



# 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

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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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Additional information or corrections  
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## NSBE in General

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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.

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## Conferences

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

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## Conferences (continued)

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<b>1994</b>	The 20th Annual National Conference is held in Pittsburgh, PA
<b>1995</b>	The 21st Annual National Conference is held in Detroit, MI
<b>1996</b>	The 22nd Annual National Conference is held in Nashville, TN
<b>1997</b>	The 23rd Annual National Conference is held in Boston, Massachusetts
<b>1998</b>	The 24th Annual National Convention is held in Anaheim, California
<b>1999</b>	The 25th Annual National Convention is held in Kansas City, MO
	The 1st NSBE International Conference was held in Ghana, West Africa
<b>2000</b>	The 26th Annual National Convention is held in Charlotte, NC
	The 2nd NSBE International Conference was held in Ghana, West Africa
<b>2001</b>	The 27th Annual National Convention is held in Indianapolis, In
<b>2002</b>	The 28th Annual National Convention is held in Orlando, FL and is the largest convention ever
<b>2003</b>	The 29th Annual National Convention is held in Anaheim, CA
<b>2004</b>	The 30th Annual National Convention is held in Dallas, TX
<b>2005</b>	The 31st Annual National Convention is held in Boston, MA
<b>2006</b>	The 32nd Annual National Convention is held in Pittsburgh, PA
<b>2007</b>	The 33rd Annual National Convention is held in Columbus, OH
<b>2008</b>	The 34th Annual National Convention is held in Orlando, FL
<b>2009</b>	The 35th Annual National Convention is held in Las Vegas, NV
<b>2010</b>	The 36th Annual National Convention is held in Toronto, Canada
<b>2011</b>	The 37th Annual National Convention will be held in St. Louis, MO

## People

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

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## People (continued)

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<b>1993-94</b>	Kevin Harris serves as National Chairperson
<b>1994-95</b>	Carl Conliffe serves as National Chairperson
<b>1995-97</b>	S. Gordon Moore serves as National Chairperson
<b>1997-98</b>	Regenia Sanders serves as National Chairperson
<b>1998-2000</b>	Andre` Willis serves as National Chairperson
<b>2000</b>	Michele Lezama is appointed National Executive Director
<b>2000-01</b>	Damaune Journey serves as National Chairperson
<b>2002</b>	Kwesi Mfume (NAACP) delivers keynote at the 2002 National Convention Closing Event
<b>2001-03</b>	Delano White serves as National Chairperson
<b>2003-04</b>	Mario Church II serves as National Chairperson
<b>2004</b>	Founder, Stanley Kirtley, passes away.
<b>2004-06</b>	Chanceé Lundy serves as National Chairperson
<b>2005</b>	Carl Mack is appointed National Executive Director
<b>2006-07</b>	Ainsley A. Stewart Jr. serves as National Chairperson
<b>2007-08</b>	Darryl Dickerson serves as National Chairperson
<b>2008-09</b>	Stevenson A. Dunn Jr. serves as National Chairperson
<b>2009-10</b>	Stacyann P. Russell serves as National Chairperson
<b>2010-11</b>	Calvin Phelps serves as National Chairperson

## Milestones

<b>1974</b>	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."
<b>1975</b>	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
<b>1976</b>	NSBE is incorporated as a non-profit organization in Austin, TX by Barry Barrell, Pamela Mukolu, and William Johnson
<b>1978</b>	NSBE begins to receive national coverage by participating in the National Academy of Science's Conference, "Minorities in Engineering"
<b>1979</b>	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.
<b>1982</b>	NSBE retains the services of a Black-owned management firm The 1st Headquarters is established in Washington, D.C.
<b>1983</b>	The National Executive Board 1st developed and implemented the 'zoning' concept in order to increase its operating effectiveness
<b>1984</b>	The 1st statistical membership profile was conducted The National Program Fund for regional programs was established
<b>1985</b>	The National Conference grosses over \$100,000 for the first time
<b>1986</b>	NSBE publishes it's first annual report
<b>1987</b>	NSBE purchases 1st WHQ building at 344 Commerce St., Alexandria, VA
<b>1988</b>	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
<b>1989</b>	NSBE's budget exceeds \$1,000,000 NSBE International Committee is formed
<b>1990</b>	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)

<b>1991</b>	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
<b>1992</b>	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	
<b>1995</b>	2nd WHQ building established at 1454 Duke Street, Alexandria VA
<b>1996</b>	The University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign is named the National Chapter of the Year
<b>1997</b>	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"
<b>2004</b>	Long term investment policy and accounts established
<b>2005</b>	First ever national convention rates for international members established
	3rd WHQ building is established at 205 Dangerfield Road, Alexandria, VA
<b>2010</b>	1st Annual Convention held internationally (Toronto, CA)

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## Communications

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<b>1974</b>	The Cornerstone magazine/newsletter becomes the first publication of the Society of Black Engineers. Also the first SBE resume book was published.
<b>1978</b>	The 1st National Charter/Membership packet is developed
<b>1979</b>	The 1st NSBE videos are released
<b>1980</b>	A book of the proceedings about the presented technical research is published from the first NSBE National Technical Conference
<b>1984</b>	NSBE publishes its first national magazine as a conference edition called NSBENEWS
<b>1985</b>	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
<b>1989</b>	NSBE publishes its own magazine under the direction of editor/publisher Norris Hite and advertising specialist, Guy Mitchell
<b>1990</b>	The NSBE Bridge is published
	The NSBE Journal becomes the NSBE Magazine
<b>1992</b>	The NSBE Bridge is published four times per year
	The NSBE Magazine is published five times per year
<b>1993</b>	The Career Engineer is published by NSBE

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## Acronyms

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

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## Acronyms (continued)

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<b>REO</b>	Regional Executive Officers
<b>RLC</b>	Regional Leadership Conference
<b>SEC</b>	Standards and Ethics Committee
<b>SEEK</b>	Summer Engineering Experience for Kids
<b>SRC</b>	Spring Regional Conference
<b>TPC</b>	Technical Professional Conference
<b>USTR</b>	Undergraduate Students in Technical Research
<b>WHQ</b>	World Headquarters