



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 15, 2018

Contact:
Yvette Watson
(703) 966-6793
ywatson@nsbe.org

NATIONAL SOCIETY OF BLACK ENGINEERS CONVENTION TO BRING 12,000-PLUS TO PITTSBURGH

44th Annual Event Will Spotlight Innovation, Success and Service

The 44th Annual Convention of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) is expected to be the student-led organization's largest ever, with more than 12,000 attendees on hand in Pittsburgh, Pa., March 21–25, 2018. The event will be held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center and nearby venues in downtown Pittsburgh. The convention theme is “#NSBE44: Ignite. Imagine. Innovate.”, and the four days of convention programs are designed to inspire the Society toward its main strategic goal: to lead the U.S. to graduate 10,000 black engineers annually, with bachelor's degrees, by 2025, up from only 3,501 in 2014. Pioneering rapper, lyricist, businesswoman and philanthropist MC Lyte will host the convention's culminating event, the NSBE Golden Torch Awards, on Saturday night, March 25.

“The fact that we can hold our largest event ever during such a challenging time for African Americans shows the commitment of our members to their communities and NSBE's mission,” says NSBE National Chair Matthew C. Nelson, a Ph.D. student in design science at the University of Michigan. “It also shows the strong commitment of our corporate, government and academic partners to increasing diversity in engineering. We are determined to work together to make an impact.”

“We are extremely excited for the anticipated turnout of this year's event, which we've worked so hard to bring together,” says Kevin Peynado, an M.B.A. student at Georgetown University and chair of NSBE's Convention Planning Committee. “Thank you to everyone who donated their time and energy to make #NSBE44 a success, and thank you to the City of Pittsburgh for the support and welcome that we have received.”

Among the participants in the convention will be educators; members of the Greater Pittsburgh community; representatives of nearly 300 academic institutions, government agencies, corporations and not-for-profit organizations; and literally thousands of black students and professionals seeking to advance their communities and change the world for the better with their knowledge of engineering and other STEM fields.



Naomi Mburu, a 2018 Rhodes scholar and the vice chair of NSBE's Region II Executive Board, is one of the students who will attend. She will join the gathering in Pittsburgh as she prepares for her research on nuclear fusion reactors at the University of Oxford, this fall.

The Beebe family will also be on site in Pittsburgh, exemplifying NSBE's intergenerational impact. Mitzi Beebe and her husband, Tom, both engineers and longtime employees of BP, met at a NSBE convention in the 1980s. Their daughter, Giselle, is now an engineering student and a member of the NSBE chapter at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. Their son, William, a high school student, is in NSBE's Pre-College Initiative Program. Mitzi's father was also an engineer.

Gary S. May, Ph.D., a NSBE lifetime member and former NSBE national chair and national advisor (now advisor emeritus), will arrive in Pittsburgh with a new title on his already stellar resume. Chancellor of the University of California, Davis since last August, he was recently elected to the National Academy of Engineering.

Mieah Turner, president of the NSBE Nashville Professionals, will count as one of the many up and coming technical professionals at the convention. She was recently selected as one of *Building Design & Construction* magazine's "40 Under 40." Her fellow University of Tennessee alumna, Jessica Beasley, of NSBE's Memphis Professionals chapter, was recently named one of the *Memphis Flyer's* "20 Under 30."

Wes Bush, chairman and CEO of Northrop Grumman Corporation and Michael H. McGarry, chairman and CEO of PPG industries, Inc., will be among the corporate leaders at #NSBE44. The convention agenda includes more than 100 workshops as well as high-profile speakers, panel discussions, technical and scientific competitions, hands-on engineering and science activities, networking sessions, university tours and the premier career fair and college fair geared toward African Americans in STEM.

Community engagement events at the convention will include the Society's "A Walk for Education," a grassroots program in which NSBE members go door to door in underserved black communities and hand out information about college attendance, scholarships, STEM careers, SAT/ACT preparation and NSBE.

The NSBE Annual Convention includes many events and activities geared toward undergraduates in engineering and other STEM fields, as well as three "mini-conferences" designed for the Society's other membership demographics: the Pre-College Initiative (PCI) Conference, for elementary school, middle school and high school students; the Graduate School Conference (GSC) for current and prospective graduate students; and the Technical Professionals Conference (TPC) for practicing professionals. The TPC is coordinated by NSBE Professionals, the 3,100-member organization for technical professional members of NSBE.



“This year’s TPC will be one of our best,” says Maurice Patterson, national chair of NSBE Professionals. “As far as career development, skills enhancement and opportunities to network and mingle with peers, there is no better event for African Americans in engineering and other technical fields.”

“The success we’re bringing to Pittsburgh is the result of years of planning within NSBE as well as collaboration and partnership with like-minded organizations across the country,” says NSBE Executive Director Karl W. Reid, Ed.D. “We extend our sincere thanks to our supporters who have made this event possible.”

About NSBE

With more than 500 chapters and more than 17,000 active members in the U.S. and abroad, the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) is one of the largest student-governed organizations based in the United States. NSBE, founded in 1975, supports and promotes the aspirations of collegiate and pre-collegiate students and technical professionals in engineering and technology. NSBE’s mission is “to increase the number of culturally responsible black engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally and positively impact the community.” For more information, visit www.nsbe.org.

Sign up to follow NSBE on social media.

Twitter: twitter.com/NSBE

Facebook: facebook.com/NSBE1975

Instagram: instagram.com/NSBE

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/national-society-of-black-engineers>

YouTube: youtube.com/user/NSBETV

Read about NSBE’s “Be 1 of 10,000” Campaign at Graduate10K.NSBE.org.

More information about NSBE’s 44th Annual Convention is available online at convention.nsbe.org. A sample of newsworthy activities at #NSBE44 follows.



NSBE 44TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

PRESS CONFERENCE

Thursday, March 22, 10 a.m.

David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Room 325

Includes a robotics demonstration by Legacy STEM NSBE Jr. Chapter, of Philadelphia, Pa. Members of the Pittsburgh City Council will attend.

RSVP to Yvette Watson at ywatson@nsbe.org or (703) 966-6793.

CORPORATE CEOS

Michael H. McGarry, Chairman and CEO, PPG Industries, Inc.

CEO Spotlight / Brought to You by PPG

Thursday, March 22, 3–5 p.m.

David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Room 407

Wes Bush, Chairman and CEO, Northrop Grumman Corporation

Executive Mentoring Series: Executive Leadership Luncheon / Sponsored by Northrop Grumman

Friday, March 23, 12:15–1:45 p.m.

David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Spirit of Pittsburgh Ballroom B

SAMPLE EVENTS

Picture Yourself in Pittsburgh: TPC/GSC Welcome Reception / Brought to You by Alcoa, Bayer, Duolingo, PPG and UPMC

Wednesday, March 21, 8 p.m.–midnight

PNC Park

Kick off the 44th Annual NSBE Convention with the event sponsors at our Welcome Reception. Meet people, establish connections, and network with other professionals before the conference begins.

Carnival Night

Wednesday, March 21, 8:30 p.m.–midnight

David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Spirit of Pittsburgh Ballroom A

This event features food, fun and prizes. There will be giant board games, three-point shootouts, a DJ and a chance to win a Nintendo Switch!

Thesis and Dissertation House / Brought to You By Purdue University

Friday, March 23, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Westin Convention Center Pittsburgh, Lawrence Room

The Thesis and Dissertation House was developed to help students progress through the difficult writing stages of the dissertation and thesis process, toward its completion.



A Walk for Education

Saturday, March 24, 1–4 p.m.

Begins at the Westin Convention Center Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Room

“A Walk for Education” (AWFE) is a grassroots program in which NSBE members go door to door in underserved black communities and hand out information about college attendance, scholarships, STEM careers, SAT/ACT preparation and NSBE. AWFE is the primary outreach and advertising mechanism of NSBE’s Technical OutReach and Community Help Program (TORCH). A Walk for Education is a one-time, broad effort to reach into the community and initiate a relationship that can be developed further through other TORCH activities.

21st Annual NSBE Golden Torch Awards

Saturday, March 24, 7 p.m.

David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Hall A

The NSBE Golden Torch Awards recognize excellence among technical professionals; corporate, government and academic leaders; and university and pre-college students. These awards illustrate the possibilities that can be cultivated through support and responsibility. The proceeds of the awards are used to create college scholarships for gifted high school students. This year, our celebrity host will be none other than MC Lyte.

SAMPLE WORKSHOPS

Innovation Series

Thursday, March 22–Saturday, March 24, Various Times

David L. Lawrence Convention Center and Westin Convention Center Pittsburgh

Features of this program will include interactive workshops and STEM activities, entrepreneurial and company displays, and a new feature this year: the Innovators space, a brainstorming area where students can develop ideas and work with all demographics of NSBE.

STEMify Your Passion

Thursday, March 22, 11–11:50 a.m.

David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Room 301

Attendees will learn what it means to be an engineer, how fast technology is changing and the definition of one’s life’s work, all presented using DJ technology. Increasing your creative thinking will enhance your academic performance. This session exposes the science, technology, engineering and mathematics in the DJ industry to help attendees STEMify their passions.



Women in Leadership Executive Roundtable/Brought to You by BorgWarner
Thursday, March 22, 2–4:15 p.m.
David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Room 335

10 Steps to Becoming a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit the EZ Way
Friday, March 23, 1:30–2:30 p.m.
David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Room 303

Oftentimes we want to do good work in the community both for free and without establishing any real structure. This workshop will show attendees how to go about becoming a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization using the Form 1023-EZ.

Girl Talk Wind Down
Friday, March 23, 3–5 p.m.
David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Room 329

In this laid-back, intimate evening workshop, women will openly discuss topics such as social media, healthy relationships/friendships, body positivity, stress management, stress management, communication and family. It is important that with all of the success women are capable of achieving that we take time for self-care.



NSBE BOARD OF CORPORATE AFFILIATES

The Board of Corporate Affiliates (BCA) is the top national support level of the National Society of Black Engineers. The industry-leading corporate and government strategic partners of the BCA work with NSBE's leadership to make a true impact on the Society.

Accenture
Air Force STEM
Air Products and
Chemicals, Inc.
Allstate
American Express
America's Navy
Apple, Inc.
Arconic
BAE Systems
BASF Corporation
Bechtel Corporation
The Boeing Company
BP
Caterpillar Inc.
Central Intelligence
Agency
Chevron Corporation
Cisco Systems, Inc.
Covestro
Cummins, Inc.
Dell
Delta Air Lines
The Dow Chemical
Company
DuPont

Eaton
Eli Lilly and Company
ExxonMobil
FedEx Companies
Fiat Chrysler
Automobiles
Ford Motor Company
GE
General Dynamics
Corporation
General Motors
Company
Goldman Sachs
Google Inc.
Harley-Davidson Motor
Company
Honeywell
IBM
Ingersoll Rand
Intel Corporation
John Deere
Johnson & Johnson
Johnson Controls, Inc.

Lockheed Martin
Corporation
Microsoft Corporation
Navy Civilian Careers
Nissan Americas
Northrop Grumman
Corporation
Oracle Corporation
P&G
PPG
Qualcomm Incorporated
Raytheon Company
Rockwell Automation
Rockwell Collins, Inc.
Southern Company
Texas Instruments
Toyota Motor North
America
United Technologies
Corporation
U.S. Marine Corps
Verizon
Western Digital
Corporation

###