

Lead by Example

By Calvin A. Young III

NSBE National Chair



THE YOUNG CRAB AND HIS MOTHER

One of Aesop's Fables

"Why in the world do you walk sideways like that?" said a mother crab to her son. "You should always walk straight forward with your toes turned out."

"Show me how to walk, mother dear," answered the little crab obediently. "I want to learn."

So the old crab tried and tried to walk straight forward. But she could walk sideways only, like her son. And when she wanted to turn her toes out she tripped and fell on her nose.

"Do not tell others how to act unless you can set a good example."

NSBE family, first, I thank you for entrusting me with the tremendous responsibility and tremendous challenge of leading the National Society of Black Engineers in 2012–13. I know we will all rise to these times and achieve things through our work and commitment that will make our future members proud.

I decided to begin our Publications year with the story above because I feel it illustrates a message of great importance to all NSBE leaders and — because we are all leaders in our community — NSBE members in general.

"Do not tell others how to act unless you can set a good example."

We, NSBE members, are the living examples of our mission, which is "to increase the number of culturally responsible black engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally and positively impact the community." But

before we can excel and succeed, we first must plan to do so. As the old saying goes, "Failing to plan is planning to fail." I've seen this maxim proven countless times, in my own experience and in others'. We take on NSBE leadership roles without first having a plan to do well in our schools and workplaces — the places that matter most.

On airplanes, flight attendants tell us, "Please make sure to secure your own mask before attempting to assist others." This is a common-sense instruction that many forget when they're under stress: You must be successful in taking care of yourself before you can effectively help someone else.

To excel academically and succeed professionally: Set goals and objectives for your career, and measure your progress toward them regularly. Organize your thoughts and your time. Be committed. Stay focused. Make sure you do and have everything you need to "increase the number" by just one, yourself.

As your national chair, I commit to NSBE's mission first and foremost for myself. Then, I humbly commit to helping you accomplish the mission in your life. I encourage you to take the same shamelessly self-first attitude, as we move together toward greatness this year, one step at a time. ■

2012–13 National Directives

WHERE IS NSBE HEADED?

The National Directives of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) state the focus of the National Executive Board for the year, as it achieves the goals of the National Strategic Plan and the National Long-Range Plan. These directives will be followed by the regions and implemented by the chapters.

Engineering Exposure

Increase the number of pre-college students on track to become engineers

Academic Excellence

Increase academic performance and engineering retention rates of NSBE members

Professional Branding

Enhance the value proposition for NSBE professional membership