Greetings, NSBE Professionals.

It is with great honor that we, the 2013–2014 National Professionals Executive Board (PEB), welcome you to a new NSBE year. This year marks our transition from Alumni Extension to NSBE Professionals. My colleagues and I are humbled to serve as the first National Professionals Executive Board.

Our national chair, Sossena Wood, has set the direction for the Society by asking us to focus on these two National Directives:

• Academic Excellence
• Development of Technical Professionals

In addition, Chairwoman Wood would like for us to promote black women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), enhance the pipeline of black engineers, as well as ensure that we exhibit culturally responsible behavior.

Two years ago, Strauder Patton, National Alumni Extension chair, encouraged us to “Build the NSBE Professional Brand.” Last year, National Chair Darnell Fisher challenged us to “Elevate the NSBE Professional Brand.” As a result of the leadership of these past chairs, we were successful in changing our name from NSBE Alumni Extension to NSBE Professionals. Following in the footsteps of Chairman Patton and Chairman Fisher, and coupled with Chairwoman Wood’s directives, we challenge you, the NSBE Professionals, to “Transform NSBE Professionals into the PREMIER Technical and Professional Organization of Choice.”

Along with this focus area, we have set four strategic key areas of opportunity (KAO) to ensure we stay focused on becoming the premier technical and professional organization of choice:

• Making an Impact on the Vision of NSBE Professionals
• Increasing the NSBE Professionals Value Proposition
• Continuing to Strengthen Our Professional Brand
• Developing and Sustaining Strategic Partnerships

Today, we face some challenges as an organization. We are challenged to remain the Professionals we say we are. We must continue to empower each other to stay committed to NSBE’s mission and the Professionals Vision. We must remain committed to operating at our full potential on the local, regional and national levels. We will answer these challenges, thus ensuring that the NSBE Professionals will become the “PREMIER Technical and Professional Organization of Choice.”

NSBE family and friends, thank you for your continued commitment. We believe that 2013–14 will be one of our most exciting years ever.