

## National Advisory Board Update

The recent happenings on NSBE's National Advisory Board would make a great case study on success of long-term planning. As two highly valued members of the board have rotated into retirement, two new, high-powered members, nurtured decades ago by NSBE's commitment to student leadership development, have rotated into active duty on the NAB.

Stephanie G. Adams, Ph.D., associate professor of mechanical engineering at Virginia Commonwealth University, and Regenia R. Sanders, senior manager for Accenture, have joined the body that counsels the National Executive Board on NSBE governance issues. The two were voted in during a National Executive Board meeting at NSBE World Headquarters in January. Gerald Harris, member since 2008, and Michele Lezama, member since 2006, retired from the board last year.

Sanders describes herself as "absolutely elated" to be joining the NAB.

"I was first introduced to NSBE during my freshman year at Auburn University. Like most freshman, I was eager and interested in getting involved on campus for a multitude of reasons, and my first real extracurricular assignment that year was to coordinate refreshments and 'man' the NSBE table at National Engineers Week. Little did I know that that was only the beginning!"

Sanders went on to hold numerous leadership positions with the Society, including chapter officer at Auburn, Region III vice chair, Region III chair, national vice chair, national chair, regional advisor and Board of Corporate Affiliates representative for Accenture. She stepped down from her BCA post to join the NAB.



Stephanie G. Adams,  
Ph.D.



Regenia R. Sanders

Sanders has worked for Accenture for the past 10 years, doing supply chain management and IT consulting with major corporations. And through her many career successes, she has kept a torch burning for NSBE.

"To this day, my deepest friendships were born through the AU NSBE chapter..." she says. "Some of my fondest memories are late night conference calls and hours spent putting together that 'perfect' agenda, workshop or presentation for NSBE."

For her part, Dr. Adams says, "I am honored and humbled to have been asked to join the National Advisory Board. NSBE has been a part of my life since my freshman year at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. This is an opportunity to pay it forward."

Dr. Adams earned her B.S. in mechanical engineering with honors from North Carolina A&T State University. She became NSBE national publications chair in 1989 and served in that position and as 1991 national vice chair while earning her master's in systems engineering at the University of Virginia. Her Ph.D. in interdisciplinary engineering is from Texas A&M. Dr. Adams' outstanding career in academia includes professorships and administrative positions at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, and a 2003 CAREER award from the

National Science Foundation, among other highlights. She also has long experience as a motivational speaker and consultant for STEM education.

Dr. Adams has generated almost \$10 million in external funding for various organizations over the last 12 years and plans to lend her expertise in fundraising to the Society as national advisor. ■

### THE RIGHT STUFF

What makes a good NSBE national advisor?

"Through our experience over the years, we have identified four key competencies and characteristics that make good candidates for the NAB," says National Advisory Board Chair Tony Harris, one of NSBE's six founding members.

**NSBE "Luv"** – "This is probably the single most important quality, because

we have discovered that without the "Luv", most advisors will not stick with the NAB. Having the "Luv" really means understanding how NSBE really works, being dedicated to the NSBE Mission and being committed to the student-run model."

**Autonomy** – "It is important that advisors have achieved a level within their company or institution that affords them enough flexibility and

autonomy that they can set their own schedule. This is important because of the nature of NSBE meetings, many of which are called on short notice, or changed frequently, and many of which occur during working hours."

**Expertise** – "It is very helpful to have advisors that bring certain specific skills to NSBE. Skills that add value are: finance, marketing, strategy, communications, human

resources, education and legal. We have also found that having experience as a past NSBE student leader adds great value in the role of advisor."

**Camraderie** – "This is a catch-all term that includes the ability to work well with various constituencies — students, advisors, WHQ staff, BCA members, alumni and supporters — without having a bias toward any of them." ■