

**You are given the responsibility to recruit students and recent graduates to participate with the Structural Engineers Association, how do you do it? Describe how you got involved with your YMG, state's SEA, and/or NCSEA and what strategies you would employ to encourage others to get involved.**

Student outreach is crucial in fostering excitement and passion for our industry and incorporating the new group of brilliant young engineers into our SEA community. By creating a wide variety of events that incorporate both the fun and the functional, we can help excite and develop students and young professionals to further their engagement with the industry and our organization. Volunteering in STEM outreach is particularly important to me as I had never met an engineer before I had already applied to an engineering school for college. It is intimidating to enter a field without knowing anyone whose footsteps you can follow, so I want to be the “real world” connection to our field for other students to hopefully make it less scary to take that leap into STEM.

As a college student, I was able to become active with SEAoNY through their existing student outreach activities. I participated in Structure Quest, a structural engineering scavenger hunt that sent our team of six students and two working engineers on a journey around New York City to see architectural and engineering landmarks and encouraged us to admire the structures all around us. I also had the pleasure of participating in SEAoNY Student Outreach's Shadow a Structural Engineer, where I was able to see a “Day in the Life” of a young engineer who works at LERA. These events were so helpful to me as a student to begin to meet and interact with “real engineers.” This introduction to SEAoNY through these fun and educational events encouraged me to join SEAoNY and the Student Outreach committee upon my graduation.

Shortly after I graduated with my Bachelor's degree in 2015, I joined SEAoNY and became active with their SEAoNY Student Outreach committee, helping organize, plan, and participate in a wide variety of events. In 2020, I became one of our committee's co-chairs to help navigate the shift to virtual events and steward our outreach efforts with high school students. These have been incredible opportunities to share my enthusiasm with high school and college students. Creating fun, engaging, and educational events can encourage students to become active in the structural engineering community before graduation.

Through my work with SEAoNY's Student Outreach Committee, I have been hands-on with many of the committee's efforts. I have presented both resume and interview workshops and provided one-on-one critiques to help students improve their resumes. I have written questions and developed rules for SEAoNY's annual educational competition events, Structure Quest and Structures Impossible. I helped to organize a series of panel discussion events about career paths in the industry and life after college. I put together a 2-hour workshop to teach parametric design to our Student Outreach and YMG groups. I also developed a new hands-on educational competition event, the Tallest Tower competition, with collaboration and input from engineers from the Structural Engineers Association of Northern California. Over the course of the past 7 years of working on the Student Outreach committee, I have been in contact with hundreds of civil engineering students from 8 different colleges to engage them with our industry and I look forward to being back in person for more events next year.

In the past two years, I have become involved in NCSEA and am an active member of the External Communications committee and act as a co-chair for the Students and Educators

committee. Being able to connect with structural engineers who are active in their Member Organizations from around the country has been inspirational for additional outreach activities. I have enjoyed speaking with SEAoNC members about their outreach efforts using the Mola model kits and “teaching the teachers” and have modified their lesson plans to offer similar workshops for highschoolers here in NYC for next school year. Additionally, I attended a lovely webinar about reading by the YMG group and being invited to join in on a bookclub that WISE Philadelphia and SEAol co-hosted, I am excited to start a SEAoNY book club in the fall for our college student and young member group which will focus on engineering and architecture in fiction, non-fiction, and professional development. This cross-pollination of ideas between member organizations of NCSEA has been powerful and I look forward to engaging with other MOs in the coming year to network and engage with engineers in other regions. As part of this, I am excited to help host a webinar in August with the NCSEA Students and Educators committee about how student outreach can be accessible for various individual engineers or MOs.

Outside of SEA-related efforts, I also volunteer at career fairs for two local high schools and hope to reach more schools next year as we return to in-person activities at schools. I have also been developing skills to teach and share my passion for this field with other people. I have created two short videos about lateral stability which have received over 100,000 views across Instagram and LinkedIn and I look forward to developing this skillset further to share information about structural engineering with the public. I have been invited to teach a class at The Cooper Union in the Spring 2023 semester about parametric design for civil engineering students, which I am thrilled to be able to develop.

We can inspire the next generation of bright young engineers by engaging with them at every stage through fun, interactive, and educational activities. As an industry with vital contributions to our communities, we can excite children, young adults, and even members of our own profession by showing that we are a community dedicated to building our future. This is done through student outreach, public outreach, and YMG events and having a wide variety of events that discuss what we do, how we do it, and what we can do better as a profession with a focus on life-long learning.