

The Creation of the American Academy of Water Resources Engineers Moves Towards Reality

The Task Committee on Certification for Water Resources Engineers hopes to develop the required paperwork and obtain the necessary approvals to make the American Academy of Water Resource Engineers (AAWRE) a fully operational entity by September 1, 2004.

The Task Committee began work last September under the auspices of EWRI. This initiative was a direct outgrowth of the report prepared by ASCE's Task Committee on Civil Engineering Specialty Certification, issued March 2003.

The charge of the Task Committee on Specialty Certification was to first develop a model structure for an Academy within ASCE, and secondly to develop a business plan, budget, and schedule for implementation. Following the recommendations of the Task Committee on Specialty Certification, a new, separately incorporated entity within ASCE was created and named Civil Engineering Certification Board, Inc (CESB). The Board will have the Institutes participate in the certification process, primarily through development of the "body of knowledge."

The approval of ASCE policy 465 and work of the ASCE Task Committee on the Academic Prerequisites for Professional Practice were both precursors of the current initiatives. ASCE Policy Statement 465, unanimously adopted by the Board of Direction in 2001, states that ASCE "... supports the concept of the Master's degree or equivalent as a prerequisite for licensure and the practice of civil engineering at the professional level."

EWRI agreed to be the first Institute to work with CECB to develop a specialty certification program. The Task Committee on Certification of Water Resources Engineers, under the chairmanship of Michael Ports, met twice and will meet again in Salt Lake City, Utah, during the upcoming EWRI World Congress. The Task Committee has named the new body the American Academy of Water Resources Engineers, approved AAWRE objectives, and is nearing an agreement on recommended bylaws, entrance interview requirements, annual membership renewal procedures, etc. The Task Committee has focused much of their attention on integrating ethical conduct and life long learning into the development of AAWRE and the admission and continued enrollment of members.

The task committee is defining "water resources engineering" as the professional discipline for the stewardship and sustainable use of the world's water and related resources

that develops and applies scientific and engineering principals to plan, design, construct, manage, operate, and maintain infrastructure and programs. Look for more information at the 2004 EWRI World Congress in Salt Lake City.

Specialty Certification for Civil Engineers

What is Specialty Certification?

Specialty Certification is a post-license credential that provides recognition of advanced expertise in a technical specialty, superior experience, strong ethics and a commitment to life-long learning and continuing professional development.

Why is Specialty Certification beneficial?

- Certification is an advanced qualification beyond licensure recognized by clients, employers, peers and the public.
- Certification provides a tangible advantage for individuals looking to stand out.
- Certification demonstrates mastery of a specialty within civil engineering and commitment to stay up to date on new technological innovations.
- Certification demonstrates a strong commitment to professionalism through its ethics and continuing professional development requirements.
- Certification allows civil engineers to maintain strong input into the advanced credentialing process.

What will be required to achieve Specialty Certification?

Individual certifications will be developed by ASCE Institutes and their Academies will require:

- Formal education consistent with ASCE Policy 465.
- Licensure as a Professional Engineer.
- Additional professional engineering experience beyond licensure.
- Strong professional ethics.
- Oral or written examination.
- Continuing professional development.

For Additional Information Contact:

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