Competition; and college and company tours, as well as a tour of the renowned Carnegie Science Center. Through a plethora of activities, students will be moved through the NSBE pipeline and exposed to opportunities afforded to NSBE members.

The Graduate School Conference (GSC) offers graduate students an eventful experience that will address their unique concerns and curiosities. This miniconference will also provide the tools needed to design or refine the personal "blueprints" of aspiring graduate students by offering insight into top-tier engineering schools and the application process, and by diffusing fear and/or uncertainties concerning graduate school.

For our Alumni members, we offer the Technical

Professionals Conference, an unparalleled networking experience. It will be a time to share best practices for workplace success, network with executives and serve our community. The ultimate goal of the miniconference is to ensure that professionals are equipped with the tools and knowledge necessary to leave the Annual Convention reenergized and determined to share the infectious spirit that is born of the NSBE mission.

I hope that every attendee departs the convention with the means to accomplish his or her goals and follow "The NSBE Blueprint." I want to make sure everyone can use what he or

she learns at Convention as a roadmap to fulfilling life goals, in school, at work or in the community. The NSBE Blueprint is a multimedia tool that will enable attendees to identify, evaluate and execute their plans to realize these goals. The Convention Planning Committee has one overarching goal: Pack Out Pittsburgh! Help us realize our blueprint and extend this event beyond the reach of imaginations. ■

ABOUT TAYLOR MITCHAM

Major: Electrical Engineering
Minor: Military Studies (Naval Science)
School: The Pennsylvania State University
Year: Junior



Plans for Post-Graduation: I will commission as a cyber warfare officer in the United States Navy through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Program (Cyber Option). As a cyber warfare officer, I will protect our country from various cyber threats and conduct reconnaissance missions to gather intelligence about enemy weapon and cyber capabilities. Ultimately, I plan to attend graduate school to pursue a master's degree in information warfare or homeland security.

Interesting Facts:

- Licensed pilot
- Plays viola in the orchestra at Penn State
- Hates all types of chocolate
- Enjoys skydiving and tennis