 

**New Member Informational Packet**

Congratulations on taking the initiative to further your academic endeavors by pursuing a future in the innovative, interesting and challenging world of STEM! If you are not aware, STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and encompasses those who strive to succeed academically and/or professionally in those rather challenging fields. The National Society of Black Engineers Chapter in Bakersfield strives “***to increase the number of culturally responsible black engineers and scientists who excel academically, succeed professionally and positively impact the community***”. On a personal note, I can testify to the great job opportunities, various scholarships, corporate networking connections and chances for personal and professional growth made possible by NSBE. NSBE is not just an internationally recognized society or a place for black students and alumni across the nation to share experiences, tips and tricks to being **black and successful** in STEM fields. It’s so much more than a pool for major fortune 500 companies’ such as Apple, Boeing, Chevron, Dow Jones, Google, NASA, Toyota and the United States Navy to find the future engineers and scientists that will help change the world and shape the future. NSBE is a family of diverse individuals who share a common thread in history, society and academic ambition. With that, all I have left to say is welcome to the family.

**Ryan Taylor**

**NSBE Bakersfield President 2012-2013**

NSBE History: Past, Present and Future

**Our Past**

In 1971, two Purdue undergraduate students, Edward Barnette (now deceased) and Fred Cooper approached the dean of engineering at Purdue University with the concept of starting the Black Society of Engineers (BSE). They wanted to establish a student organization to help improve the recruitment and retention of black engineering students. In the late 1960's, a devastating 80 percent of the black freshmen entering the engineering program dropped out. The dean agreed to the idea and assigned the only black faculty member on staff, Arthur J. Bond, as advisor.  
  
Barnett served as the first president of the BSE. The fledging group gained momentum in 1974, with the direction and encouragement of Bond and the active participation of the young men whose destiny was to become the founders of NSBE. Now known as the "Chicago Six", these men are Anthony Harris, Brian Harris, Stanley L. Kirtley, John W. Logan, Jr., Edward A. Coleman, and George A. Smith.   
  
Encouraged by their on-campus success, Anthony Harris, president of the Purdue chapter, wrote a letter to the presidents and deans of every accredited engineering program in the country (288), explained the Society of Black Engineers (SBE) concept and asked them to identify black student leaders, organizations and faculty members who might support their efforts on a national basis. Approximately 80 schools responded. Many had similar Black student organizations with similar objectives. A date was set for the first national meeting and 48 students representing 32 schools attended the event, held April 10-12, 1975. Harris also changed the organizations' nomenclature from the BSE to the Society of Black Engineers (SBE).   
  
It was at that historic meeting through majority vote, that SBE became the National Society of Black Engineers. The familiar NSBE symbol "N" with lightning bolts was chosen and it remains a distinctively recognizable symbol representing the premier technical organization for African American engineering students and professionals. NSBE was eventually incorporated in Texas, in 1976 as 501©3 non-profit organization. John Cason, also of Purdue, served as the first elected president of NSBE. As the organization grew, Virginia Booth became the first female National Chairperson and the first to serve two terms 1978-1980.  
  
The torch symbolizes members' everlasting, burning desire to achieve success in a competitive society and positively affect the quality of life for all people. The lightning bolt represents the striking impact that will be felt by the society and industry due to the contributions and accomplishments made by the dedicated members of the National Society of Black Engineers.   
NSBE has since grown from six to over 31,000 members and the annual meeting has blossomed into the Annual National Convention, hosting over 8,000 attendees. NSBE has 99 active NSBE Jr. pre-college, 250 student and 68 alumni/technical professional chapters.  
  
Headquartered in Alexandria, Va., NSBE offers academic excellence programs, scholarships, leadership training, professional development and access to career opportunities for thousands of members annually. With over 2000 elected leadership positions, 18 regional conferences and an annual convention, NSBE provides opportunities for success that remain unmatched by any other organization

**Our Present**

The National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), with more than 29,900 members, is one of the largest student-governed organizations in the country. Founded in 1975, NSBE now includes more than 394 College, Pre-College, and Technical Professional/Alumni chapters in the United States and abroad. NSBE’s mission is ***"to increase the number of culturally responsible black engineers and scientists who excel academically, succeed professionally and positively impact the community."***   
  
The National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) is a 501(C)(3) non-profit association that is owned and managed by its members. The organization is dedicated to the academic and professional success of African-American STEM students and professionals. NSBE offers its members leadership training, professional development, mentoring opportunities, career placement services and more. NSBE is comprised of 242 collegiate, 70 professional and 82 pre-college active chapters nationwide and overseas.  These chapters are geographically divided into six regions. NSBE is governed by an executive board of college students and engineering professionals and is operated by a professional staff at our World Headquarters located in Alexandria, VA. NSBE has accomplished more for black STEM students than any other organization in the world. The same light that flows from the NSBE torch to students and professionals in the United States is also relevant for NSBE students in Africa, Europe, South America, Asia, Canada, Australia and the Caribbean. It is the goal of the Society to replicate its mission and vision in countries around the world, creating a global network of Black engineers, scientists and technologists.

**Our Future**

The future of NSBE is as bright and blooming as ever with new initiatives to increase member retention, excel interest in newer generations and expand the organization to the international scale. Our horizon is evermore expanding as we increase our incentives, programs and resources and it is pivotal that you immerse yourself into that! Since NSBE is the largest student ran organization to be recognized nationally the participation of the members is the cornerstone of our strength. Programs like PCI Expansion, Regional and National Leadership conferences and the Summer Engineering Experience for Kids which is now covering over 7 different states would not be possible without the commitment and dedication provided by the members. The future is bright for NSBE IF we stand together, united. Essentially the future is an unwritten book, waiting for those of us who take action towards the betterment of blacks in STEM fields to reshape our history, materialize our goals and write the pages of history for our lives.

**Why should you get involved**

There are a large variety of opportunities available for NSBE members that are professionally impacting, educationally motivating and personally stimulating. A word to the wise, resources and opportunities that are provided to NSBE members are abundant so take advantage of them as frequently as possible.

Some the benefits that come with membership include:

* Access to NSBE Scholarships
  + There is a total of **35 million dollars of scholarship money** available for all ranges of members from Pre-Collegiate to Collegiate to Alumni and Professionals.
* Eligibility to participate in NSBE Competitions
  + Competitions are available for both Pre-Collegiate and Collegiate members.
    - Pre-Collegiate competitions include a Science Fair, Team Engineering Design Competition and various Math Competitions
    - Collegiate competitions include the Consulting Design Olympiad, Mission Competition, NSBEpreneur elevator pitch, Business Plan Competitions and Technical Research Exhibitions.
* Chance to participate in the Summer Engineering Experience for Kids Program initiated by NSBE.
  + An opportunity to contribute to the education of future generations by teaching at one of many sites in the United States for a paid internship.
* Being a part of the NSBE APEx (Academic Pyramid of Excellence).
  + By fulfilling the GPA requirement of a 3.0 minimum, you are rewarded a stockpile of benefits from priority at National Events to discounted prices on NSBE facilitated services and products.

Resources and opportunities available by NSBE are all available via membership! Just by being a NSBE member you are guaranteed an added boost to your resume, a lifetime chance to speak face to face with industry professionals and other college students and the accessibility of the job fair which is available at most of the conferences. There is equal probability that you will meet someone who will be able to give you exclusive insight to your decided major or someone who will fundamentally change your passion to something that you may not have previously considered. With NSBE the possibilities are endless and the future is yours!

**How you can get involved now**

The fastest way to get involved in NSBE is by joining your local chapter ASAP! Ask around on your campus about any NSBE chapters that may be in your vicinity and link up with them immediately! If you cannot find any NSBE chapters in your proximity then it is still pivotal to look for the nearest chapters in order to begin networking. This can be done by visiting the NSBE National site at [www.nsbe.org](http://www.nsbe.org) and looking for your location by region. For instance if you are in California then you belong to Region 6. The next step you can take would be to register as a NSBE member on the national site. You can do this by creating an account with NSBE for $15. After creating an account and becoming an official member you will be eligible to run for a leadership position at your local chapter. It is imperative that you speak and interact with the other members both within your local chapter and outside of your local chapter in order to get a better understanding of the opportunities that may be exclusively available to you at your location. If you are experiencing any difficulty with this process feel free to get in touch with me at [ryandiontaylor@gmail.com](mailto:ryandiontaylor@gmail.com) .