

# ASC Scavenger Hunt



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This session's code is: **SCWorkshop**

# Engaging Across Cultures Sister Chapters

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University of Michigan  
Universidad Nacional de Colombia - Sede Medellín



# OVERVIEW



- What is a Sister Chapter?
- Purpose & Goals
- Our relationship with our Sister Chapter
- How to start a Sister Chapter
- Q & A

# What is a sister chapter?



- Begins with a group of students at an international university interested in participating in AIChE
- Current U.S. AIChE chapter acts as a mentor to help international students start and maintain their own chapter

# Purpose and importance of a sister chapter



“Cross-cultural competence in international business is an individual's effectiveness in drawing upon a set of knowledge, skills, and personal attributes in order to work successfully with people from different national cultural backgrounds at home or abroad.”

- Development of cultural understanding improves your ability to work with people from diverse backgrounds - better candidate for (or member of) industry and academia
- The world is becoming more globalized, so international business is the greatest it has ever been. This is why it is crucial to engage with and learn from people of different backgrounds and cultures.
- Forming a sister chapter is a great way to network with people from different countries that are within your professional network and major.
- Sharing of ideas and methodology between chapters encourages growth for future members
- Establishing and maintaining a relationship with a sister chapter is an excellent way to accomplish both!

# Goals



- Increase international awareness of, connection to, and involvement with AIChE
- Build an ongoing relationship between international and American AIChE student chapters
- Connect future chemical engineers from around the globe with AIChE
- Provide insight into AIChE student chapters to other chemical engineering academic programs and fields of interest around the globe.

# Sister chapters across the world



Brigham Young University & University of Brasília  
California Institute of Technology & Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar  
Clarkson University & Laval University  
Illinois Institute of Technology & VIT University  
Johns Hopkins University & Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute (GIKI)  
Manhattan College & Boğaziçi University  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology & KAIST  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology & University College London  
Mississippi State University & Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras  
Missouri University of Science and Technology & Cairo University  
Oregon State University & McGill University  
Purdue University & Istanbul Technical University

San Jose State University & Dawood University of Engineering and Technology  
Stony Brook University & Koç University  
Texas A&M University, College Station & Nazarbayev University  
Texas Tech University & Centro Universitário SENAI CIMATEC  
University of Iowa & Texas A&M University, Qatar  
United States Military Academy & Obafemi Awolowo University  
University of British Columbia & Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya  
University of California, Berkeley & BITS Pilani, Dubai Campus  
University of California, Irvine & Suez University  
University of Cincinnati & Universiti Teknologi Petronas  
University of Delaware & Universidad Nacional de Colombia, sede Bogotá

University of Florida & Universidade Federal do Ceará  
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign & Universidade Estadual de Maringá  
University of Kentucky, Lexington & Middle East Technical University  
University of Louisiana, Lafayette & Maharashtra Institute of Technology, Pune  
University of Maine & Jordan University of Science and Technology  
**University of Michigan & Universidad Nacional de Colombia, sede Medellín**  
University of Pennsylvania & Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember  
University of Utah & Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Jamshoro  
Washington State University & Universidad Nacional de Ingeniería  
Wayne State University & Universidad del Atlántico

# Our Sister Chapter & Us



UNIVERSIDAD  
NACIONAL  
DE COLOMBIA



# About Our Chapters



## Sede Medellín

Sede Medellín first started as a mining school

Their AIChE chapter is only a couple years old

Chapter is quite developed for being so young

Divided in 4 divisions

- Academic
- Logistics & welfare
- Financial & strategy
- Executive

## Michigan

Michigan established the first AIChE student chapter in 1922

Our chapter is old and experienced

We host professional events, social events, and compete in ChE Car

We have strong ties with many different companies such as Dow, ExxonMobil, Unilever, etc. and host luncheons every week with them

# Establishing our relationship



Began relationship in late 2015

True correspondence began in 2016

Skype calls and emails explaining details of chapters/ goals for sister chapter program

- Want to learn our structure so they can further chapter development
- Want to have opportunities to improve employability

# Meeting in person

In 2016 we met Professor Alejandro Molina, our sister chapter's advisor

- Spoke at one of our meetings

We met executive board members of our sister chapter at the Annual Student Conference in San Francisco

- Invited to annual Technical Chemical & Biological engineering conference in Medellín



# PROCESA



Medellín chapter plans and executes conference every year - similar to Annual Student Conference

- Speakers from all over the world
- ChemE Car Competition

Presented at their chapter meeting



# What did we learn?



Transformed perspective of the impact of AIChE

- Colombian students don't have access to employers like we do
- Time invested in developing programs pays off
- Anything is possible, even with a limited budget

Sharing experiences develops strong networks and cultural understanding

- Food
- Fun

# What we gain from having a sister chapter



Improved communication skills (e.g. practice English/Spanish)

Expanded professional and social network

Ideas exchanged for new projects and activities

Modernized approach to reaching students

Transformed perspective of the impact of AIChE

- Colombian students don't have access to employers like we do
- Time invested in developing programs pays off
- Anything is possible, even with a limited budget

# What they gain from having a sister chapter



Practice in English

- We take this for granted

Learn from experience

- What have we learned from being around for so long?
- Step by step process to interface with companies
- Ideas to improve chapter communications
- Developed event similar to our luncheons

# Mutual benefits



Development of more globally aware engineers

Become better

- Employees
- Students
- Global citizens

Imperative soft skills!

# Ideas for further events



Recipe Exchange

Mock Interview Activity

Social Media Exchange

Give holiday gifts/ School spirit wear

Shared Project



# Ideas for even more events

Chapter Updates

How to Dance

Sports Watch Party

Video Exchange



# Future expectations



Meeting each year at Annual Student Conference.

Continue sharing ideas between chapters

Increase cultural exchange

Leverage each other to improve our chapters and the member experience

Send members to visit each other's campus

Keep and improve our strong relationship

# How to get involved



Go to [www.aiche.org](http://www.aiche.org)

Navigate to the Sister Chapter Programs

Fill out the Sister Chapter Interest Survey

A member of the AIChE Executive Student Committee will reach out and pair your chapter with another

Any questions? Contact [aiche.esc@gmail.com](mailto:aiche.esc@gmail.com)

Thank you for your attention  
Gracias por su atención  
Questions?  
¿Preguntas?



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