ABET is recognized as the worldwide leader in assuring quality and stimulating innovation in applied science, computing, engineering, and engineering technology education. The National Society of Professional Surveyors is one of the member societies who partners with ABET to achieve objectives such as:

1. Accredit educational programs;
2. Promote quality and innovation in education, and
3. Assist in the development and advancement of education worldwide.

ABET has 35 member societies. The member societies are responsible for setting policy, developing strategies, and conducting accreditation activities worldwide on behalf of their respective professions. NSPS members have been actively involved in reviewing surveying engineering, surveying engineering technology, geomatics, and geographic information systems programs throughout the United States.

Each of ABET’s member societies has responsibility for an academic discipline within applied science, computing, engineering, or engineering technology at the postsecondary level. Members also participate in ABET leadership, including voting members of the ABET Board of Delegates and as Accreditation Commissioners.

One of the responsibilities NSPS has as a member society, which may be most commonly known by our members, is to provide Program Evaluators (PEVs) who travel to colleges and universities around the country accrediting surveying programs. ABET has strict guidelines concerning conflict of interest, and one of those guidelines prohibits a PEV from participating in a program visit if the PEV or a family member attended or worked at a particular college or university or if that PEV reviewed the program during a previous program cycle.
The number of programs PEVs can visit, therefore, is reduced every year, causing the need for additional NSPS member to become involved. This spring, five NSPS members have been nominated to participate in the first stage of training in Baltimore, Maryland. This training is titled Face-to-Face Training and provides the PEV candidate with a level of experience very similar to an actual visit. PEV candidates are required to complete 15-20 hours of document review and preparation prior to attending the Face-to-Face training.

PEVs who have successfully completed the Face-to-Face Training are eligible to participate as an observer during their first program visit. The PEV can expect to work approximately 30-40 hours preparing the documentation prior to visiting the program. It is not uncommon for a PEV to log 30-35 hours during a three-day visit.

NSPS is responsible for reviewing 31 surveying programs across the three commissions, as of October 2015, however, this number varies by a program or two from year to year. The number of PEVs needed for the reviews is based on a six year rotation and is not evenly divided. NSPS has three busy years and three slow years. This year’s review cycle is the first of three years where NSPS will be required to provide many PEVs. This year, 2016-2017, NSPS will provide seven PEVs, review cycle 2017-2018, NSPS will provide eight PEVs, and for the 2018-2019 review cycle, NSPS will provide ten PEVs. The next three years will be slow where NSPS will provide only two PEVs each review cycle.

If you have any questions about the NSPS ABET Committee, or are interested in becoming a PEV, please contact Jason G. Racette, PLS at 860-826-2900 or via e-mail at JGRacette@aol.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason G. Racette, PLS
Chair, NSPS ABET Committee