Partnering with Professionals

Your Program and AIA

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Chair of Architecture and Interior Design, AACC
Session Summary

• AACC’s architecture program has maintained a long and healthy relationship with their local and state chapters of AIA. You don't have to be the “signature” university program in order to be recognized by your local professionals. This session will explore different ways your program can connect with your local and state chapters. Through examples provided, learn how AACC has maintained a strong connection with the profession through various student and professional initiatives.

• **Learner Outcomes:**
  - By the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:
  - Discuss ways your program can create and strengthen pathways with local and state AIA components
  - Identify professional development opportunities
  - Create networking opportunities for students
  - Propose strategies to increase exposure of community college architecture programs
Become a Member

- Not just “a member”, but an active member
- For many years, no one in the department was a member
- Advocate to have membership reimbursed by your college
- Go to networking events
- Attend seminars
- Volunteer
- I.E. Get involved
Involve AIA Members

• Invite them to be part of your Advisory Board
• Invite them to participate on Juries
• Invite them to make presentations
• Invite them to host a tour of one of their projects
• Invite them to host a tour of their office (great for a Professional Practice Course)
• Even better if they are graduates of your program
• Host AIA events at your school
Take Charge

- Become a **Board** or **Education Chair**
  - Create a position (if possible) if one does not currently exist
- All AIA Accredited Components must have a **Strategic Plan**
- Make involvement with your college part of the plan

**Educate students about the field of Architecture**
AIAS and AIA

- Can start with a non-specific Architecture Club through your college

- Create AIAS Chapter if one does not exist
  - May have $$$ support from your student activities office

- Create design contest for T-Shirts
  - Used sales as a fund raiser
  - Became part of the exposure and marketing plan
AIAS and AIA Activities

• Participate in State AIA Awards for students

• If category does not exist for Community Colleges, CREATE IT!
AIAS and AIA Activities

- In MD, only third and fourth year architecture students were allowed to participate
- There was only one university program in existence at the time…
  - So they won all the awards
- Member of AACC’s Advisory Committee and Juror became president of AIA MD
- As president, he advocated to create a category for community college programs
  - Focus on Hand Delineation and Design
AIAS and AIA Activities

• Work with state and local chapter to feature display of student projects
• Can also highlight in chapter newsletters and websites
AIAS and AIA Activities

• Have students **volunteer** to help at major special events
  • Seminars
  • Design Awards
  • Tours

• Have Chapter **pay** for students to attend as compensation

• **Student Club** budget can create budget items for other students to attend AIA Events
  • Talk to Chapter about a reduced student rate
  • Introduce/Highlight students

• Have “**Sponsor a Student Tonight**” option at various events for regular members to support
AIAS and AIA Activities

- Create a chapter Student Design Contest
- AIA National supports a $500 award
  - Chapter pays for it the first year
  - The AIA National reimburses after that
- Winner has to be enrolled in a NAAB Accredited Program
- Uses same portal and judges used for the professional entries
Your Program and AIA

- Have your more advanced courses approved for AIA/CES Learning units

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Thank You!