

ASCE - IL SECTION
MENTORSHIP PROGRAM GUIDE

2025

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Program Goals

- Connect student and professional members of ASCE in order to create a long-lasting networking relationship.
- Increase student motivation and excitement about the industry.
- Transfer the mentor's knowledge gained through experience as a professional.
- Expand leadership, coaching, and interpersonal skills.
- Provide an opportunity for students to learn and practice professional networking.
- Facilitate personal and professional growth.

Program Overview

Participants

For the purposes of the ASCE-IL Section Mentorship Program:

- **Protégés** are student or recent graduate members of ASCE participating in the mentorship program
- **Mentors** are professional members of ASCE participating in the mentorship program
- **Mentoring pairs** are mentors and protégés matched per the program application process
- The **Mentorship Program Committee** is a small group of ASCE members who have volunteered their time to facilitate the mentorship program.

Timetable

The formal ASCE-IL Section Mentorship Program will last from November to April. After this time, a more informal relationship can be maintained if both parties so choose.

Structure

Mentors and protégés will receive a point for each logged event/meet-up they attend together (see the attached event log form). The following is a list of sample events:

- Grab a meal together
- Meet for a visit at the mentor's work environment
- Meet at an ASCE Student Chapter Event
- Attend the ASCE Student/Professional Event
- Attend the ASCE-IL Section & Technical Groups' Holiday Party
- Attend any ASCE-IL institute hosted events (CI, EWRI, GI, SEI, T&DI, UP&D, UESI, and/or YMG)
- Volunteer at an ASCE Student Outreach Committee Event
- Attend an ASCE hosted conference

If you have an idea for a meet-up or event that does not fall into any of the categories above, contact the mentorship program committee at stoutcommittee@gmail.com for approval for it to be counted toward your point total. The intent for this program is to allow flexibility within its structure so as not to detract from the overall interaction. If you're looking for more options, don't forget about the ASCE events calendar which can be found at www.isasce.org/calendar. If you are interested in attending a YMG event, make sure to get a punch card and keep an eye out for punch card eligible events.

Recognition at ASCE-IL Section President-Elect Dinner

On April 9th, 2025 logged events for each mentoring pair will be tallied and totaled. Each mentoring pair with a total of 4 logged events/meetups will get **free entry into the ASCE President Elect/Student Scholarship dinner in April 2025** at Maggiano's Little Italy in Chicago, IL. Additional program incentives may be awarded to active pairs.



Roles & Responsibilities

Mentors

- Set aside 2-4 hours per month to participate in the program
- Be a role model
- Be a good listener
- Know how and when to give feedback
- Set high expectations for your protégé
- Hold your protégé accountable
- Help build your protégé's self esteem
- Provide a view of work through the eyes of the professional
- Assist in career planning
- Be a confidant
- Give something back to the profession!



Photo Courtesy of Jason Dixon Photography

Protégés

- Set aside 2-4 hours per month to participate in the program
- Be receptive to feedback and mentoring
- Agree that this relationship is not centered around a job search
- Think about your future and how your mentor can guide you
- Take advantage of your mentor's knowledge, experience, and expertise
- Respect your mentor's time constraints
- Listen to, question, and strategize with your mentor

Mentorship Program Committee

- Administer the mentorship program
- Ensure both mentors and protégés are following through on their commitment to the program and one another
- Welcome any ideas, suggestions, or feedback for future improvement

ASCE Code of Conduct

The Illinois Section strictly follows the ASCE Code of Conduct. The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) offers a variety of meetings, events, and activities that provide opportunities to learn, grow professionally, and exchange ideas; and, where all participants can participate fully in an atmosphere that is free of harassment and discrimination based on any identity-based factors.

For details of ASCE's Code of Conduct Policy, please see [Code of Conduct | ASCE](#)

Contacts

The mentorship program committee has been formed to assist you in any way we can. If questions arise, please do not hesitate to contact us at stoutcommittee@gmail.com.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can participate as Mentors in the ASCE-IL Mentorship Program?

Any employed (or retired) professional who is an active ASCE IL Section member may participate as Mentor. Professionals should be in good standing with ASCE and be current with their national and section dues.

Who can participate as Mentors in the ASCE-IL Mentorship Program?

Any ASCE student member currently enrolled in coursework at University of Illinois at Chicago, Northwestern University, or Illinois Institute of Technology – Chicago may participate as a Protégé. All students should be in good standing with ASCE national and have paid their annual dues.

How are the mentorship pairs matched?

After the program application deadline, members of the Mentorship Committee review all student and professional applications. If there are more Protégé applicants than Mentor applications (or vice versa), the Committee will solicit additional applications to try and match all participants. In the event that the numbers remain uneven, the Committee will consider the applications based on the order in which they were received.

The individual pairs are matched based on areas of interest within civil engineering, geographic location and other commonalities (i.e. shared extracurricular hobbies). The Committee has done their best to match Protégés to Mentors in their area of interest, but our ultimate goal is to make sure everyone who wants to participate has a pair. Don't be afraid to network and learn something new from someone outside your normal area of expertise/interest!

Who is on the Mentorship Committee?

The Mentorship Committee is made of volunteers from the ASCE IL Section Student Outreach Committee. The 2025 Mentorship Committee Chair is Shriya Saridana, stoutcommittee@gmail.com.

How many Protégé's are assigned to each Mentor?

Each Mentor is assigned one protégé.

Can I select my Mentor/Protégé?

The Mentorship Committee will assign pairs for the purpose of this mentorship program, and you may not select your pair. We want all participants to network and meet new people within the civil engineering profession. We hope that you will actively participate with your assigned pair, but also encourage you to network with other professionals and students outside the program.

What kind of time commitment is required from a Mentor or Protégé?

We recommend at minimum 2-4 hours per month.



Photo Courtesy of Ashley Hamm Photography

Who is responsible for scheduling Mentor/Protégé meetings?

The initial contact should be made by the Mentor, however both individuals should be responsible for contacting one another after that point. This program is not meant for the Mentor to tell the Protégé what to do, nor for the Protégé to have to consistently contact the Mentor. As successful pairing will require communication from both individuals.

How long does the ASCE-IL Mentorship Program last?

The program will last for six months from November to April.

What types of events count towards the Mentorship Program?

Please refer to the Structure section (page 3) of this program guide. If you have an idea for a virtual meet-up or virtual event that does not fall into any of the categories listed, contact the mentorship program committee for approval at stoutcommittee@gmail.com.

What happens if the Mentor/Protégé relationship isn't going well?

Please reach out to the Mentorship Committee (stoutcommittee@gmail.com) immediately if you are having any issues contacting or communicating with your pair. The Committee will help resolve any issues and assist with pair communication. If necessary, the committee will assign a new pairing to make sure all participants are getting the most out of the program.

ASCE-IL Mentorship Program Event Log

Please log events and submit by April 9th, 2025.

EVENT NO. 1

Event Name: _____

Date: _____ Location: _____

Please provide a brief description of the event/activity that you participated in.

Professional Mentor Signature

Student Protégé Signature

EVENT NO. 2

Event Name: _____

Date: _____ Location: _____

Please provide a brief description of the event/activity that you participated in.

Professional Mentor Signature

Student Protégé Signature

EVENT NO. 3

Event Name: _____

Date: _____ Location: _____

Please provide a brief description of the event/activity that you participated in.

Professional Mentor Signature

Student Protégé Signature

EVENT NO. 4

Event Name: _____

Date: _____ Location: _____

Please provide a brief description of the event/activity that you participated in.

Professional Mentor Signature

Student Protégé Signature