**College Student Outreach**

**7.9 University Student Scholarship – Illinois Section**

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| **1. Section, Branch** | Illinois Section |  |
| **2. Section/Branch Size** | Very Large |  |
| **3. Project Contact** |  |
| Name | John Lazzara |
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| Email | LazzaraJohn@stanleygroup.com |
| **4. Project Category** | College Student Outreach |
| **5. Project Description** | The Illinois Section provides scholarships to the university civil engineering students within its geographic boundaries (University of Illinois at Chicago, Illinois Institute of Technology and Northwestern University). The scholarships are funded by the Section’s Technical Institute Chapters and given in the technical areas of the Institutes (i.e. the Structural Institute Chapter gives out a scholarship to a student studying structural engineering). The scholarships are presented at the President Elect Dinner in the Spring when the ASCE National President Elect comes to visit the Section. The dinner event typically draws approximately 100 attendees. Scholarships range from $1,000 - $2,500 with approximately $16,000 given out annually.  |
| **6. The Process**(What you did, When and How) | Announcements on the scholarships go out to the 3 universities after the first of the year when the semester begins. The Illinois Section goes to visit each of the 3 universities at that time to discuss the Illinois Section and the scholarships, usually over a pizza lunch. The applications are posted online. The completed applications are reviewed by the Section’s Technical Institute Chapters. Award winners are notified approximately 1 month ahead of the Spring Dinner.  |
| **7. Those in Charge** (Committee, Task Committee, Etc.) | The Section’s Technical Institute Chapter Presidents and the Illinois Section Student Chapter Committee Chair.  |
| **8. Time Frame**(When Started, When Completed) | Starts in January and ends in April at the Spring Dinner |
| **9. Success Factors**(The Parts that Worked Really Well) | Having the technical groups and institutes work together with the scholarship committee to standardize the application process for the various disciplines increased student interest. Giving out money brings out the students. We invite the student scholarship winners and a guest to the awards dinner which gives active ASCE members an opportunity to meet them personally and congratulate them. |
| **10. Setback Factors**(The Parts that did Not Work Well) | We lack follow-up with the students to make sure they continue with ASCE. We need to make sure to obtain personal email addresses for the students, especially scholarship winners so we can stay in touch after graduation. |
| **11. Creativity**(This is something off the wall that we did) | Give out large golf size checks at the dinner |
| **12. Administration**(What was most Important?) | Distribution of the invites to event and coordination of RSVPs making sure a good balance within professionals and students was present at the Spring President Elect Dinner. Encouraging students to attend. |
| **13. Follow-Up**(What was most important?) | Need to follow up with past winners to see where they are today. Could consider having past scholarship award winners visit with students as alumni to emphasize the availability of scholarships and the importance of networking. |
| **14. Recommendations**(What you should ALWAYS do with this project?) | Go out and visit the students and continually remind them up until the due date for the scholarship applications. |
| **15. Cautions**(What you should NEVER do with this project?) | Assume the students are on top of it and they will get their applications in on time.  |
| **16. The Outcome** | Get students very involved with the Illinois Section and tell them about what we do.  |
| **17. Ongoing Activity**(Would you do it again?) | Yes, we continue to do it.  |
| **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** |  |