

Recruiting for the Profession Recognizing FE/FS Achievement

Knud E. Hermansen¹
P.L.S., P.E., Ph.D., Esq.

There is a need to convince more individuals to enter the surveying or engineering disciplines and once in the discipline, to enter the engineering or surveying profession. One method of encouragement is to recognize students at graduation ceremonies that have passed the first professional exam and accomplished an important step toward professional licensure.

Recognition of passing the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) or Fundamentals of Surveying (FS) exam at graduation ceremonies has two purposes. First it recognizes the student for achieving this important and critical first step toward professional licensing. Second, it encourages students to take the exam while still a student. The FE and FS exams are challenging exams. The more time that elapses between the course on the topic and an examination on the topic, the more difficult it is to obtain a passing grade on the topic. Accordingly, engineering or surveying students should be encouraged to take the exam in their senior year of studies, when much of the knowledge tested on the FE or FS exam is relatively fresh in their minds.

The Maine Board of Professional Engineers, in conjunction with the University of Maine engineering programs, recognized graduates who have passed the FE exam during the most recent graduation ceremony. The graduates were recognized by an asterisk next to their name in the commencement program with accompanying note explaining this first step in professional licensing. Also, the graduates who passed the FE or FS exam were recognized by presenting the successful graduate with a memento pin at graduation ceremonies.

In one ceremony, all the professional engineers or professional land surveyors in attendance at the ceremony were asked to come up on the stage. Licensed faculty, parents, and visitors came up on the stage where they stood in a line. Students that had passed the FE or FS exam were called on the stage, given a memento pin, and then passed down the line of licensed professionals where they were congratulated for taking the first step toward becoming a professional engineer or land surveyor.

This effort may not seem like much but can make a considerable difference in a graduating student or a potential member of the engineering or surveying profession. Through small steps high mountains are climbed.

¹ Member of the Maine State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers