

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **Contact:**

Craig Cartwright  
Cartwright Engineering  
435-753-2850  
435-753-2851  
craig@caceng.com  
[www.secertboard.org](http://www.secertboard.org)

## **STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS FORM NATIONAL CERTIFICATION BOARD**

Chicago, IL, September 1, 2004 — Structural engineers across the nation recently voted to organize and establish a set of criteria to verify and document the minimum level of qualifications necessary to practice structural engineering. The Structural Engineering Certification Board (SECB) was formed in direct response to the needs of the public, users, and structural engineers as it impacts the built environment. The certification board will evaluate structural engineers and certify them in the practice of structural engineering. Structural engineers believe certification is necessary due to the wide range of services required and the limitations of individual engineer expertise.

Structural engineers are responsible for the strength and stability of the built environment due to such diverse and critical environmental loads from hurricanes, earthquakes, and blast, in addition to snow, impact, storage and occupant loads. Buildings, factories, bridges, dams, towers, and storage tanks are all safe and functional when properly trained and skilled structural engineers are involved. Failures occur when engineers not trained as structural engineers or engineers practicing beyond the level of expertise are involved.

Structural engineers are set apart from civil engineers and architects by virtue of their unique education curriculum, rigorous testing, specialized training, and understanding of building material capabilities. Several States require engineers to be identified and licensed as structural engineers prior to design of any public-occupied building or structure. Still other States restrict the use of the title "Structural Engineer" to only those properly licensed. In most of the States, where licensing of structural engineers does not exist, certification by the SECB will empower the public to choose a qualified engineer with the same assurance granted by States with licensed structural engineers. In fact, the SECB was formed to compensate for the lack of States interest to license structural engineers and protect the publics' welfare.

The SECB is a private organization with headquarters in Chicago, Illinois and representing the regulated professional practice interests of over 19,000 structural engineers nationwide.

###