



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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PARTNERSHIPS FOR CANDIDATES

BY XIAOYAN ANDERSON



The Society of Actuaries (SOA) Candidate Connect program continues its mission to attract and retain the brightest minds in the actuarial profession. The SOA hosts Candidate Connect events, conducts social media outreach (including Facebook—www.facebook.com/SOACandidateCommunity), launched a new e-newsletter and maintains strategic partnerships with other actuarial student organizations. Through all of these efforts, SOA Candidate Connect has been able to reach, inform and engage a broad spectrum of students and candidates planning to make the actuarial profession part of their future.

The SOA organizes and sometimes hosts Candidate Connect events, inviting local actuarial clubs and organizations to

participate in the events to help local candidates connect with the actuarial communities in their area. These connections are great opportunities to network, exchange information, and can potentially lead to internships and employment opportunities. The SOA worked with the Actuaries Club of Philadelphia, the Actuaries' Club of Hartford & Springfield and the Chicago Actuarial Association in 2013 and 2014 to host three Candidate Connect events.

“The cooperation between the SOA and the local actuarial clubs works very well and has many advantages for all involved. I would like to see more cooperation opportunities like the Candidate Connect event in Hartford,” said Lawrence Slone, 2013-14 president of the Actuaries' Club

of Hartford & Springfield. “The SOA would be better served by having the local clubs reach their members with greater industry news and events, while the local clubs would be better served by being able to provide national speakers and content to their members,” said Slone.

The SOA also participates in events hosted by actuarial clubs to reach out to local candidates. In September, SOA Candidate Connect had a booth at the 2014 Actuarial Society of Greater New York (ASNY) Career Fair, which had 750 actuarial candidates in attendance. The SOA staff and volunteers were on hand to help address questions about the exams, the SOA and the profession.

At the beginning of October, the SOA, for the first time, partnered with the Gamma Iota Sigma (GIS) international risk management, insurance and actuarial science collegiate fraternity to be a gold sponsor at the GIS 43rd Annual International Conference. The GIS event in Dallas, Texas, attracted over 500 student representatives from colleges and universities throughout North America.

As part of an ongoing partnership with the Actuarial Students National Association (ASNA) in Canada, the SOA will be a diamond sponsor at the 2015 Annual ASNA Convention under the title “Insuring the Future,” that will take place

in Montreal in January. "The SOA has been an avid supporter of student initiatives. During the planning of the ASNA 2014 Convention, the SOA played a pivotal role in designing and hosting ASNA's actuarial case competition by providing intellectual and financial support to the organization," said Monojit Samanta, 2014 ASNA Convention co-chair. "This year, the SOA upgraded its relationship by becoming a diamond sponsor and is actively helping ASNA expand its operations. Through its various efforts, the SOA has proved to be a resourceful partner to candidate

communities and continues to build on its relationship with them," Samanta added.

The SOA's presence at these physical events wouldn't be possible without the volunteer SOA members who are on-site to provide local and personalized insights relevant to the candidates. The ultimate goal of the SOA Candidate Connect events is to help candidates gain insight into the actuarial profession; help them build their professional network by connecting them with other candidates, SOA leaders, practicing actuaries and potential

employers; and prepare candidates to become the best actuaries they can be. Consider volunteering for a local event to help spread the word about the SOA and its efforts with helping candidates enter the profession. For more information about candidate activities, visit SOA.org. **A**

Xiaoyan Anderson is the candidate relations specialist for the Society of Actuaries. She can be reached at xanderson@soa.org.



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