

American Society of Highway Engineers



ASHE Student Chapters

Increasingly, ASHE Sections are finding involvement with students at the college undergraduate level and even middle and high schools to be a rewarding part of their workforce development initiative. By actively engaging with students as they join us at professional dinner meetings or luncheons, recreate with us at social events, visit our construction sites and operations centers, and even participate in our fundraising events for scholarships, they are able to witness first-hand our enthusiasm for the field and are more likely to consider highway engineering among their career choices.

At the Section level, interaction can range from the highly formalized to the most ad-hoc in nature. In the graphic below, a snapshot of calendar year 2018 activity shows established student chapters in red and less formal or developing relationships in blue.



Regardless of the stage, Sections are reporting that their student engagement is enjoyable and often pays dividends when graduating students choose our field as energetic and enthusiastic new members.

The national Student Chapter Committee is anxious to help you with student involvement, at whatever stage of the game you find yourself. We have a great starter kit for you in the form of the Best Practices for Developing and Sustaining Student Chapters, located on the

American Society of Highway Engineers

www.ASHE.pro website. In the Best Practices, the Committee has collected examples for many ASHE student chapters and other engagement activities and used them as the basis for describing typical challenges in the startup and sustainability of student chapters...and the creative solutions that were brought to bear.

In the Best Practices, we speak from the perspective of the Section leadership, the students, and the education/institution leaders about getting started, establishing goals, funding, transportation and other logistics, activities, logos and branding, recordkeeping, risk management, and sustainability.

Of particular note, ASHE no longer charges students an initiation fee or annual dues until they become a professional member (and some Sections “close the deal” upon graduation by paying the first year dues and initiation fee). Many Regions and Sections similarly charge their students no dues. This move by the national organization removed an important financial and logistics barrier in the formation and sustainability of student chapters.

We encourage you to browse the Best Practices guide as part of your own experimentation with student engagement. We think you will find some encouraging solutions and ideas there and it may even give you that boost of energy to take the next steps. If we have missed anything or you are unsure about any aspect of ASHE student chapters, please contact the Student Chapter Committee and we will provide you any input and guidance we can.

Matheu Carter, Chair, Student Chapter Committee

matheu@udel.edu

(302) 831-7236