

Students' Corner, May 2002

CES-Ontario Chapter

Results from a Telephone Survey of CES-Ontario Chapter Students

Adam Spencer, Membership Chair

In Nov/Dec 2001, the CES Ontario Chapter conducted a telephone survey to determine how it could better meet the needs of its student members. Candace Nykiforuk and Adam Spencer conducted telephone interviews with seven student members of the CES Ontario Chapter. The following is a brief summary of the survey results. ***(The Full report can be accessed off the Students' Corner webpage)***

What led you to become a CES member?

Many of the students became involved as a result of an evaluation course or information provided by a professor. In addition, students see the potential networking opportunities and exposure to employers. Students explained that the best way to recruit additional students would be through promotion of the CES by professors teaching evaluation related courses at the undergraduate and graduate level.

What attracted you to CES?

Students were attracted to the CES through the professionalism of the CES materials (CJPE, mailings, Communiqué), access to CES conferences, and personal interest in learning more about evaluation.

What do you see as the benefits of membership?

the Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation, reduced student rates for events, networking opportunities, and learning opportunities

Would you be interested in evaluation training?

The majority of respondents wanted to pursue a career in evaluation. Consequently most showed interest in "affordable" evaluation training.

How can the student membership be enhanced?

additional networking opportunities and career-building activities, the need for an employer and/or job bank, increased communication with students, and student targeted workshops

Is there anything that is currently offered that could be enhanced or improved?

Students felt they could further benefit if more funds were available for students to attend Chapter and National activities (i.e., to cover costs such as transportation or accommodation). A few students felt they could gain important skills from mentoring and presenting the Essential Skills Series. The CES was perceived by a few students as an organization that geared activities towards consultants and active evaluation practitioners rather than students. All students pointed to a general lack of awareness concerning Chapter and National activities.

Thoughts about a regular student electronic newsletter?

All of the respondents felt the electronic newsletter was a good idea. An email newsletter complemented with an embedded hotlink (to reduce email size) or link on the website was preferred by most. A number of suggestions related to content were suggested including student evaluations & accomplishments, job links or job-related tips, and connections to other students. The plan now is to put this report on a shelf and... no, board members recognize the valuable information that stemmed from this report. Currently, the development of a student newsletter is being discussed (any volunteers that are interested are asked to contact Andrea Johnston, Student Representative), potential additions to the Chapter's website are being examined (e.g., student résumés) and there have been preliminary discussions about ways to further involve students in future events (e.g., additional funding, teaching Essential Skill Series, etc.).

Free attendance for students!!!

A limited number of free student admissions are available for the CES Core Body of Knowledge Breakfast Event. If you are a full time student, a member of CES, and would like to attend the event, contact Jennifer Yessis at 519-886-2686 or Keiko Kuji-Shikatani at 416-439-5223, or either of them at advocacy@evaluationontario.ca . Register early, as the free student spaces are limited.