

A Cause to Celebrate

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NSBE National Chair



The vision for the year is set! Although NSBE's National Directives are only a few words, it takes a lot of brain power to clearly and concisely state what the vision for the year will be.

One reason the national leadership celebrates this achievement is that NSBE has a culture that encourages celebration. Each year, we are excited about an historic journey that we as an organization are embarking on. Let me state that it's difficult to shy away from tradition.

As this year's national chair, I wholeheartedly believe that NSBE is on the verge of

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monumental change, realized through the vision and events of the year! Our premier focus is *Academic Excellence*. With this directive, we have strived to embrace the first and second phrase of the mission statement and encourage full pursuit of outstanding scholarship by all NSBE demographics. This year, our commitment to Academic Excellence will be evident in everything we do, programmatically and financially, and in all of our communications.

At the local level, all NSBE leaders should be focused primarily on implementing the NSBE Retention Program at their chapters. Moreover, these officers should strive for retention of NSBE members in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) degree programs, through all programmatic efforts! The Retention Program offers our members frequent chapter-planned study events and workshops, to help us develop our academic and professional skill sets.

Unified efforts of all NSBE demographics need to be evident this year, as we respond to our second National Directive: "Development of NSBE Professionals." The former Alumni Extension is embarking on its first year as NSBE Professionals! This name change is monumental, as it spotlights the great power and potential of the group. The entire Society needs to support that group by educating NSBE members and our community about NSBE Professionals. We will also make a significant effort to retain graduating seniors as NSBE Professional members. We are looking to enhance our programs and customer service for all Professional chapters to ensure NSBE Professionals becomes *"the premier technical and professional organization of choice!"*

By focusing on these two directives, as a Society, we will have much more to celebrate in Nashville this March than the historic 40th anniversary of our Annual Convention. Walking in unity with NSBE Professionals to promote Academic Excellence and professional success will bring great gains to our mission and a new level of accomplishment to the National Society of Black Engineers. ■

2013-14 NATIONAL DIRECTIVES

The National Directives of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) state the focus of the National Executive Board for the year, as the board 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.

Academic Excellence

Increase academic performance and engineering retention rates of NSBE members

Development of NSBE Professionals

Make NSBE Professionals the premier technical organization of choice