

New York Women in Communications Foundation Student Affairs Committee

Overview:

The New York Women in Communications Foundation Student Affairs Committee focuses on providing educational and career development programming and industry networking to college students and young professionals. The Student Affairs Committee is funded by, and reports to, the New York Women in Communications Foundation Board, which is the leadership of the 501c3 non-profit, or charity arm, of the organization. The Foundation's mission is to cultivate leaders in communications through financial support, professional development, mentoring and networking.

Student Affairs Committee programs range from intimate behind-the-scenes tours of media outlets to a major annual Career Conference that attracts more than 350 students from across the country. Committee members have critical roles in the planning, organization and execution of these events.

Committee members also produce and distribute a quarterly newsletter called *nywiciNEXT* and a *nywiciNEXT* blog, both are targeted toward students and those just starting their careers. In addition, committee members are actively involved in New York Women in Communications Foundation's High School Outreach initiatives, the organization's mentoring program for students and young professionals, and the selection of New York Women in Communications Foundation's Scholarship recipients, who are formally presented to the organization each year at the Matrix Awards luncheon.

Leadership:

The Committee is co-chaired by New York Women in Communications vice presidents, Judith Harrison and Linda Krebs. Judith and Linda serve on both the New York Women in Communications Board of Directors and the New York Women in Communications Foundation Board. The Student Affairs co-chairs are the only positions in the organization to serve on both boards. The positions were structured this way so that the Student Affairs' initiatives would help the Foundation to fulfill its mission while also serving the greater good of the organization. The biographies of the members of the Boards can be found on the web site, www.nywici.org/aboutus/directors.

Several members of the Student Affairs Committee serve in director positions on the committee, these positions are as follows:

Director of Student Membership – Sammy Davis

Director of New Student Member Relations – Lauren Gould

Director of Scholar Relations – Tammy Tibbetts

Director and liaison to High School Outreach Committee – Zanade Mann

Editor-in-Chief *nywiciNEXT* – Marie Dugo

Editor-in-Chief *nywiciNEXT* blog – Kelli Plasket

The Role of Committee Members:

The Student Affairs Committee has a very important role within the organization. Our overall objective is to educate and develop life-long relationships with the next generation of communications professionals. Approximately 20 percent of the organizations members are students. Student Affairs is, in essence, a microcosm of the New York Women in Communications organization, one that is dedicated to nurturing our industry's future leaders. We host major conferences and events, have our own newsletter and blog, hold fundraising events, recruit student members and much more.

Our committee's role cannot be fulfilled without active, engaged and dedicated members who are passionate about New York Women in Communications. No slackers allowed! We seek committee members who will roll up their sleeves, pick up the phone, sit down at the computer – do whatever it takes to get the job done – while showing the utmost professionalism and exercising sound judgment. Our committee members know that with every phone call, email or event they attend, they are representing New York Women in Communications. The committee membership roster is reviewed annually in the spring, in conjunction with the organization's fiscal year. Members who are not actively engaged in the work of the committee or who fail to uphold the image of the organization and support the reputation and mission of New York Women in Communications will not be invited to continue their service on the committee.

Our committee takes its work seriously – but has a lot of fun, too. The very nature of our work – serving students and young professionals – is energizing and inspiring. Committee members may work independently or in small groups. The projects on which they work may have them reporting directly to the committee co-chairs, or to fellow committee members who have volunteered to head up specific programming or initiatives. Sample assignments include event planning; recruiting event speakers; locating event venues; drafting marketing, promotional or program materials; writing for the newsletter or blog; reviewing scholarship applications; reaching out to colleges; researching potential partnerships; securing sponsors, raffle prizes or gift bag items and much more.

Meeting Schedule:

The Student Affairs Committee meets monthly on the third Wednesday of every month. Meeting dates are set one month in advance. Members are encouraged to attend in-person, but a conference call number is provided for those who must dial-in. Meetings are followed by meeting reports distributed to all committee members, who are encouraged to read them promptly, regardless of whether they were a part of the meeting. Important news, big decisions, exciting plans and committee assignments are included in those reports.

Events and Major Committee Initiatives:

As with all New York Women in Communications Committees, our fiscal year, June 1 through May 31, drives our schedule. A general calendar of the committee's events would be as follows:

- June – Summer educational or career development event
Usually a panel discussion on a timely topic or career field
- July – Ladies Who Laugh Comedy Night
A benefit traditionally held at NBC studios to benefit the Scholarship Fund
- Late September – First event of new semester
Either a behind-the-scenes tour or a panel discussion
- Early November – Student Career Conference (Sat., Nov. 7, 2009 at Grand Hyatt, NYC)
An all-day event comprised of nine career-area panel discussions, one HR panel, two big-name keynote speakers and 40 panelists. 390 students attended the 2008 Conference
- Early January – A behind the scenes tour while students are home for holidays
- January 31 – Scholarship application deadline
Student Affairs Committee members assist the Scholarship Committee with the application review process
- Late Feb./Early March – Career Roundtables
A weeknight event featuring ten different career professionals engaged in small group conversations about their jobs. Students attend two discussions over the course of the evening.
- April – Presentation of scholars at Matrix Awards Luncheon
Committee does not get involved in Matrix planning, although some committee members are involved as hosts/mentors to the scholars for the day

nywiciNEXT e-newsletter – quarterly
nywiciNEXT blogs – updated weekly on Mondays

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Contacts:

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