

**2002 IEEE-USA Workshop
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Executive Report

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This workshop was designed to highlight the activities of IEEE-USA and its major committees and provide examples of professional activities hosted by local sections and chapters in the United States.

The workshop was designed to emphasize the tools and training needed by individuals at sections and chapters to meet local member employment, career, and public policy need.

This report summarizes the major topics and issues discussed at the workshop.

The CARE Project (Congressional Advocacy Recruitment Effort)

This project focuses on recruiting IEEE U.S. members to meet with their Members of Congress to provide government decision makers with information they need to address technologically complex issues.

A few knowledgeable engineers who speak out can have a significant impact, especially on technological issues on which engineers have special expertise.

A constituent visit can result in a big pay-off for the engineering profession if even a few members are able to establish themselves as trusted sources of information and advice.

Other related activities at the section level might involve inviting a Member of Congress to speak at a local section meeting or tour an engineering facility, or just writing a letter to the Representative on a matter of concern.

The key is that an individual or the section takes the initiative to communicate and interact with the elected representatives.

To make CARE work, IEEE-USA will provide issue alerts, background information and a “how-to” tutorial on arranging a successful congressional visit. Each Member of Congress will be mapped and assigned to a specific IEEE U.S. Section(s). PACE Chairs

for IEEE's U.S. Sections will be enlisted to help find members in their sections willing to make these visits.

Navigate through the IEEE USA web site www.ieeeusa.org for more details.

Pre-College Education

This issue was addressed by several speakers. Examples of the direct involvement in pre-college education were presented by the representatives of different regions. Targeted audience of such activities included students anywhere from the elementary school level to the college level.

There are funds available to support such activities. Navigate through the IEEE USA web site www.ieeeusa.org for more details, forms and proper procedures to follow when applying.

The issue of the involvement of the IEEE student sections was elaborated upon. The idea of including the student section representative at the exec meetings (that our West Michigan section came up with) was well received.

Employment & Training

The issue of the IEEE members loosing jobs in today's economy was addressed. It has been pointed out that IEEE set up an on-line job listings available to the members.

The importance of "soft skills" and especially the networking has been stressed. The author's opinion was voiced regarding the issue, briefly summarized below.

"... one can not overemphasize the importance of networking. In today's economy, the life-long employment is a relic of the past. An engineer should look at his position as that of a consultant. When one job ends, few others are either immediately available, or have been dormant and ready now. There is only one way to get to that position of choice: networking. This activity takes a lot of time and effort and should have been started many years prior to having to make a carrier choice because of the lay-off. One should network while one has a job and even if that job seems to be very stable. When one gets to a point of being laid off without another job in the waiting, it is too late..."