How Baseball Sparked an Engineering Partnership

Rust College and University of Mississippi have formed a partnership that allows students to pursue mathematics at Rust for three years followed by two years at the Ole Miss School of Engineering, and earn degrees from both. Four tracks are included in the dual-degree program: biomedical engineering, civil engineering, computer engineering and mechanical engineering.

Rust College’s president said the partnership will increase the pipeline of Black engineers for business and industry and increase diversity at the state’s flagship institution. Rust is the state’s oldest historically Black college and Ole Miss is home to the state’s oldest engineering school.

Baseball, of all things, brought the schools together. Last year, Marni Kendricks, assistant dean at the Ole Miss School of Engineering, met with Rust College’s baseball coach Stanley Stubbs to discuss an engineering student project for the college’s athletics facilities. As they were talking, Stubbs was called by a prospective student who was interest in attending Rust but wanted to study engineering.

That got the ball rolling. Officials at Rust’s Division of Science and Mathematics and UM’s School of Engineering spent the next six months working to integrate the degree course plans so that students could meet all requirements within five years. The dual-degree program will be available to students beginning in fall 2021.

New Civil Engineering Program for Seabees on the Coast

With help from a Vermont university, the first civil engineering degree program on the Coast, specifically designed for Seabees, will be offered at the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport, reports WLOX. Before the program’s creation, the Navy would not let enlisted sailors in construction trades to become Navy Civil Engineer Corps officers without having to leave the service.
The in-person civil engineering instruction will be provided by Norwich University, the oldest senior military college in the US. It will be offered to civilians, but it is designed to accommodate the strenuous schedule of Seabees and their families. The program will partner with Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, which will offer the prep courses.

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the NSPE Advocacy Center.

Register for the 2021 Virtual PECon

Registration is now open for NSPE’s Virtual Professional Engineers Conference 2021 (August 3–5). The early bird registration rate deadline is July 15.

Attendees will have access to up to 14 unique and insightful PDH sessions (live and on-demand sessions) and will have the opportunity to collaborate with peers and experts from across the country through morning “coffee chats” and Mastermind sessions. In the Mastermind sessions, attendees will address their most pressing professional issues and tap into the knowledge, experience, and advice of their peers and PE experts to help workshop solutions. There will also be virtual engineering facility tours and a celebration of PE Day (August 4).

PECon at a Glance

- Bridging the Gap to Leadership: Connecting the Skills You Have with the Skills You Need (Shelley Row, P.E., CSP, Leadership and Decision-Making Expert)

- Florida International University Bridge Failure, A Study in Ethics (Susan Sprague, P.E., F.NSPE, Senior Associate, and Eric Tappert, P.E., Consultant)

- AI and the Evolving Role of the “Traditional” Engineer: An Engineer’s Perspective from NASA to Infrastructure and Beyond (Kimberly Johnson, P.E., Founding Principal)

- Reaching New Heights in Engineering (Alan Mallory, P.E., PMP, Speaker, Author, and Performance Coach)
Registration Options

A **Day Pass** for NSPE members is $99 until July 15 and $149 after July 15. The pass provides access to four PDH sessions, networking morning “coffee chat” roundtables of your choice each day, and evening post-session discussions.

The **All Access Pass** for NSPE members is $249 until July 15 and $299 after July 15. This pass provides access to 14 PDH sessions, access to daily networking morning “coffee chat” roundtables, and evening post session discussions.

Student members can register for a Day Pass or the All Access Pass for free until July 15. The rate for both passes is $50 after July 15. Nonmembers can join NSPE for $299 and receive member pricing.

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**Women in Engineering Event to Explore Gender and Racial Equity**

DiscoverE and the Congressional Women in STEM Caucus will co-host an event on **June 23**, in celebration of **International Women in Engineering Day**. The event will include a lively panel discussion exploring the factors that attract girls to engineering, why women persist in the field, and the role you can play in achieving gender and racial equity in engineering and technology.

NSPE Government Relations staff coordinated the participation of the Women in STEM Caucus for the event. The Women in STEM Caucus seeks to bring public and congressional awareness to policies, programs, and initiatives that support women in STEM fields, and develops the next generation of women leaders. Rep. Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA), Rep. Debbie Lesko (R-AZ), Rep. Haley Stevens (D-MI), and Rep. Jackie Walorski (R-IN) serve as caucus co-chairs.

NSPE **recognizes** the benefits of a diverse population of licensed engineers in shaping the future of engineering. Diverse backgrounds foster unique contributions and capabilities and create an inclusive community ultimately leading to a more creative, effective and technically respected community.

[Register here.](#)

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**2021–22 Call for Volunteers**

NSPE needs your knowledge, expertise, and time to help the Society carry out its
vision and mission and meet the goals of the strategic plan. Volunteer positions begin in mid-August and end at the 2022 Professional Engineers Conference.

There are three types of volunteer opportunities:

- **Level 1 (Highest Engagement)–Standing Boards and Committees**
  Often includes attending at least one in-person meeting. Most meetings held via video conference. Terms may be up to three years.

- **Level 2 (Intermediate Engagement)–Ad Hoc Committees and Task Forces**
  Activities primarily include online correspondence and video conference meetings.

- **Level 3 (Lowest Engagement)–Ad Hoc Volunteer**
  Volunteer on a project-by-project basis.

Submit forms by July 9 to be considered for a 2021-22 term.