

How will you share your experience and acquired knowledge at the NCSEA Summit with others including your Young Member Group, SEA Member Organization, or place of employment?

As the current Chair of the SEAMASS YMG, I strongly feel that it is part of my role to attend the NCSEA Summit. As a leader in the SEAMASS organization, I feel the responsibility to share the countless opportunities that NCSEA provides to its members. I believe young members do not realize the impact that attending industry events early on can have on their career. Additionally, I think the two main reasons for this, is lack of awareness of the events and financial support opportunities to attend. Amid navigating the new challenges young engineers face while transitioning from school to professional practice, the continued education and networking aspects get lost. Many employers tend to be very supportive when a licensed employee asks to take part in events, such as the NCSEA Summit. However, most employers do not bring such events to the attention of their young employees and do not see it as a good financial investment since they do not acquire PDH credits. Therefore, it is my responsibility to share my Summit experience and to open the doors to opportunity for our young members.

My number one priority after returning from the conference would be to share my experience and promote the Summit to our young member group throughout the next year to help the event gain even more traction with young members. One way I'd like to share my experience with our members is to host a casual networking social where I'm able to share my experience of the Summit. Additionally, one of the amazing benefits of attending the Summit is for the Trade Show and networking aspects. During my involvement with SEAMASS YMG, we've seen that our socials with vendors have become very popular. Presenting young members with the opportunity to learn about various structural solutions and get hands-on experience seeing how they are implemented is very valuable experience. Therefore, another way I want to share my experience with our YMG is by leveraging new connections from the Summit to set up a new event to bring new perspectives to our group. I'm hoping to make connections with vendors to set up events and/or tutorials that will show our young members different structural solutions and how they can be implemented or add more value to their projects.

As the SEAMASS YMG Chair, I take part in the Board of Directors meetings of the main member organization. This year, our member organization has made it a goal to focus on expanding our membership and improve our member equity and engagement. As one of our first steps, we have decided it is a necessity to survey firms and individual members on what SEAMASS is doing well and areas we need to improve. We are beginning by understanding the demographics and report published by the SE3 committee however would like to use similar tools to understand our member organization specifically. Therefore, it is particularly important to attend this year and participate in the SE3 Symposium. My second goal upon returning from the conference, would be to share the information I

learn during the Symposium with our MO board of directors, which would influence changes to impact then entire member organization.

Lastly, I believe it is important to share the knowledge and ideas I'd acquire while attending the NCSEA Summit with my coworkers. My main goal for this, is to help my employer understand the value of sending young, even un-licensed engineers, to an event like the NCSEA Summit. My employer is a Nationwide multi-disciplinary company and our structural engineering practice group is spread throughout the country. We stay connected by hosting monthly practice group meetings. One of the reoccurring items on the monthly agenda is for someone to give a presentation to share their knowledge or expertise with our group. After the Summit, I would present on the many beneficial aspects of attending the conference including discussing the networking opportunities, technical presentations, and my take-aways that I hope to implement in SEAMASS organization and the young member group.

In conclusion, I believe as the YMG Chair, I have an obligation to share my experience at the NCSEA Summit in addition to the other benefits that NCSEA provides to its members. I plan on sharing my experiences with the young member group casually through one of our networking socials in addition to an event with a vendor. I hope to specifically share what I learn at the SE3 Symposium with our senior board of directors to improve equity and engagement of our entire member organization. Lastly, I will excitedly present my experience and knowledge to our structural engineering practice group at our monthly meeting. I'm excited for the opportunity to attend the NCSEA conference and connect with others who share the passion for structural engineering