

Strategies for Student Chapter Success

Jason Overturf and Sarah Flenar

Students from the Cedarville College chapter of STC present seven factors that make their chapter successful. The Cedarville College chapter of STC received a Chapter Achievement Award at the 46th Annual Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio.

RALLY THE INSTITUTION

An organization can only be effective with support from its institution. It follows that a student chapter of STC must have the support of its institution to succeed. At Cedarville College, student government appropriates funds and helps host events, while school officials recognize chapter achievements.

Members of the student chapter can be excused from classes for chapter-related activities because Cedarville recognizes STC as an educational group.

LEARN FROM THE ADVISOR

A good advisor is worth more than any paper. She brings invaluable experiences and knowledge to the student chapter

Cedarville College has an advisor that is highly active in STC. She knows that STC is important to student members and emphasizes STC in her courses. Students have represented Cedarville at 7 of the last 10 annual conferences.

She also informs students about STC events that may help them in specific professions or networking.

An advisor who makes herself available to her advisees can also relate comfortably with them and point them in a positive direction.

PARTICIPATE

Students make their chapter effective by participating. Active members progress and use valuable STC resources.

Cedarville College is consistently expanding its chapter. Recently, the chapter grew from 17 members to 32 members in one year.

Upperclassmen mentor underclassmen. They help schedule classes and encourage newer members by presenting internship reports and offering experiential advice.

SET THE TONE

Officers act as examples. They encourage members to attend meetings and participate in chapter activities.

Officers meet approximately every two weeks to plan future events and discuss information important to the chapter.

The President of the chapter enthusiastically leads by willingly serving her members. She presents innovative ideas to her officers.

ASK FOR HELP

Professionals are willing to help the student chapter. Professional chapters of STC provide opportunities for students to participate in events. At Cedarville College, students worked with professionals in Southwest Ohio by volunteering as greeters and working in booths at the 46th Annual Conference.

Friends of the chapter fund student endeavors. For example, professionals financed the registration fee of every Cedarville College student who attended the 46th Annual Conference.

Alumni return to their chapter annually to share their professional experience with current students. The Cedarville chapter invites graduates and their spouses to return to their alma mater for a Graduate Panel meeting every academic year.

Professionals prepare students for internships and careers. Professionals share their knowledge with students by reviewing their resumes and portfolios.

COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY

The student chapter secretary designs a creative poster at the beginning of every academic year to announce all chapter events. Officers consistently plan meetings on the same weekday evening at the same time.

The Cedarville chapter publishes a quarterly newsletter during most academic years.

Officers and members communicate quickly and efficiently through email on the campus computer network. Each student has a college computer in her dorm room.

MAKE IT FUN

Early every academic year, professional writing students gather for a party to meet each other. Senior members present a skit to explain the benefits of STC to prospective members.

Cedarville students attend Annual Conferences as frequently as they are able to participate. Members network with professionals and gain experience outside the boundaries of a classroom.

Members form lasting friendships through chapter and academic activities.

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