

How does belonging to a technical engineering society benefit you?

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Belonging to a technical engineering society provides many important benefits. An engineering society affords the opportunity for its members to continuously learn the newest trends, technology and developments within the field. Furthermore, professional development is encouraged through various programs, seminars and opportunities that technical societies sponsor. Professional networking amongst peers is also fostered and enabled through membership and participation within a technical society. The benefits of belonging to a technical engineering society will significantly aid in one's career advancement.

Student

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My experience is that there are three career stages in which participation in a technical society can benefit an engineer.

Early in the engineer's career, the society is a source for up-to-date technical information that supports the engineer's job. This may be acquired by reading the society's journals, through continuing education programs, and/or by attending conference sessions. Participation is low level: being a society member and working within the company to access these resources.

Later the engineer can become active in the society, perhaps by joining a technical committee, and organizing and then chairing conference sessions. The engineer meets the thought leaders in their field, which in turn provides better access to even more up-to-date technical information. Simultaneously, organizing sessions and being a committee leader provides management and leadership training and experience, which can help the engineer's job/career growth.

In the third stage, when the engineer has become integrated into the society's activities, networking becomes the greatest benefit of society membership. By interacting with them over time at meetings, the thought leaders will have become the engineer's friends. Also, leadership roles with ever higher levels of responsibility will further prepare the engineer for company leadership roles.

Faculty

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Being a part of a professional society has helped me with networking, and helped me keep in touch with what is going on outside of my own job. There are many areas of mechanical engineering that I think are interesting that I don't get to explore as part of my day-to-day job, and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) is a venue for me to attend and organize conferences and presentations that interest me outside of work.

Alumni