

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Participating in a professional association is an effective way of learning about careers and meeting people in that field.

What is a professional association?

- An organization of individuals in a given occupation who meet to network and learn.
- Many professional associations have national headquarters and local chapters.
- Most professional associations charge annual dues and event fees.

How do professional associations benefit students?

- Many professional association websites provide information about career options, industry trends and relevant employers.
- Most professional associations offer events where you can meet professionals and learn about internships and entry-level job opportunities.
- Professional associations frequently offer event and membership discounts for students.

Networking tips

- Introduce yourself with a firm handshake and a smile. Show an interest in others by maintaining eye contact and listening actively.
- Ask questions about organizations, work responsibilities, and trends in the field. Ask for job search advice.
- Request business cards for future reference.
- Volunteer to work for a committee.

Where can I locate these associations?

- Professional Associations in San Diego – www.sandiego.edu/careers/associations.php
- Public Library's Associations on the Net – www.jpl.org/div/aon/
- Weddle's Association Directory – www.weddles.com/associations/index.cfm
- Job Web List – www.jobweb.com/Career_Development/prof_assoc.htm
- Yahoo List – http://dir.yahoo.com/business_and_economy/organizations/professional
- *Encyclopedia of Associations* – located at Career Services and Copley Library

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Examples of Association Web Sites

- **American Advertising Federation**
National www.aaf.org
Local www.SanDiegoAdClub.com
- **American Counseling Association**
National www.counseling.org
Cal www.cacd.org
- **American Institute of Biological Sciences**
National www.aibs.org
- **American Marketing Association**
National www.marketingpower.com
Local <http://sandiego.marketingpower.com>
- **American Society for Training & Development**
National www.ASTD.org
Local www.ASTDsandiego.org
- **American Statistical Association**
National www.asa.org
Local www.sdasa.org/
- **Association for Women in Science**
Local <http://awis.npaci.edu/index.html>
- **Assn of Information Technology Professionals**
National www.aitp.org
Local <http://sandiego.aitp.org>
- **BIOCOM Life Science Industry Association**
Local www.biocom.org/
- **Building Industry Association**
So. Cal www.biasc.com
- **Cal. Association of Marriage & Family Therapists**
Cal www.camft.org
- **California Teachers Association**
Cal www.cta.org
- **College Art Association**
National www.collegeart.org
- **Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers**
National www.ieee.org
- **International Special Events Society**
National www.ises.com
Local www.isessandiego.org
- **Mathematical Association of America**
National www.maa.org
- **National Association of Purchasing Management**
Local www.napmsd.org/
- **National Association of Social Workers**
National www.naswca.org
- **National Education Association**
National www.nea.org
- **National Latina Women's Business Association**
Local www.nlbwa.com
- **Organization Development Network**
National www.ODNetwork.org
Local www.ODNSD.org
- **Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers of Amer.**
National www.phrma.org
Local www.medicalservicesociety.org
- **Public Relations Society of America**
National www.prsa.org
Local www.prsasandiego.org
- **San Diego Paralegal Association**
Local www.napmsd.org/
- **San Diego Press Club**
Local www.sdpressclub.com/
- **San Diego's Women's Network**
Local www.sdwn.org
- **Society for Human Resource Management**
National www.shrm.org
Local www.sdshrm.org
- **Society of Professional Journalists**
National www.spj.org
Local www.sdspj.org
- **Society of Women Engineers**
National www.swe.org
Local www.swesandiego.org
- **Young Nonprofit Professional Association**
Local www.ynpn.org/socal/