

Best Practices Information Request Form

Sections and Branches

The Leader Training Committee (LTC) is continuously expanding their Best Practices Guide to document successful activities and practices in our Sections and Branches.

Please use this form (Word format) to document your group's successful activity so we can share it with other leaders. We strongly encourage you to attach relevant graphics and photos (either embedded in the Word document or as attachments, PDF, jpg, tif, or other formats). We will incorporate the new Best Practice in the Guide and post it to the web site. Please return your completed form to Brian Pawula at blpawula@hornershifrin.com and/or Nancy Berson at nberson@asce.org.

Date	6/5/2026
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PROJECT TITLE	Leadership Meetings with Student Chapters
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1. Section/Branch	Boston Society of Civil Engineers Section (BSCES)
2. Section/Branch Size	3,200
3. Project Contact	
Name	Rich Matson, PE
Phone Number	(978) 394-6310
Email	richard.matson@aecom.com
4. Project Category	College Student Outreach
5. Project Description	Partner with a local student chapter to host a Board of Government (BOG), Executive Committee, or Younger Member Group (YMG) meeting on campus.
6. The Process (What you did, When and How)	BSCES hosted its April 13, 2026, Executive Committee monthly meeting on the MIT campus, fostering engagement with the local student community. The following day, the BSCES YMG continued this outreach by holding its April 14, 2026, monthly meeting at Northeastern University.
7. Those in Charge (Committee, Task Committee, Etc.)	April 13, 2026: BSCES Executive Committee April 14, 2026: BSCES YMG Committee
8. Time Frame (When Started, When Completed)	April 13, 2026: 5:00PM-7:00PM April 14, 2026: 5:30PM-6:30PM

<p>9. Success Factors (The Parts that Worked Really Well)</p>	<p>Hosting a monthly meeting on campus provided BSCES leadership with a valuable opportunity to interact directly with student chapter members. In fact, BSCES encouraged MIT students to attend the YMG meeting at Northeastern, and several participated in person. As a result, the initiative proved even more impactful than originally anticipated, fostering engagement across multiple student chapters and strengthening connections between students and Society leadership.</p>
<p>10. Setback Factors (The Parts that did Not Work Well)</p>	<p>A hybrid attendance option was offered for those unable to attend in person. However, the meeting room was not ideally configured for this format, as the connection relied on a single laptop without projection capabilities, limiting the effectiveness of the virtual experience.</p>
<p>11. Creativity (This is something off the wall that we did)</p>	<p>Prior to COVID, BSCES periodically hosted Executive Committee and BOG meetings on college campuses to engage directly with student chapter members. We are now working to revive these in-person meetings and renew those valuable connections with students.</p>
<p>12. Administration (What was most Important?)</p>	<p>Bringing Section leadership to campus and providing a meal for attendees created a valuable engagement opportunity. The students greatly appreciated both the interaction with Society leaders and the meal, making the event especially well received.</p>
<p>13. Follow-Up (What was most important?)</p>	<p>Being present and engaging with student members helps build strong connections with future professionals. As we work to strengthen overall membership, focusing on students creates an opportunity to improve retention and encourage their transition to full membership after graduation.</p>
<p>14. Recommendations (What you should ALWAYS do with this project?)</p>	<p>We recommend rotating these meetings among different student chapters to maximize outreach and engagement opportunities across multiple campuses. In FY27, we plan to expand our on-campus presence by hosting approximately 1–2 Board of Government (BOG) meetings, 2–3 Executive Committee meetings, and 1–2 Younger Member Group (YMG) meetings at a variety of schools, further strengthening connections with students throughout the Section.</p>
<p>15. Cautions (What you should NEVER do with this project?)</p>	<p>Maintain a positive and welcoming atmosphere in all interactions with students. Focus on encouraging participation, recognizing contributions, and highlighting opportunities for involvement. Our goal is to inspire student members to remain engaged with ASCE and ultimately develop into future volunteer leaders. Building that foundation begins with positive encouragement and meaningful engagement.</p>
<p>16. The Outcome</p>	<p>Strengthen relationships between the Section, Branches, and Student Chapter members by actively engaging with students and providing support, guidance, and assistance as needed. These connections help build a strong foundation for long-term involvement in ASCE and the civil engineering profession.</p>

17. Ongoing Activity (Would you do it again?)	Yes, absolutely. We plan to expand our presence by holding additional meetings on ASCE Student Chapter campuses in FY27. In support of this effort, our President also plans to visit all 12 assigned schools, further strengthening engagement with students and reinforcing our commitment to developing future ASCE leaders.
18. Speaker Contact Information (person from your group who would be willing to speak about the Best Practice)	
Name	Rich Matson, PE
Phone Number	(978) 394-6310
Email	richard.matson@aecom.com
19. Additional Comments (We strongly recommend attaching relevant photos and graphics)	This is an excellent opportunity to engage student members with their local Section/Branch leadership, helping them better understand who their leaders are while also inspiring the next generation of volunteer leaders. A brief visit to an ASCE Student Chapter, combined with participation in a monthly meeting and a dedicated one-on-one Q&A session afterward, provides meaningful insight into both the successes and challenges students are experiencing. It also allows Section/Branch leaders to connect students with available resources through the local Section/Branch and Region to help support their needs. While no photos were taken at this event, we plan to document future visits to further highlight these valuable engagements.