



Northeast Region Construction Specifications Institute BOARD REPORT

DATE: October 27, 2012
TO: Northeast Region Board of Directors
FROM: Ruma Som, Chair Academic Programs Committee
SUBJECT: Report of Academic Programs Committee

A. Report Summary

1. Summary of Activities:
 - a. Increased Communication: Committee has been successful in increasing communication with Chapters of the Region .which resulted in committee identifying area to focus and plans to develop small programs to assist Chapters to use effectively to increase and maintain Chapter membership.
2. Status of Current Programs: Student Affiliate & CDT prep class in Academic Institution continue to be the strongest program of this committee
3. Problem Areas: No Region Conference for several years has resulted in no opportunity to hold regional event relating to Academic Program. Also some chapters don't see value that this committee can bring to retain and increase Chapter membership
4. Success Stories: Improved participation of committee members has resulted in greater involvement of Chapter Board resulting in more Chapters seeing value of Region in promoting programs such as Academic Programs to increase and retain Chapter Membership. Some Chapters continue to lead the Region in activities relating to Academic Program. Student Affiliate Program has proved to be an effective program.
5. Schedule of activities prior to next Board Meeting: Several ideas to develop programs to increase activities relating to Students and Faculty. Plan to involve Architectural firms and explore partnering with other related organization resulted from increased communication. Committee members will be asked to select specific programs they would like to focus on to accomplish task.
6. Change in Membership: 4 Chapters have increased student membership, 2 Chapters have same student membership, 4 Chapters have 0 student membership and 5 Chapters have reduced student membership. 3 of the Chapters with reduced student membership are those with large student chapters and have impacted by the academic calendar year not matching the CSI fiscal year.5 Chapters have increased total membership all of which have either retained or

increased student membership which suggests that there may be some correlation of Academic Program with Chapter membership.

B. The Report

1. Summary of activities since last report:

- a. Increased Communication: Reached out to all Chapters that did not have a dedicated Academic Program Committee Chair to represent their Chapter through contact with Chapter President and Chapter Education Chair as several Chapters have Education Committee Chair also performing the duties of Academic Committee. We prompted Chapters that are focusing on membership retention and growth to utilize programs of this committee to promote the value of CSI to membership. Committee was successful in having 13 of the 15 Chapters represented in the committee. The Presidents of the remaining two Chapters are being copied in communication relating to the Committee. Held first of the scheduled monthly teleconference / webinar (every 3rd Friday at noon) to foster better communication between Chapters to initiate increased activities relating to Academic Programs in the Region.
- b. Face to Face Meeting between Committee Members & Chairs of related committees: Utilized Construct 2012 to use as venue for attendees interested in activities of this Committee to hold meeting to brainstorm ideas. Boston, Long Island, Metro New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island & Vermont were represented. Meeting was also attended by NER Technical Committee Chair Dick Eustis, Membership Committee Chair & Kenneth Raikowski & NER who were invited as goals of all these committees overlap. Secretary Tracey Powell represented the Executive Board.
- c. Reviewed the current status of Total Membership and Student membership to analyze trends and possible actions to increase and retain Faculty & Student membership.
- d. Allocation of Budget: Committee decided to spend the \$ available to the committee to purchase Project Delivery Practice Guide to donate to one Academic Institution in each of the 15 Chapters of the Region. Books have been ordered for distribution to all Chapter Directors at the upcoming Board meeting. Remaining Budget shall be spent to honor winner of Dale C Mole Student Activity award from Maine Chapter
- e. Chapters offering courses preparing for CDT: Following ongoing activities of Metro New York Chapter with Pratt Institute that offers 2-year Construction Management Program & promoting CSI, a member of Metro New York Chapter who is independent Specification Consultant & part-time Faculty, introduced a class that prepares for CDT exam. This new course will promote CSI to the Contractors & Construction Management firms. The goal will be to develop programs to track the emerging professionals and keep them involved with CSI, who in turn can attract future members. Maine Chapter continues to promote CDT in Institute offering Construction Management program to have a consistent student membership over the years.
- f. Long Island Chapter continues to hold a Student Design Competition class in SUNY Farmingdale as a way to introduce students to understand building materials.

- g. Promotion of Dale C Mole Student Activity Fund by Maine Chapter
2. Status of current programs:
 - a. Student Affiliate Committee reviewed guideline for Student Affiliate to initiate Chapters to start Student Affiliate in Chapters that don't have one and improve activities related to Student Affiliate Program where it currently exists.
 - b. CDT Prep Class in Academic Institution seems to be better suited for Institutions offering Construction Management Program.
 - c. Syracuse Chapter plans on organizing another Spec Hunt competition where students are exposed to specification and products through table tops and then competition held on their knowledge. Long Island does a similar competition every year which has proved to be very successful.
 3. Problem areas:
 - a. Some Chapters have not identified the value of being involved with NER Academic Program Committee and the fact that it can assist in membership growth.
 - b. Lack of Region Conference has prevented opportunity to have venue to hold event relating to this Committee.
 - c. Some of the Chapters offering yearly scholarships have zero or no student membership.
 4. Success stories:
 - a. Increased Chapter Participation: More Chapters have participated in Webinar/Teleconference/ face to face meeting organized by Committee than last couple of years which has resulted in great feedback from Chapters.
 - b. : Chapters such as ENY, New Hampshire & Rhode Island who did not have much activity relating to Academic Programs in the past have recognized it to be a program that will increase and retain membership.
 - c. Offering CDT Prep Class in Academic Institutions: Following ongoing activities metro New York Chapter with Pratt Institute that offers 2-year Construction Management Program & promoting CSI, a member of the Chapter who is independent Specification Consultant & part-time Faculty, introduced a class that prepares for CDT exam. This new course will promote CSI to the Contractors & Construction Management firms.
 - d. Student Affiliate: Maine: Vermont, Long Island & Worcester Chapter have established Student Affiliate. Maine Chapter has the most well organized Student Affiliate. While students are offered the CDT prep course and provided opportunity to sit for CDT exam, the Chapter involves student in the Chapter meeting, offering them incentive to become members which has proved to be an effective program.
 5. Schedule of activities prior to next Board Meeting:
 - a. Communication between Chapters: Committee has scheduled monthly webinars/teleconference, power points of which are being posted in NER website in Academic Committee tab for use by Committee members & other

members/non members who are interested in activities related to Academic Programs Committee.

- b. Student Affiliate: Committee will put together a package to help Chapters start and maintain a Student Affiliate involving one or more Institutions. Goal will be to ensure all students involved with activities of Student Affiliate to become student members.
 - c. Increase CDT Certification: Committee will develop program to assist students who attended CDT prep class in Academic Institution to sit for CDT exam and get certified.
 - d. Graduating Students With CDT Certification: Committee will develop a Program to track the emerging professionals who passed CDT exams in Academic Institution & to initiate activities such as start a discussion group in social media and encourage members of Student Affiliate to participate in the discussion. The goal is to initiate activities involving these emerging professionals with Student Affiliate and local Chapters who in turn can promote the value of CSI in the Building Industry to attract future members.
 - e. Promotion of CSI & CDT in Architectural Firms: Committee will identify Architectural firms that promote CSI & value CDT certification and involve them to promote to other Architectural Firms
 - f. Promotion of CDT Certification in Academic Institution involving Architectural Firms who value CDT certification
 - g. Communication with Faculty in Academic Institutions to get suggestions that can help us serve them better. Committee will put together document for use by Chapters.
 - h. Initiate Program to donate Project Delivery Practice Guide and year's monthly subscription of *The Construction Specifier* publication in library of one Academic Institution in each of the Chapters of the Region.
 - i. With National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) recognizing value of project delivery process and evaluating Architectural schools to have deficiency in this area, Committee will develop letter for Chapters to promote to Architectural Schools.
 - j. Committee to explore idea of neighboring Chapters to come together to hold activities relating to Academic Programs or hold Student Competition and make better use of Chapter Student Scholarship.
 - k. Committee to explore value of using Chapter Student Scholarship fund in collaboration with Related Organizations such as AIA, IIDA, etc
6. Changes in Chapter Membership since last report:
- a. Numbers in () are numbers in last reporting period
 - b. Numbers is bold are those that have increased or remained same since last reporting period
 - c. Vermont Chapter that won for Chapter with highest increased membership shows drop in membership due to calendar years of Academic Institution and

CSI not matching. Drop of student membership in Maine Chapter can also be attributed to this problem.

Chapter	Total Membership	Student Membership
Boston	173 (172)	4 (3)
Buffalo	59 (56)	2 (2)
ENY	49 (49)	0 (0)
Hartford	57 (58)	1 (0)
Housatonic	43 (34)	0 (0)
Long Island	46 (62)	4 (5)
Maine	86 (94)	12 (16)
Metro New York	233 (236)	17 (27)
New Hampshire	28 (30)	0 (0)
New Jersey	115 (106)	10 (6)
Rhode Island	94 (71)	1 (1)
Rochester	99 (94)	2 (1)
Syracuse	57 (59)	3 (5)
Vermont	45 (74)	3 (27)
Worcester	36 (37)	0 (0)

C. Best Practices to share with the Region

- a. Student Affiliate: 4 Chapters have taken advantage of this program which has proved to be very effective. Maine Chapter has the most well established Student Affiliate Program which should be the model set for other Chapters.
- b. Membership Award: Vermont Chapter won award for highest Increase of Membership in Small/Medium Chapter Category. This resulted from successful implementation of Student Affiliate
- c. Dale C Mole Student Award: Successful promotion of Dale C Mole Student Activity Fund resulted in winner from Maine Chapter.
- d. Increased Communication: Participation of Chapters in Webinar/Teleconference or face to face meeting have generated great ideas to help committee to develop series of small programs that can improve activities relating to this committee that can help increase or retain membership.
- e. Student Competition such as Spec Hunt held by Syracuse Chapter and one held by Long Island Chapter where student are exposed to products and then tested on their knowledge. This is an event that could possibly be a joint event held with Student Forum of AIA and IIDA to encourage architects and interior designers to think of building material and its function while designing and making product selection.

- f. With National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) recognizing value of project delivery process and evaluating Architectural schools to have deficiency in this area, Academic Programs Committee encourages Chapters to expose Architectural Schools to our Program.

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Respectfully submitted;

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END OF REPORT

CC: Region Secretary