



NSBE-IP.ORG  
INDIANAPOLIS PROFESSIONALS



# THE CIRCLE CITY ENGINEER

To Increase the number of culturally responsible Black Engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally and positively impact the community.

**Bridging the gap!**



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# Welcome Address

Teejay Momoh | NSBE-IP Chair

After rounding up an exceptional year on all fronts, led by our past Chair and now Chair Emeritus, Mr Olaide Quadry, it is with great humility that I welcome all our Members, partners and ‘friends of the chapter’ as the new 2014/2015 NSBE Indianapolis Professionals Chair person. It is an honor to be given this opportunity to serve, and to help our chapter navigate the next year as we continue to live the NSBE mission to “increase the number of culturally responsible black engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally and positively impact the Community”.

Firstly, some background about me. I am a Systems Engineering Lead at Cummins Inc. I have my Masters degree in Electrical Engineering with a focus in Controls and my bachelors in Electrical Engineering with a focus in Power Electronics. I have held three positions on the NSBE-IP executive board (formerly NSBE Indianapolis Alumni Extension). First, I held office as the Public Relations Chair, followed by Finance Chair and then Professional Development Chair. It has been an exciting journey thus far; one that has shaped and molded me in recent years, and an outlet that I hope to use to continue to give back to the community.

I believe the Chapter level of our great organization is where grass root impacts are made, with the benefit of executing the mission statement. As the Professional branch we are the realization of the NSBE Mission and so the responsibility falls on us to continue to ‘pay it forward’. To do this, we need to continue building the pipeline of black STEM professionals through our Pre Collegiate Initiative (PCI) activities. NSBE-IP is very strong in this area and we will work to improve our Impact here. Thus, through my early weeks in this position, I have and will continue to engage the NSBE-IP PCI chair with an initiative geared towards putting more focus on our Young Black Females in STEM who are underrepresented in today’s industry.

Moreover, through our Collegiate Initiative activities, we shall support the collegiate chapters through joint meetings, chapter visits, and recognition of excellence; to help retain minority individuals in STEM majors. NSBE-IP will strive to prepare them for the challenges that lie ahead, which most professionals have dealt with and the knowledge of how to best navigate those. We will work hard to assist in the production of successful minority professionals in STEM fields, and make them visible to our communities so they serve as inspirations and encouragement that our path is worth the hard work.

As our members support the aforementioned efforts, I would like to go into some detail about our Membership focus.

NSBE-IP members are our most valuable and important asset. My executive team and I are thinking of new innovative ways to engage the membership and keep them informed of all activities, through the incorporation of social media. This is in addition to our proven best practices that have already won us so many accolades. ‘Paying it Forward’ is not only limited to helping and educating younger kids, but simply giving back to the community can go a long way. With Programs like ‘A walk for Education’ (AWFE) and other community focus efforts, NSBE-IP is will be able to provide opportunities that allow us to impact our local Indianapolis Community.

NSBE-IP has been a stellar chapter both on the National and Regional stages for many years. Not many chapters can boast about that, but as the world changes, we cannot expect to the stay the same. Our processes are tried and true, and we are now tasked with the opportunity of growing them with the innovative minds that we have coming in. Our greatest challenge is how to grow our brand even more today, now that our foundation is solid. NSBE-IP grows every day, with new members and young technical professionals willing and thirsty to take on leadership roles. The more seasoned members are guiding and help to shape us all. ‘Growth’ will be our motto, because you can never be ‘culturally responsible’ enough, you should never stop learning, and we will all be better off from the positive impact we bring to this community.

As the 2014/2015 Chair of NSBE-IP, I am glad to see this trend because it is an indicator that NSBE-IP will stand the test of time. The Executive team is committed to continuing this culture of excellence. It is guaranteed going to be an exciting year; I welcome you all to take this journey with us and help us make the difference we are committed to making. Thank you and God bless you all.



# NSBE-IP End of Year Banquet 2013-2014

Emeka Ene | NSBE-IP Secretary

Every journey begins with a step and this year truly encompasses the beginning of a journey for NSBE professionals everywhere. As the torch has been passed from Alumni extension, we celebrate the end of the first year with the chapter title 'NSBE – Indianapolis Professionals'. It was a year to remember with new programming, new faces, and a strong relationship with our collegiate and pre-collegiate chapters.

The end of year event was planned and MC'd by our very own Jenai Alexis with live music from the always amazing Indianapolis 'Blue Soul Band'. The event was hosted at New Orleans on the Avenue, and NSBE-IP was able to use the event to truly celebrate and recognize the people who had gone above and beyond this past year.

First, a huge thanks to our sponsors for the event: Cummins Inc, Raytheon and Praxair Surface Technologies. Without your assistance, our programming will not have the profound impact that it continues to have year in and year out. NSBE-IP is continually grateful for your support with fulfilling our mission.



Secondly, to ALL the graduates from all our collegiate initiative schools; Congratulations again, and we hope to see you guys getting involved with the professional chapter wherever your future jobs may take you. You are charged with continuing to strengthen the pipeline, and thereby fulfilling the mission. There can be no breaks were the education and motivation of our young black boys and girls are concerned. Moreover, NSBE-IP would like to recognize the great work put forth by every member to ensure that our chapter remains one of the premiere professional chapters within this organization. From endeavors with regards to MEPI and PCI by leaders like Valentine Ikegwonu and Cree Harris, to the work that Tyler Henderson did with our Collegiate Initiative, and rounded off by the togetherness of the rest of our executive board led by Chairperson Olaide Quadry; to bring quality programs to our outstanding general body members. The 2013/2014 year would not have been possible without all of you. Thanks and many more successful years to come.





# Executive Team BBQ

Uchenna Ugeh | NSBE-IP Publication/Public Relations Chair

One of the great things about the Indianapolis professional chapter is that young, Black professionals get to network with each other in a setting that is professional, but can also be casual when appropriate. Many individuals in the Indianapolis Professionals chapter may work for companies that are not extremely diverse, and whenever we get together, it is a great time. Some of our members are new to Indianapolis, so these events are scheduled at just the right time for them to make new connections in a relaxed environment. It has proved to be invaluable for the new members, and also for those who were already active in the chapter.



Monthly socials are included in NSBE-IP's calendar of events throughout the year. On the 21st of June the NSBE-IP e-board members convened to kick off the year with our first gathering event aimed at getting elected board members together ahead of the July 1st transition date. It was very successful, as new and returning board members got a chance to meet and interact with each other. TeeJay Momoh, the chapter chair, opened his home to everyone for this gathering. It was marked with great food, enriching conversations and even a viewing of two World Cup matches.



One of the things that this Indianapolis Professional chapter values is an environment that is supportive of the professional advancement of its members, and also encourages and facilitates networking. We do both by hosting professional events throughout the year, but the less formal social meet and greets are equally important. When the chapter is able to relax and have fun together, it makes it easier for us to get to know each other; this, in return, makes it easier for the chapter to conduct business. The energy and enthusiasm from the new board members at the June 21<sup>st</sup> event was a premonition for a successful 2014-2015 year that we are all looking forward to.



# NSBE Indianapolis Professionals Kick-off

Diana Wamakima | NSBE-IP Membership Chair

Keeping with our tradition of starting off the year with a family oriented event, NSBE-IP hosted its annual membership event to kick the year off to a good start. The event was held at the Old City Park in Indianapolis on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August featuring a game of kick ball, a variety of grilled food, music and a lot of smiling faces. The atmosphere was right and served as a good avenue for the general body and their families to meet and interact with the newly elected e-board.



NSBE-IP is a professional organization that puts high importance on the friendship and the networks we have built over the years. We do the best we can to create opportunities for members to get to know each other formally and on a more causal and informal level. NSBE-IP strongly believes this is key in building the “NSBE family” and is one of our core values; one that I believe sets us apart from most other professional organizations. Each passing year we strive to set the bars higher and push a step further toward perfection. At NSBE we believe in perfection and its attainability.

In the coming years we hope to make this event even bigger and better. The goal is to have every STEM professional in Indianapolis get involved with NSBE and widen our professional network.





# Professional Development Conference in Scottsdale, AZ

Emeka Ene | NSBE-IP Secretary

Another NSBE year has begun with renewed vigor, bright ideas, new faces, energy and most importantly a fervent desire to accomplish our NSBE mission. Well, this is the case for most people. For some, myself included, we can be found guilty of going through the motions; doing enough to not do worse than before; setting the bar only high enough that we find consolation in the fact that we are 'not where we were before', but cringe at the distance 'that we still have left to go'. No one tells us as PCI and Collegiate students that this is a never ending battle to achieve the mission, and it is easy to lose track of our importance in that continued battle, if we think we have already won. I graduated, helped a few others graduate, and increased the number of culturally responsible Black Engineers, therefore I can get up from the trenches, rifle in hand, and walk back to my peace and quiet: Job well done.



Truthfully, our days are not the easiest. We work long hours and find time for NSBE and other organizations whenever we can, but we need some uplifting too. Something or someone to tell us that as professionals, we have not reached the zenith of excellence; that there are guides to self-improvement; improvements in all areas: soft skills and hard earned knowledge. To increase the number of culturally responsible and continually driven Engineers, should be our priority. This is where the Professional Development Conference comes in. A place to mingle with people who are like you, who have achieved more or less than you, with dreams and aspirations similar yet different than yours. PDC is a renewal of beliefs that you can do more than you are doing, and encouragement when you thought that 'okay' within this organization and our professional lives was acceptable for us. NSBE-IP, let's hold ourselves to higher standards by attending PDC and getting fuel to feed our fires. I was in Scottsdale, and I hope anyone reading this can feel the heat of the passion from my words: I feel rejuvenated.

On a different track, NSBE PDC in Scottsdale was a wonderfully put together event from A to Z. A huge shout out goes to the men and women on the CPC (Conference Planning Committee) that put that together. From the NSBE Fit workout sessions every morning to the workshops, the guest speakers who were masters of their industries, and the recognition dinner to showcase exceptional members of NSBE. Everything was amazing. However, the truth to complete rejuvenation lies in the service that every professional volunteer put forth when helping those children with their STEM projects. Personally, connecting with those kids reminded me of how fun Engineering is, and how many paths there are to get to the finished product. I learned from those children probably as much they learned from me, and I sincerely hope I had an impact in their lives.

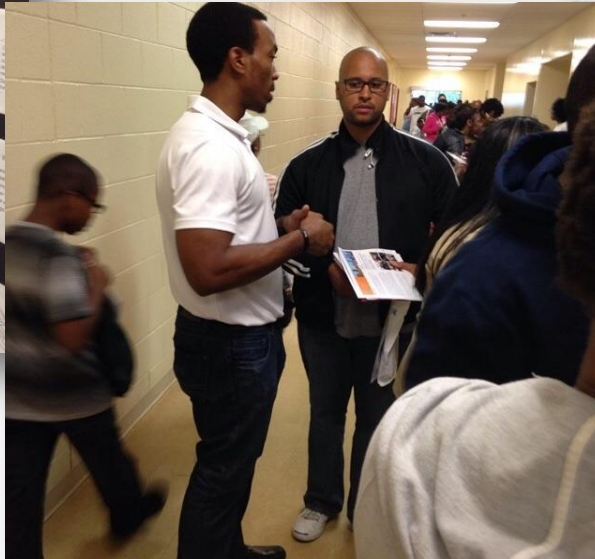
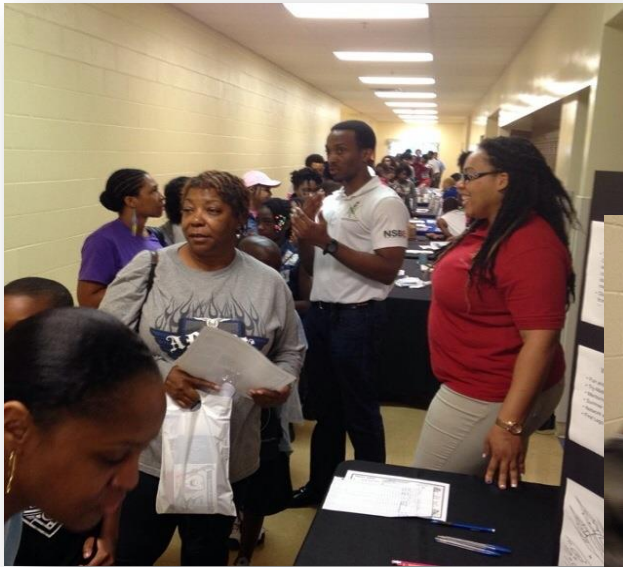
NSBE-IP, let us continue to make a difference in our communities through our everyday work, and let us find time to motivate ourselves as well. We can't give 100%, if we are not 100%. Next up is TPC during Annual convention in Anaheim. Buy your tickets to the convention, find your transportation down there, get healed and rejuvenated, come back here and let's sit in the trenches until our mission is fully fulfilled.



# Role Model/Advisors Experience - Center for Leadership Development Event

Chinedu Ofodile | NSBE-IP PCI Chair

On September 13, 2014 NSBE participated in an event hosted by the Center for Leadership Development(CDI) called Role Model/Advisors Experience. The event was for high school students where the Role Models/Advisors were professionals from various fields such as Nursing, Business, Engineering etc. NSBE was given a room where we were able to showcase an interactive session related to the importance and relevance of STEM to the students. During one particular session, the students entered the room and were introduced to some NSBE-IP members who showed an interactive presentation on STEM fields courtesy of the NSBE-IP Programs Chair. During and after the presentation, there was a Q&A session which allowed the students to get further clarification and reinforcement of the material from the NSBE Professionals. The objective of this program was to give the students a preview of the STEM world and how important it is. Overall, this program was a huge success and we received great feedback from the students who participated.





## AWFE Event

Kevin Dillon | NSBE-IP Community Chair

A walk for education is a NSBE chapter based program which aims, ***“to increase awareness of the opportunities available through education particularly in the STEM fields and to shatter myths about African-Americans in math, science, engineering and other technologies”*** – NSBE. NSBE-IP believes in the value of this program, and we understand that most of us would not be where we are today without the influence of many of the wonderful people that have crossed our path. NSBE-IP is also very aware of the impact that education has on any individual and the importance of investing in educating our communities. Many people pass on the opportunity to get a good education because they are not aware of the available resources; this is where we, as an organization, believe we can help in bridging that gap.

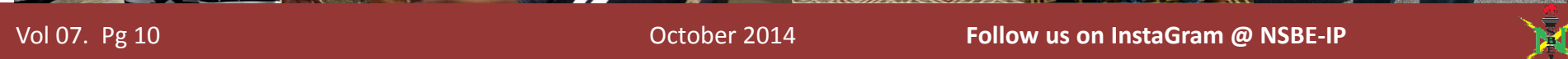


On Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> NSBE-IP and its members walked through the Brightwood community distributing admissions and financial aid literature for post high school opportunities. With help from the Purdue and IUPUI NSBE collegiate chapters, the Region IV Torch Representative, the Xi Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. and one of our corporate sponsor Cummins; we served over 150 families in this community going from door to door, and letting them know the opportunities that are available to them and their families to get an education. The families received information from colleges including Brown Mackie, Ball State University, Indiana State University, Notre Dame, Marian University, IUPUI, Purdue University, Indiana University, Devry, Rose-Hulman, and Depauw University. The families showed lots of appreciation and gratitude for our service.





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