

October 8, 2015

Former Students Made us No. 1; Today's Students Remain our Lifeblood and Legacy

“You are number one!” That was the greeting that I received from now ASCE’s National President-Elect 2016, [Mark Woodson](#), at the annual Presidents and Governors Forum held in Reston, Virginia September 20th and 21st. Yes, he knew that our Section had been recognized as the Outstanding Large Section for 2014 and that it was my privilege to be one of the Section representatives to provide feedback to other Sections and ASCE leaders on “the secrets to our success”. One of our “top secrets” is our student chapters and clubs – the lifeblood of our membership and leadership and the cornerstone of our awards since it was yesterday’s students that made us this year’s recipients.

Our future colleagues have much to be proud of already! Both [Carnegie Mellon University](#) (2014 & 2015) and the [University of Pittsburgh’s Main Campus](#) (2013) have been recipients of ASCE’s Distinguished Chapter Awards and are active participants and leaders with [Engineers without Borders](#) (EWB) projects in countries such as Mali, Ecuador, India and our very own USA and city: with the [Emerald View Park boardwalk construction](#). The [University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown](#) is proudly upgrading their accreditation from Engineering Technology to Engineering effective in 2016. Our student clubs are close at their heels: [Geneva College](#) and Point Park University both maintain events and activities engaging future civil engineers.

At last month’s [Kick-Off Dinner](#), it was a sincere pleasure to see and meet some of the student leadership from Pitt’s Main Campus (Jayne Marks, President), CMU (Ahmad Khanzada, President) and Pitt at Johnstown (Jared Neill, President). Our Section continues to encourage student engagement, thus, we hope to see all our Chapters and Clubs present at our gatherings or to visit them during their special events. If you know students looking to engage with our Section, please contact me or my fellow Board members so that we can personally reach out to them. We strive to build connections and foster growth with our soon-to-be colleagues.

Back to our Chapters and Clubs: they have also been participants and hosts to a plethora of notable activities including, but not limited to, the [steel bridge](#) and [concrete canoe](#) local and national competitions, and have collaborated for several young

professional events such as the upcoming [2016 Eastern Region Younger Member Council](#) (ERYMC) meeting to be hosted in Pittsburgh February 12 and 13. Not yet a sponsor? There's still time! (see previous link). This event receives national limelight from ASCE Headquarters and our Section thus our city will be promoted for weeks beforehand.

Truly, today's students will brandish achievements tomorrow that will continue to make our Section outstanding. On that vein, and on behalf of our Section's Board of Directors: **[thank you to all our generous sponsors!](#)** Your contributions sustain the engagement and inclusion of our students and thus your contributions foster a lasting and praiseworthy legacy.

And, as always, we heartily encourage our members to remain active, participate in our committees, and continue to fuel our leadership through the "three E's": *engagement, erudition and energy!*

Sincerely yours,

N. Catherine Bazán-Arias, PhD, PE

President, ASCE Pittsburgh Chapter 2015-2016