

Helping SNAME Student Sections: A New Student Leadership Training Program

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SNAME Student Sections provide two very important, and largely unrecognized, functions for all of the Society: (1) Student Sections are SNAME's primary mechanism for recruiting new Student Members, and (2) students have the most exposure to SNAME at the Student Section level. In other words, Student Sections represent the *whole* of SNAME to many of the Society's Student Members. So when you think about it, SNAME should really be helping the Student Sections whenever it possibly can.

Thanks to the great attendance and feedback from the Student Summit (held this past October in Houston), the Student Steering Committee (SSC) realized that one way to help the Student Sections (and thereby all of SNAME) was to offer formal training to the leaders of the Student Sections. With training and a better familiarization with SNAME, our Student Section leaders will be better equipped to run their respective sections. With that said, I am extremely pleased to announce that the SNAME Executive Committee has accepted an SSC proposal to hold a student leadership seminar!

This seminar, formally called the Student Chairman-Elect Seminar (SCES) will take place June 2nd and 3rd in Tampa, Florida. It will be held in conjunction with another leadership seminar called the Chairman-Elect Seminar (CES), which has been running for many years with the purpose of training the Local SNAME Section Chairs. As a result of this expanded program, an opportunity has been created to allow student leaders to learn about SNAME and how to effectively run a student section. Since Local, Regional, and National SNAME leadership will also be attending the event, the students will have the opportunity to network with these professionals. Lastly, the session will allow the student leaders to interact with one another, with the hope of fostering long lasting relationships between Student Sections.

The Student Chairman Elect Seminar promises to be an exciting, new way to help our Student Members. In order to help cover the costs associated with sending our young leaders to this very important event, the SSC is actively involved in fundraising. We are asking for the support of local SNAME Sections, companies, and individual members. As an alternative to direct funding, we would be very appreciative of members willing to donate frequent-flyer miles to supplement the travel costs of the students. We believe that every contribution will bring us that much closer to securing a bright future for SNAME. If you are interested in donating, please contact SNAME Headquarters or Matthew Unger (munger@mit.edu).