

Kansas Board acts, SCC's Land Surveying/ Civil Engineering Graduates benefit

—by Stu Osterthun

The approval by the Kansas State Board of the Southeast Community College's Land Surveying/Civil Engineering Technology program in Nebraska clears the way for graduates of the program who work in Kansas to take a national surveying licensure exam.

The July 10th action by the KSBTP to approve SCC's Land Surveying/Civil Engineering program allows graduates from that program to take the NCEES's Fundamentals of Surveying exam with no further qualifications. The exam is the first step toward becoming a licensed land surveyor and is a measure of minimum competency to enter the profession.

For several years, Carla Dorman, an instructor in the program located on SCC's Milford Campus, has been working with the Kansas Society of Land Surveyors to remove the hurdle faced by SCC program graduates who wanted to work in the State of Kansas and become licensed land surveyors.

"We've had several Kansas students come to our program in the last few years," Dorman said. "A couple of years ago, the (KSBTP) board renewed its interest in a two-year program."

That's when Southeast Community College entered the picture. Dorman assembled a package for the board's review that included course syllabi and an overall summary of the Land Surveying/Civil Engineering program. The board includes civil engineers, architects, surveyors, geologists, and landscape architects. "We have some employers of our graduates who were board members," Dorman said, "so they were familiar with our program as well."

Earl Fosler, dean of SCC's Construction & Electronics Division, praised Dorman for her work to get the curriculum approved. "This approval is of benefit to LSCE program graduates who wish to work in the state of Kansas and eventually become a licensed land surveyor in that state," Fosler said.

Dorman said there was a need for qualified land surveying technicians. Being able to take the national exams is a big step toward that credential. Most of our students will stay in Nebraska. But if a student is interested in moving outside the state of Nebraska, they would need to seek information related to that state's specific licensure requirements." Dorman said land surveying technicians also go into careers such as construction inspection, civil engineering or computer-aided drafting.