



College of Engineering Diversity and Inclusion Programs Director Bernard Batson says the chapter's influence is substantial within the USF community, and beyond the campus. The University of South Florida Chapter of the National Black Engineers (USF-NSBE) earned recognition as Region 3 Medium Chapter of the National Society's 43rd Annual Convention, held March 29 - April 2 in Kansas City, MO.

Chapters were ranked on a variety of criteria such as number of members, scholarly achievement, growth and chapter programs and activities.

The USF chapter increased its membership to 57, up from 33 a year ago, with about nine percent of its members improving their GPA. Activities include workshops such as developing effective resume and interview skills, networking with engineering professionals and engaging in community outreach such as participating in Habitat for Humanity projects and establishing a NSBE Jr. chapter at a local high school.

According to the NSBE website, "Region III consists of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, Caribbean, and South America."

Chapter President Jonielle McDonnough says the recognition reflects the chapter's ability to combine the talents of its members and of people willing to help.

"We used our own resources but we also reached out to people who helped us in the past, such as mentors and advisors who could help us professionally with interview skills and how to deal with different kinds of situations."

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The USF chapter began in 1976 as the Society for the Advancement of Minorities in Engineering and Sciences (SAMES), an affiliate chapter of NSBE, to promote recruitment, retention, and the successful graduation of prospective engineers. In 1998, the chapter renamed the organization to reflect its affiliation with the National Society of Black Engineers.

You can learn more about USF-NSBE by visiting <http://www.usfnsbe.com/> or sending an email to president.usf.nsbe@gmail.com.