

ASSOCIATED SCHOOLS OF CONSTRUCTION CONFERENCE 2015

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I recently attended the ASC 6&7 Conference in Reno, Nevada. Your CSI team in attendance also included Duane Johnson, Sacramento Chapter; Eric Camin, President-West Region; Gene Forshime, Puget Sound Chapter, and Charles Grundy, Reno Chapter. ASC is the Associated School of Construction, and Regions 6 and 7 consist of 44 universities from 14 western states. In attendance were over 1,400 students, 200 faculty and 95 construction companies - a great gathering of the brightest young minds from many prestigious schools about to enter the Construction Management Industry. The enthusiasm and character of these students is quite inspiring and gives tremendous confidence for the future of our industry. It is the "Cream of the Crop" representing each school.

The ASC Conference combines a student competition with a Job Fair. The competition aspect (Thursday and Friday) presents students with a "problem" to solve. The problems vary from every aspect of construction and engineering type (Commercial, Heavy Civil, Design Build, Sustainable Bldg., etc). Students are divided into teams of 8-12 (each from a different school) and allowed 15-16 hours to research, brainstorm, and prepare for submittal and/or presentation the following morning. There is provided a Print and Media Center for students to take advantage of. WARNING: Stay clear of the hallways, breakout rooms and the Print / Media Center during the competition, as there are "runners" for 178 teams hustling for position to utilize the center and return to their teams with information and printed materials.

The Job Fair, following the Student Awards Ceremonies, on Saturday morning, is a trade show format, with all 95 participating Construction Management companies - executives conducting interviews with graduating students and developing new and future relationships with undergrads. The students are all afire from the excitement of the competition and great hopes for their future. You can't imagine a more hyped environment to witness. I had heard that every one of the graduating student in attendance were offered positions. I also should mention that there were Universities outside Regions 6 &7, mainly from the eastern U.S. (Regions 2 and 3), that requested they be allowed to attend due to the tremendous potential of placement for their students with C-M companies, as well as educational aspects of the conference. That says a lot for the Regions 6&7 team/committee and the outstanding job they have done to get to this level of notoriety.

Duane Johnson had expertly negotiated a booth next to the registration area and availed CSI a prime location for the entire conference. We had quite a bit of traffic from all disciplines, mainly students but also faculty and C-M people. Our purpose for attending the conference was to entice as many people as possible with the educational opportunities available from CSI. Our approach was to first discover their individual needs and then offer customization to fit into their curriculum in any way they deem appropriate. We came away with a great many leads for almost all chapters to utilize in our/your attempts to partner with these universities, and a new understanding of what faculty and students find useful. While a majority of the people, faculty, students, and C-M, know of our 50 Division MasterFormat, and most are aware that CSI is the author and curator, some are not. I think that's our mission, to bring awareness of the pertinent role CSI plays in the professional lives of all of these people, how our organization can help by facilitating greater comprehensive communication in construction, and that membership in CSI is the avenue to a project well done.

We will be in contact with all chapters in the near future with leads from the ASC 6&7, guidance in approaching these leads, and some new tools to use.

Thank You,
Dean