



NATIONAL SOCIETY OF BLACK ENGINEERS

# 2017-2018 NATIONAL ELECTIONS HANDBOOK

VERSION 1.0



## 2017-2018 National Elections Handbook

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Any questions concerning this handbook and any information it contains should be directed to the National Parliamentarian at [nebparliamentarian@nsbe.org](mailto:nebparliamentarian@nsbe.org)

## Introduction from the National Parliamentarian



Greetings NSBE Senator,

Thank you for your service throughout the year as a NSBE Senator. As a senator, you represent the official voice of your chapter and the membership in all regional and national business including governance changes and leaders of the society.

To ensure you are prepared to cast your vote, this National Elections Handbook has been created to provide you with information about the candidates for the National Executive Board as well as the current proposals on the ballot. Your decision impacts all levels of membership within NSBE, so it is important that you take your responsibility as a Senator seriously and make an informed decision with all demographics in mind (e.g. NSBE Jr, Members, Professionals, Affiliate members) when exercising your vote. Please ensure you do your due diligence by reading all information pertaining to each decision, do not hesitate to ask questions to gain a better understanding of a voting item, discuss the information with your chapter, confer with your chapter about their opinion on items, and vote accordingly.

I am excited that you have served as a senator this past year. Take the time to review this Elections Handbook and familiarize yourself with current NSBE operations so that you will be prepared for the sessions at the Annual Convention. Thank you again for your service and I look forward to meeting you at the Annual Convention in Kansas City!

With NSBE Love,

*Myla N. Ruffin*

2016-17 National Parliamentarian  
[nebparliamentarian@nsbe.org](mailto:nebparliamentarian@nsbe.org)



## Senator Requirements

Senators serve as a **chartered** chapter's representative to the National Senate. In order to serve in this position, Senators must meet the following requirements:

- Be a paid Member of NSBE and the chartered chapter represented
  - **Cannot** be an affiliate member
- Be knowledgeable of the National Constitution, National Bylaws, Regional Bylaws and parliamentary procedure (Roberts Rules of Order)
- Be aware of the wishes of the chapter and vote accordingly

Be registered as a Senator by **March 24, 2017**. Registration means that you are listed in our online NSBE Connect system as a Senator for your chapter and meet the requirements. See your Chapter President if you are unsure if you are registered. In order to be counted as present at Convention and able to vote, you must have check-in with a Parliamentarian by the end of the National Forum on Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup> 5:00 pm.

## Mandatory Sessions For NSBE Senators

All Senators are required to attend all ballot related events. Updates can be made regarding elections at the end of General Sessions or any of the mandatory sessions. The following sessions are required for all NSBE Senators to attend. Times and locations can be found in the convention agenda.

- Senator Informational Session (Wednesday)
- All General Sessions and Regional Meetings (Wednesday - Saturday)
- National Forum (Thursday)
- Regional Voting (Friday)
- National Candidates Q&A (Friday)
- National Voting (Saturday)



## Voting System

This year, we will be using an electronic voting system entitled eBallot. EBallot is a secure, electronic voting system that allows everyone to vote with flexibility as long as they have internet access. It allows senators to vote via an online voting portal. For more information on the system, please visit [www.eballot.com](http://www.eballot.com)

## Voting Instructions for Senators

### *National Voting Instructions*

Each senator will cast a vote to select the members of the 2017-2018 National Executive Board and to adopt any constitutional amendments/ballot proposals. National voting will take place on Saturday afternoon.

- After the National Forum and National Candidate Q&A, discuss the candidates and any new information regarding governing document amendments with your chapter and determine your Chapter's vote.
- Once National Voting opens you will receive an email to the address within your NSBE Connect profile. The email will contain your credentials for the VoteNet system along with the link to access the system.
- Go to the VoteNet site using the provided link and log in.
- Choose the ballot that you will be voting on (Regional/National)
- Carefully make your selections on your electronic ballot.
- Review your electronic ballot to ensure you have marked it appropriately
- Cast your vote by hitting "Submit"
- Save a copy of your ballot by clicking to download a receipt.
- Continue to the link provided on the completion page.
- Retain a copy of your receipt to provide incase it is requested.

### **Consequence of Not Voting**

Chapters participate in Regional and National business by selecting 2 Senators to cast a vote on their behalf. When a Senator does not cast a vote, they have not fulfilled their duties and have done a disservice to their chapter and our national membership as their voice is not heard. In addition, Senators who do not cast a vote will automatically forfeit the conference discounted registration rate they received and will be billed the exact conference registration discount (Bylaws Article XVI F 3).



## Constitution Amendment Proposals

Each senator will be expected to review the following constitutional amendment proposals with their chapter in order to represent their chapter’s intent at National Convention. There are currently three National Constitution amendment proposals on the Convention ballot.

### Proposal to change the National Constitution, Article V, Section 3 & Article VII, Section 1 (Professional Chair Vote)

<p><b>Author(s) of Proposal</b> (Full Name and Position) Maurice Patterson – Professionals Chair-Elect 2016-2017</p>	<p><b>Affected Areas</b> Article V, Section 3 Article VII, Section 1</p>
<p><b>Background</b> As a member of the National Executive Board (NEB), the National Professionals Chairperson represents a significant portion of the NSBE membership. In order to ensure the proper representation of voting matters brought before the NEB, the Professionals Chairperson should be a voting member.</p>	
<p><b>Proposal</b></p>	
<p><b>Section as it reads now:</b> <b>ARTICLE V – Voting</b> <b>Section 3.</b> Professional members shall vote only in Professional meetings and only on Professional matters.</p>	<p><b>Section as it will read:</b> <b>ARTICLE V – Voting</b> <b>Section 3.</b> Professional members shall vote only in <i>NSBE Professionals meetings and only on NSBE Professionals matters with the exception of the National Professionals Chairperson whom shall have a vote on matters proposed to the National Executive Board.</i></p>
<p><b>Section as it reads now:</b> <b>ARTICLE VII – Administration</b> <b>Section 1.</b> There shall be an Executive Board of the National Society which shall consist of the: A. National Chair B. National Vice-Chair C. National Secretary D. National Treasurer E. National Programs Chair F. Six (6) Regional Chairs G. Standing Committee Chairs H. Professionals Chair, who shall serve as a nonvoting member. I. Ad-hoc National Executive Board positions as approved by the National Executive Board</p>	<p><b>Section as it will read:</b> <b>ARTICLE VII – Administration</b> <b>Section 1.</b> There shall be an Executive Board of the National Society which shall consist of the: A. National Chair B. National Vice-Chair C. National Secretary D. National Treasurer E. National Programs Chair F. Six (6) Regional Chairs G. Standing Committee Chairs H. Professionals Chair, <i>who shall serve as a nonvoting member.</i> I. Ad-hoc National Executive Board positions as approved by the National Executive Board</p>



**Proposal to change the National Constitution, Article III, Section 3 (Membership)**

<p><b>Author(s) of Proposal</b> (Full Name and Position)                  Kristopher Rawls, National Vice-Chairperson 2016-2017</p>	<p><b>Affected Areas</b>                  Article III, Section 3</p>
<p><b>Background</b>                  Currently, the constitution outlines a Capital M member specifically as an undergraduate enrolled in an accredited educational institution or program for engineering or physical science fields, but the same requirements are not matched for graduate students. The constitution as it's written only allows for graduate students to be capital M members based on their undergraduate degree. Graduate students are also engineering students that can and do benefit from programming and events for the society. This change would just match the requirements for undergraduate students.</p>	
<p><b>Proposal</b></p>	
<p><b>Section as it reads now:</b>  <b>ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP</b>  <b>Section 1.</b>                  The term "member" when printed without an initial capital, where used in this Constitution, includes all categories of membership. The term "Member" when printed with an initial capital, where used in this Constitution, is defined in Article III, Section 3(A).  <b>Section 2.</b>                  Membership in the National Society shall be designated as Member, Affiliate member, NSBE Jr. member, Professional member, Professional Affiliate member, Lifetime member, or Honorary member.  <b>Section 3.</b>                  A. Members shall be defined as:                  1. An undergraduate enrolled in an accredited educational institution or program that offers a degree in the field of engineering and is a candidate for a degree in engineering, engineering technology, or applied/physical science or                  2. A graduate student who has received an undergraduate degree in engineering, engineering technology, or applied/physical science, and                  3. has received a registered membership card through the payment of annual membership fees.</p>	<p><b>Section as it will read:</b>  <b>ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP</b>  <b>Section 1.</b>                  The term "member" when printed without an initial capital, where used in this Constitution, includes all categories of membership. The term "Member" when printed with an initial capital, where used in this Constitution, is defined in Article III, Section 3(A).  <b>Section 2.</b>                  Membership in the National Society shall be designated as Member, Affiliate member, NSBE Jr. member, Professional member, Professional Affiliate member, Lifetime member, or Honorary member.  <b>Section 3.</b>                  A. Members shall be defined as:                  1. An undergraduate <i>or graduate student</i> enrolled in an accredited educational institution or program that offers a degree in the field of engineering and is a candidate for a degree in engineering, engineering technology, or applied/physical science or                  2. A graduate student who has received an undergraduate degree in engineering, engineering technology, or applied/physical science, and                  3. has received a registered membership card through the payment of annual membership fees.</p>



**Proposal to change the National Constitution, Article VIII, Section 1 & 2 (Standing Committees)**

<p><b>Author(s) of Proposal</b> (Full Name and Position) Zaire Silvia, National Technical Outreach and Community Help Chairperson for 2016-2017</p>	<p><b>Affected Areas</b> ARTICLE VIII- Committees Section 1 Section 2</p>
<p><b>Background</b> Technical Outreach and Community Help (TORCH) positions the society to build a sustainable, national, STEM engagement program. TORCH standing committee will be the first line of offense for our society becoming a household name, while creating a pipeline for the black community</p>	
<p><b>PROPOSAL</b></p>	
<p><b>Section as it reads now:</b> <b>Article VIII- Committees, Section 1.</b> There shall be eight standing committees of the National Society, which are: A. Academic Excellence B. Membership C. Communications D. Finance E. Pre-College Initiative F. Publications G. Public Relations H. International</p>	<p><b>Section as it will read:</b> <b>Article VIII- Committees, Section 1.</b> There shall be <i>nine</i> standing committees of the National Society, which are: A. Academic Excellence B. Membership C. Communications D. Finance E. Pre-College Initiative F. Publications G. Public Relations H. International <i>I. Technical Outreach and Community Help</i></p>
<p><b>Section as it reads now:</b> <b>Article VIII- Committees, Section 2.</b> Does not currently exist.</p>	<p><b>Section as it will read:</b> <b>Article VIII- Committees, Section 2.</b> <i>I. Technical Outreach and Community Help</i> <i>1. Identify and implement methods by which our society can be culturally and socially responsible.</i> <i>2. Shall manage and coordinate activities of the Technical Outreach and Community Help Program and Regional and Professional Technical Outreach and Community Help Chairs.</i> <i>3. Collect and maintain data needed for Technical Outreach and Community Help Hours.</i></p>



## Election of the National Executive Board

Each senator is required to cast their vote for election of the 2017-2018 National Executive Board. The National Candidates have provided statements that describe how they will help NSBE work towards our strategic goals. These statements are provided in this handbook.

In order to be considered a National Candidate for a National Executive Board position each person had to complete a Declaration of Intent and provide official documentation of their eligibility to serve on the National Executive Board. Each candidate will also have to complete all elements of certification process to remain on the ballot for Convention. These combined elements include completion of basic NSBE leadership training and NSBE review exam and submission of a NSBE/Leadership resume, recommendation letter, and answer to short answer questions detailed in this handbook.

There are 13 elected positions on the National Executive Board. Those positions highlighted in bold have candidates who are currently on the ballot for convention. All open positions will be filled by the REB-Elect after convention along with the appointed positions mentioned in the Candidate Handbook.

### **NATIONAL EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

#### **National Chairperson**

National Vice-Chairperson

National Secretary

National Treasurer

#### **National Programs Chairperson**

### **NATIONAL STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

#### **Academic Excellence Chairperson**

Membership Chairperson

Communications Chairperson

Finance Chairperson

Pre-College Initiative Chairperson

#### **Publications Chairperson**

Public Relations Chairperson

International Committee Chairperson



## National Executive Board Candidate Information

### **NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON**

*Racheida Lewis*

*Matthew Nelson*

### **NATIONAL PROGRAMS CHAIRPERSON**

*Niasia Williams*

### **NATIONAL ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE CHAIRPERSON**

*Anthony Dobson*

### **NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS CHAIRPERSON**

*Chelsi Cocking*



## National Executive Board Candidate Information

### NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON CANDIDATES



#### **Racheida Lewis**

Academic Institution: Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University (Virginia Tech)

Major: PhD Candidate in Engineering Education

#### **If elected you will serve a one (1) year term. At the end of your term what state do you envision the society being in as it relates to your position?**

If elected National Chair, the state I envision NSBE to be in at conclusion of my term is a strengthened competency in both academic and non-academic skillsets across all membership demographics. My goal for NSBE Jr. is to increase the awareness of engineering as a career option amongst our African-American youth. However, in order for our youth to believe that they can be an engineer, they must be able to see engineers who look like them and have high confidence

in their abilities to succeed in fundamental coursework that will prepare them for an engineering career. For the Collegiate demographic, my goal is to increase the competitiveness of our members who may not meet the GPA requirement to gain an internship or full-time job. Lastly, my goal for Professionals is further develop the membership demographic beyond their service to NSBE Jr. and Collegiate. Many of our recent graduate Collegiate members do not remain Professional members beyond the first year of free membership. Through further development of Professional programming, I want to increase the value associated with being a Professional member to improve retention of our Professional membership demographic and reduce attrition of black engineers in the workforce.

#### **In what ways do you currently live out the NSBE Mission in your life?**

Since becoming a member in 2010 the notion of academic excellence, professional success, and community impact has resonated with me as I've embedded each point of the mission in my life. Despite the research that states that a black female of low socioeconomic status may not excel in engineering, I have persisted and excelled in the field of electrical engineering and I'm continuing my education as a doctoral student in Engineering Education. Through the resources provided by NSBE, I've obtained internships with companies such as GE and Micron, and developed leadership skills that has enabled me to develop as a leader, in addition to serving NSBE. These skills have also informed my approach to educating first-year engineering students at Virginia Tech. Lastly, I believe in the mantra "lifting as we climb". My service to the community has been inspired by the fact that I would not be where I am today if it were not for the encouragement of those who came before me. Representation matters and in order to truly increase the number, being a role model and using engineering and social skills to educate and connect with the future of our Society and of our country, is necessary.

#### **The society plans to graduate 10,000 black engineers annually by the year 2025. Do you believe NSBE is currently on target to reach this goal and what do you plan to do in your position to ensure this goal is achieved?**

NSBE's goal to graduate 10,000 black engineers annually is a huge increase of the current number of ~3700 engineers graduating. NSBE has realized that in order to reach this goal, we cannot work alone. This year NSBE has developed partnerships with SWE, SHPE, and AISES to strategize how to increase the number of engineering graduates from underrepresented groups. A memorandum of understanding was established between NSBE and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. to increase the number of young black boys being exposed to engineering through STEM programming. If elected National Chair, my plan is to facilitate the conversation of "what next". These partnerships are all newly created with high level thinking and strategic planning being conducted, but we must develop these plans with our current membership demographic in mind. Currently, a lot of our chapters are unsure of how to implement strategic planning, which creates a disconnect between the goal we want to reach and the planning behind how we plan to get there. The planning done with our current partnerships, as well as with any partnerships we may create in the future, must consider both the end goal and the process by which to get there. We cannot focus on 10,000 engineers and 2025, and not consider what support we can provide for students who are currently in the pipeline.



## **NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON CANDIDATES**



### **Matthew Nelson**

Academic Institution: University of Michigan

Major: Masters in Design Science

#### **If elected you will serve a one (1) year term. At the end of your term what state do you envision the society being in as it relates to your position?**

I envision the society having a better understanding of the steps required to reach 10k by 2025. In addition, we will have a set of core values crowdsourced from our membership that help influence our decision-making. Our volunteer leadership will have increased access to data in a more easily digestible format. The National Leadership Institute will have been revamped, with improved leadership and functional training throughout the year. Our strategic goals will have been modified to include specific mission-centered goals that can be tied directly to measurable activities that will increase the number.

#### **In what ways do you currently live out the NSBE Mission in your life?**

As the current National Chair, I invest about 20 hours a week conducting NSBE business. In addition, I try to visit a different chapter each month to assist them with training and development. I connect with various university administrators to help generate additional resources and support for their NSBE chapter. I serve as mentor to several NSBE members considering pursuing leadership within the society. I leverage my connections to form partnerships between NSBE and other organizations with the goal of expanding exposure to engineering for black students across the country.

I work with several companies to help them understand how to better recruit and retain black engineers. I advocate for students that may not have the strongest GPA, but bring vast experiences to the table. I use my story to inspire students who have underperformed in the past. Sometimes students need to know that showing academic progress and crafting their narrative can help them during the recruiting process.

#### **The society plans to graduate 10,000 black engineers annually by the year 2025. Do you believe NSBE is currently on target to reach this goal and what do you plan to do in your position to ensure this goal is achieved?**

I believe that this is a complicated question. The decision was made to use ASEE data as the benchmark for the number of undergraduate degrees awarded to black students. However, that ASEE number only includes ABET accredited institutions. There may be more than the 3,864 reported degrees awarded in 2015. However, I believe the intent was to demonstrate an increase over the current number, and focusing on classification of data could distract us from our objective.

While there was an increase of over 300 degrees granted last year, we cannot attribute causality directly to NSBE efforts. We require additional research to be performed to evaluate our contribution to the increase. However, we would need to increase this number by an average of over 600 per year to reach our 2025 goal. This goal is of a collaborative nature, requiring commitment from both secondary and higher education, government, industry and other non-profits.

Finally 10K is a lofty target, but to put things in perspective, the number of degrees awarded annually to black students has not changed significantly over the past two decades. 10K is a rallying cry that draws attention and support to our worthy cause. Even if we only reach 7K by 2025, we will have roughly doubled the current yield, and I believe that would be a huge win for NSBE and society at-large.



## **NATIONAL PROGRAMS CHAIRPERSON CANDIDATE**



### **Niasia Williams**

Academic Institution: Rutgers University  
Major: Masters in Mechanical Engineering

#### **If elected you will serve a one (1) year term. At the end of your term what state do you envision the society being in as it relates to your position?**

There are five key things that I would like to see by the end of my term as National Programs Chair. The first being a membership body who is more knowledgeable about the resources that we offer through our programs/partnerships and is more willing to utilize them. Second is an increase in the number of tangible partnerships that we have with local governments and communities. Through more strategic partnerships we should be able to increase our capacity to deliver quality programs and resources to our members and communities. Third is the establishment/re-establishment of key and signature NSBE programs. These are programs designed to enrich those who participate in them, are sustainable, and lastly have been developed by and are readily supported by our membership. Through these things I believe that we will attain more culturally responsible Black engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally and positively impact the community (our ultimate goal). Lastly is for the programs zone to set a model for a more sustainable programs team which would hopefully increase interest in leadership through programs for upcoming years.

#### **In what ways do you currently live out the NSBE Mission in your life?**

In terms of increasing the number and positively impacting the community, I have been active in STEM engagement for 5 years. Recently I was able to participate in a program that which exposes grade school teachers to research and teaches them how to translate that experience into lesson plans. Soon I plan to help establish a new NSBE Jr Chapter in my region. I also have been a mentor to youth through Big Brothers Big Sisters and on my campus to underclassmen. I have excelled academically by graduating first with Cum Laude status, and as an honored research scholar. Since I have continued my education and will be receiving a Masters Degree of Engineering after 1 year. Through all of this I have been supporting others by sharing resources, knowledge that I wish I had about funding etc., tutoring, and sometimes giving the needed late night pep talks as were given to me. I have had 3 internships with UTC, and have received job offers this year. I also strive to increase my professional network and value the advice of professionals in my life. Because of this and more I believe I embody the NSBE mission on a daily basis.

#### **The society plans to graduate 10,000 black engineers annually by the year 2025. Do you believe NSBE is currently on target to reach this goal and what do you plan to do in your position to ensure this goal is achieved?**

At this point in time I do not believe that NSBE is on target to reach this goal for many reasons. However we can get there by making conscious changes now, which I plan to support as Programs Chair. One thing we must improve is data collection. We must establish a concrete way to measure our impact and the progress we have made towards our goals. After goals for the year is set, I propose that the programs zone gather data about programs participation and surround those goals which will be informative for benchmarking where we are in the 2025 plan. For instance increased participation in academic programming could point to an increased number of people which are more prepared to graduate in 2025. An increase in persons reached via TORCH programming or PCI programs should correlate to an increase in the pipeline. Without gathering such data we will never know if we reached the goal at all. Nor will we be able to tell if we are headed in the right or wrong direction. Another thing that we should do is make sure that the programs we are conducting are bringing us closer to the 2025 goal. I will advocate for the programs zone being in a constant cycle of assessment, reflection, and improvement when it come to our initiatives. In this way we can be sure that we are providing the enrichment and support needed to reach such a lofty goal. This doesn't happen without membership support! So I would also give the membership a stake in our programs in terms of things like development. That will increase the likely hood that our membership itself will advocate for NSBE programming and participate. We must also invest in what works! Not only with finances but with time and effort. No matter how good a plan is, without an investment it will die. So I will also push for the building of committees and teams with invested members and knowledgeable stakeholders to sustain our programs throughout the years. Lastly I will lead a zone which will not work in isolation. Through partnership all parts of the NEB, PEB, REBs, membership and WHQ, I am sure that we will be successful in reaching the 2025 goal.



### **NATIONAL ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE CHAIRPERSON CANDIDATE**



#### **Anthony Dobson**

Academic Institution: North Carolina A&T State  
Major: Masters in Computer Science

#### **If elected you will serve a one (1) year term. At the end of your term what state do you envision the society being in as it relates to your position?**

It is my hope that, by the end of my term, our membership has more accurate definition of Academic Excellence, based around understanding and retention instead of high GPAs. Also, I want our members to know how they learn individually

and be able to find more resources than just a lecture and a PowerPoint, if necessary. Lastly, I want the image of a leader in Academic Excellence to change. AEx Leadership positions typically go with little to no interest, mainly because people feel that there is an extra qualification to being an AEx Chair. I hope to change that through redefining AEx and hopefully seeing more people interested in this position.

#### **In what ways do you currently live out the NSBE Mission in your life?**

Education and Mentorship are my biggest facets in my life and NSBE.

An education is how students can graduate with a degree that means more than just a piece of paper. As Region II AEx Chair, I want students to get out of the habit of favoring passing over learning. My series of videos talking about Redefining Academic Excellence talk about this as well as how we can better prepare ourselves to not settle for just passing. With this mindset, we'll avoid having students with high GPAs and no knowledge base to back it up.

Mentorship is the reason why I'm so deep in NSBE now. Our pipeline has been leaking for a long time and in many spots. Mentorship is one of the most effective ways to making the transition between each stage easier. Many people come to me for advice and guidance, due to my age and academic success. Now, many of those same people are becoming mentors to the next generation of students, who look brighter than ever.

#### **The society plans to graduate 10,000 black engineers annually by the year 2025. Do you believe NSBE is currently on target to reach this goal and what do you plan to do in your position to ensure this goal is achieved?**

No, I do not believe that NSBE is on track to reaching 10000 black engineers by 2025. We are trying to do something in, what is now, 8 years what we've never done in 40+. Not only that, but the number of graduating black engineers has decreased since beginning the Strategic Plan (from 3700 to 3600). I think it is more important to focus on growing the number in general versus reaching a number that seems to be unfeasible. However, regardless of what goals we may or may not have as an organization, to increase the number of quality black engineers will always be based around AEx. I believe that, in order to see academic growth in this society, we'll need someone who has historically been academically excellent explicitly state that your GPA should not be the centerpiece of your education. We need to focus on optimizing our learning so that we can get better results at lower costs of time and energy. I also plan to continue the work that the current National AEx Chair has done since I believe he is pushing the society in the right direction. I don't believe that adding a new program is the right thing to do right now because I believe we haven't fully explored and tested our current programs. But I also think that our current programs are what we need to succeed academically. So to avoid reinventing the wheel, it is best to continue using and tracking what we currently have. Afterwards, the discussion for new programs can be better warranted. I also plan to pilot/draft a Graduate Student Retention Program to try and answer the needs of our graduate members.



## **NATIONAL FINANCE CHAIRPERSON CANDIDATE**



### **Jeremy Ikeogu**

Academic Institution: Texas A & M University  
Major: PhD Candidate in Chemical Engineering

**If elected you will serve a one (1) year term. At the end of your term what state do you envision the society being in as it relates to your position?**

If I were to be elected to the Finance Chairperson role, I envision the society benefiting in the following three ways:

- 1) Develop a plan to increase convention fundraising
- 2) Improve the development and rollout of the regional solicitation package and
- 3) Ensure the needs of our BCA members are being met.

#### Convention Funding

Leaning on my experience with the 2017 convention, I will work with WHQ to come up with a strategy to increase funding. Increased funding will lead to more programs for membership throughout the year and specifically at convention.

#### Regional Finance Support

Taking a leadership role, I will work with regional finance chairs to help them develop their solicitation packages. The ultimate goal is to build a sustainable framework for future NSBE members.

#### BCA Support

Ensure the BCA members have the appropriate contacts within NSBE to make sure their needs are being met. Whether it be processing funding, helping with rooms at convention or any other ad hoc activity throughout the year, I will be the advocate for our BCA members within the society.

At the end of my position I hope the knowledge I learned throughout the year will benefit the society.

### **In what ways do you currently live out the NSBE Mission in your life?**

I live out the mission of NSBE in the following ways:

Mentorship is the way I attempt to increase the number of engineers. Currently, I offer mentorship to the local Texas A & M chapter and encourage every professional I meet to mentor collegiate students. Mentorship is a way to transform the life of a protégé and hopefully bring along the next generation of engineers.

Academically I've enrolled in a PhD program as I strive to academically and succeed professionally. The research experience I receive in school will lead an impact once finished with school. Furthermore it also a way to embody an increase in the subset of African American PhD students.

The culture of NSBE leadership is one of stepping up, and through this activity, stepping to NEB leadership, I'm positively impacting the local community, campus community, regional and ultimately national communities.

### **The society plans to graduate 10,000 black engineers annually by the year 2025. Do you believe NSBE is currently on target to reach this goal and what do you plan to do in your position to ensure this goal is achieved?**

There isn't an aggressive marketing campaign to let the society know what the status is of our plans to graduate 10,000 engineers by 2025. I suspect we are on track, but don't see hard evidence.

That being said, I fully support the initiative to graduate 10,000 engineers by 2025 in the following ways:

Help with recruiting activities in my department with an eye on encouraging minority participation in STEM majors and specifically engineering. Furthermore, as a member of Alpha Phi Alpha I participate in scholarship balls and act as an advocate for engineering when talking to students. Lastly, I have reached out to NSBE's SEEK team to volunteer at the Dallas SEEK camp this coming summer.

If I were to be elected as finance chairperson, I would be a vocal champion of graduating 10,000 by 2025 with our corporate partners. I would subtly make conversation on the topic and make sure my passion on the topic is seen in my general conversation.

Depending on the information available, I will bring up the topic of developing a tracking mechanism such that the society knows where we are with our initiative. Once the information available is well understood, then I will work with the communications zone to understand what is possible in terms of communicating this to our membership.



## **NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS CHAIRPERSON CANDIDATE**



### **Chelsi Cocking**

Academic Institution: Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech)  
Major: Computational Media

### **If elected you will serve a one (1) year term. At the end of your term what state do you envision the society being in as it relates to your position?**

By the end of my term I would like to see significant strides towards accomplishing the following goals and improving the brand/face of our society:

1. Creating brand consistency throughout publications in the society - Currently the designs of NSBE publications do not have a consistent or cohesive style. This is important to a brand when presenting itself. My solution is to create and make available pre-made templates of publications & documents for regions and chapters of the society for use when representing the NSBE brand.
2. Upholding the NSBE brand - After working at the regional level I have seen discrepancies in the understanding of the NSBE brand, and the use of the NSBE logo. I would like to work with the next National Public Relations chair to improve this. I would also like to make more readily available a clear cut style guide on the NSBE brand.
3. Bringing the aesthetic of the NSBE brand into modern design standards - The current NEB has been working to bring the design standards of the society into modern day standards. I would like to continue this initiative and bring my knowledge of today's minimalistic design standards into NSBE's publications.

### **In what ways do you currently live out the NSBE Mission in your life?**

Being a black, female Computer Scientist, there are not many like me. To show the simple disparity, for example, at Georgia Tech, out of 1,877 computing students, there are only 102 black students attending the College of Computing. Out of that, there are only 21 black female students. There are only 21 of "me". The disparity is unreal.

That's why I look to resources like NSBE for guidance and inspiration. I am a part of NSBE because I want to be reminded that people like me CAN be here, and constantly remind those after me that they CAN be here as well. I confide in the network I have gained through the NSBE. I'm here to take the adversity I face and turn it into the force that drives not only me but also who face similar struggles. I'm here to use resources like NSBE, to show that it is possible to be in STEM as a black woman. As one of my mentors said, "We are all human. I have a brain, and you have a brain. That means if you can do it, I can do it too."

### **The society plans to graduate 10,000 black engineers annually by the year 2025. Do you believe NSBE is currently on target to reach this goal and what do you plan to do in your position to ensure this goal is achieved?**

As Dr. Gary May, once expressed on a panel I served on alongside him, I am proud that NSBE has used the 2025 strategic goal to refocus the society and its initiatives. However, after serving on the regional board, I have seen the gap that exists on the chapter level in terms of understanding of the 2025 vision. Chapters currently don't understand what they need to do in order to get the society to this 2025 goal. Chapters are core of our society. They run what happens on the ground; they determine the impact. If they don't understand what they should be doing, how they're programming should be structured, and what initiatives they should funnel most of their funding/time into, we will never reach our 2025 goal. As National Leadership, we need to address this.

I hope to work with the National Executive Board, as a team, to think of solutions for how we can better inform our society's leaders of the 2025 Vision. We need to better aid them with implementing what it will take us to get to that vision. We need to be more hands on with providing them concrete examples, steps and training for how they can implement programs that will help us attain this vision. If we want to have 10,000 Black Engineers graduating by 2025 that means we need to be:

1. Expanding our Impact on kids at the pre-collegiate level. The future class of 2025 are those who are in 8th/9th grade right now.
2. Improving the retention rates and academic excellence of those collegiate students who are already in college studying engineering.
3. Placing more of our resources, at all levels of the society, into initiatives that help these goals.

We should be training our leaders at all levels, regional, national, chapter level WHQ, on how to handle approaching to the problem at the varying levels at which they serve. We need to be more active in changing to culture of the society by finally placing action to word. As our leaders cycle every year we should be providing them with training and giving them concrete understanding on how they can help achieve this new vision. Chapters are currently confused and it's time to end the confusion.