**College Student Outreach**

**7.5 Life Member Scholarship – Phoenix Branch**

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| **1. Section, Branch** | Arizona Section, Phoenix Branch |  |
| **2. Section/Branch Size** | Large |  |
| **3. Project Contact** |  | |
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| **4. Project Category** | College Student Outreach | |
| **5. Project Description** | Life Member Scholarships | |
| **6. The Process**  (What you did, When and How) | Similar to many branches, each Phoenix Branch member who reaches Life Member status in a given year is recognized and provided an ASCE certificate for their participation in the Society. However, these Life Members are also invited to a luncheon and asked if they would like to make a donation of $200 to provide a scholarship in their honor to a local member of the ASU Student Chapter. For each Life Member that contributes, the Phoenix Branch provides a matching amount of $200, for a total scholarship of $400 per contributing Life Member. The number of contributing life members determines the number of scholarships available to students. The program is funded by the excess revenue from monthly Branch luncheons.  A simple scholarship application is sent out to the local Student Chapter at the same time that the Life Members are notified of their Society status. The application is not academic-related and simply requires a short-written essay describing the applicant’s past, present, and future as related to civil engineering with questions such as “Describe involvement in the student chapter of ASCE”, “Why do you want to be a civil engineer”, and “Why should the Branch award you a scholarship”. The applications are ranked independently by each Branch Board Member, and the top applicants (based on the number of scholarships available) are notified of their selection.  The selected students must attend the Life Member luncheon and are seated with the Life Member in whose honor they are receiving a scholarship, where they have an opportunity to learn about each other. During the luncheon, each Life Member is honored and presented their Society certificate. The students are then introduced and presented with a congratulatory letter and a check. The students and Life Members are encouraged to stay in touch. | |
| **7. Those in Charge** (Committee, Task Committee, Etc.) | President and President-Elect | |
| **8. Time Frame**  (When Started, When Completed) | Started in 2005 by former Board Members. Provided annually, November – February. Ongoing. | |
| **9. Success Factors**  (The Parts that Worked Really Well) | Participation and matching contributions by Life Members has been outstanding. | |
| **10. Setback Factors**  (The Parts that did Not Work Well) | * Sometimes students have to be encouraged multiple times to apply for the scholarships. * The Branch budget for upcoming years will have to account for a large anticipated increase in the number of Life Members or limit the number of scholarships available. | |
| **11. Creativity**  (This is something off the wall that we did) | We take a group photo of the Life Members and students, and provide jpg of photo to Life Members and students. | |
| **12. Administration**  (What was most Important?) | Obtaining the list of Life Members and certificates from ASCE Headquarters early and correlating the list with the local database. | |
| **13. Follow-Up**  (What was most important?) | Contacting each Life Member to determine their attendance and participation. Contacting student practitioner advisors and faculty advisors to make sure that the scholarship application is adequately distributed. | |
| **14. Recommendations**  (What you should ALWAYS do with this project?) | Thank the Life Members profusely. | |
| **15. Cautions**  (What you should NEVER do with this project?) | Take it lightly. | |
| **16. The Outcome** | Thousands of dollars awarded to students each year and a great way to honor the past and future of ASCE Members. | |
| **17. Ongoing Activity**  (Would you do it again?) | Yes, annually. | |
| **18. Speaker Contact Information**  (person from your Region who would be willing to speak about the Best Practice) |  | |
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| **19. Additional Comments** |  | |

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