

## Academic Relations

# Appointing Student Members to Chapter or Institute Boards

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Identify students who exhibit leadership skills and have the availability to work with chapter/institute leaders to build and expand the influence of the chapter or institute.

Making connections with students is the foundation of a strong Academic Relations committee at any IIA chapter or institute. This starts with a good relationship with a local college and university. Oftentimes, chapter/institute leaders will reach out to college deans or professors of their alumni university. Or this may be a regular part of the recruiting function for the chapter/institute leader's employer or firm, so that the chapter/institute leader has developed connections at the school for regular chapter/institute-sponsored events. A great example of how to organize these connections and events can be found on the [IIA-Baltimore ARC Sample Workbook](#) available from the Academic Relations webpage for chapter/institute resources.

Identify a student or students who exhibit leadership skills and have the time and availability to work with chapter/institute leaders to build and expand the influence of the chapter or institute. Students are the best contacts for on-campus activities — they know what communications styles work best to reach students and the topics that interest students today.

The chapter/institute's bylaws should address and define a board student member. Work with the board to select an appropriate position for the student. Determine the responsibilities and tasks that are reasonable and expected for this role. Building this position into the chapter/institute framework creates multiple benefits: a mentoring role between the student and board members, continued growth of the membership as more students attend chapter/institute activities, and a supportive relationship with the participating school(s).

For more information on this board membership model, visit the [IIA-Los Angeles Chapter](#) website, or contact [VP Academic Relations, Los Angeles Chapter](mailto:VP Academic Relations, Los Angeles Chapter).

