



President's Message

By: Larry Buechel

Greetings,

Hello fellow Wisconsin Section members and welcome to the 2020-2021 edition of our Section year! I have the honor of serving as your President through September 2021 and look forward to that



opportunity. I recently read through the 2019-2020 Section Yearbook, which was distributed to the membership in September, and reviewed the list of past Presidents of our Section. I was impressed seeing the names of so many prominent leaders in our profession from around the State on that list, and I am truly humbled knowing my name will appear there. I hope that I prove in the coming months to be worthy of the honor.

First, I would like to say thank you to all the members of the Section Board of Direction that concluded their terms of service in September. Without their hard work and tireless service, our organization would not be as successful as it is. We are fortunate to have some very dedicated volunteers within our Section. I would particularly like to thank Ken Mika for his service as Section President over the past year. The Section faced a number of COVID-19-related challenges over that year and Ken did an excellent job of leading our organization through it. A number of difficult decisions had to be made, but Ken and the Board of Directors handled them with relative ease. Thanks also go out to the Wisconsin Infrastructure Report Card Committee for completing the enormous task of developing and releasing the 2020 Infrastructure Report Card for our State, the first such report released by the Section in over a decade and all done under the shadow of the restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Lastly, thanks to the Southeast Branch Annual Meeting Planning Committee for planning and holding the Section's first ever virtual Annual Meeting. The Planning Committee did an exceptional job of facing head on the many challenges of organizing such an event for the first time and conducting a very successful meeting. I thought the event went very well considering they were in uncharted territory for such an event within the Section, and we now have developed an excellent road map for future virtual events, should they be necessary.

I am hopeful our 2021 Spring Technical Conference hosted by the Fox River Valley Branch can be held in-person, but time will tell. These are challenging times indeed for our organization, our businesses, and our families. We must find ways to move them all forward during these difficult times. There are solutions out there, and who better than engineers - particularly civil engineers - to find those solutions and implement them?

I'd also like to take an opportunity to highlight here a few of the initiatives that I and the Section Board hope to work on in the coming year. First, I hope to move the formation of an Architectural Engineering Technical Committee within the Section across the finish line. That process is well underway, and we should be able to get final approval for that by the end of the calendar year. Secondly, I hope to work with some of the larger employers of civil engineers in the State to promote involvement of their employees in our organization and their participation in our Section/Branch events. Lastly, our Section Board of Direction intends to complete a Section-wide member survey to help us understand what our organization is doing right and what we could be doing better to support you. Stay tuned for more details on that survey in the coming months. There are many opportunities for us to continue to improve our organization so if you have any ideas on how we can do that, we would love to hear from you.

In closing, I am so appreciative of the opportunity to serve as your Section President and I hope I am able to fill the big shoes of this position created by my predecessors. As the calendar year draws to a close, be sure to take advantage of the opportunity to earn the 10 free online PDHs included as part of your ASCE membership. Finally, please look for a chance to participate in Section or Branch activities in the coming months. There are great networking and educational opportunities offered at those events for you to take advantage of. Hopefully, I might even see you at one of them!

Thanks for your time and I wish you all the best,

Larry Buechel, P.E. ASCE WI Section President

Professional Engineer Retired Status

By: Martin Hanson

The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) has recently updated their website with information on the newly created "Retired Status" for Professional Engineers (Wis.Stat. § 443.015 (1m)(a)1 a or b). Wisconsin has enacted a new status for Professional Engineers who are retired and no longer practicing but wish to retain the PE designation in their title. There are two requirements. 1) He or she is retired and no longer engages in the practice for which the credential was issued, and 2) He or she is at least 65 years old or has actively maintained or previously held the credential for a minimum of 20 years (consecutive or nonconsecutive).

The renewal fee for Retired status is one-half the active renewal fee; the 2020 prorated renewal fee is \$34.00 for retired status. Currently, processing the retired status renewal cannot be completed online—you must make payment by USPS mail. There is a new form, R443, Retired Status Renewal Addendum Form that must be included in your mailed in renewal package.

More information can be found at the DSPS website under the Professions/Professional Engineer menu item.



THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO ATTENDED THE 2020 ASCE WISCONSIN SECTION VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING

Presented by the Wisconsin Section Southeast Branch Friday, September 18

ASCE

WISCONSIN SECTION Southeast Branch

THANK YOU

to the 2020 Annual Meeting Planning Committee for coordinating a successful event!

> **CO-CHAIRS:** Nick Bobinski Tony Castle

Committee Members: Mike Arnold Kyle Bareither Jake Brunoehler Aaron Bubb Larry Buechel Wade Carter Josh Mitchell Aaron Schramm Collin Smith Neal Styka

ASCE WI Section 2020 Virtual Annual Meeting Recap

By: Tony Castle and Nick Bobinski

The 2020 Wisconsin Section Virtual Annual Meeting was a success! We had 180 registrants who each had the opportunity to earn 6.5 PDH's throughout the day. In addition to 12 technical breakout presentations, our general sessions included an Ethics presentation by ASCE Past President Robin Kemper, an exciting keynote

address on *High-Performing Teams in a Virtual Environment* by Bruce Wolf, and a workshop on the newly released *Wisconsin Infrastructure Report Card*.

We honored the Wisconsin Section's individual, project, and scholarship award winners and recognized our new Life Members as well as new and outgoing board members.

It took a team effort to make this a successful conference in the midst of the pandemic. Thank you to each of our attendees, speakers, planning committee members, and sponsors!

Thank You!



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Outstanding Senior Civil Engineering Student Award Nominations

By: Matt Dahlem

It's that time of year again when the Wisconsin Section is seeking nominations for the Outstanding Senior Civil Engineering Student Award!

This award is given to an individual for achievement as a civil engineering student in their senior year. The student must be currently enrolled and a student member of ASCE. Basis for the award shall be "for individual achievement/service that demonstrates excellence in engineering academic achievement and service to the profession."

Award certificate as well as a monetary gift will presented to the winning student(s) at the Spring Technical Conference scheduled for Friday, March 5, 2021.

A copy of the WI Section description of the award/process is provided on our website for your reference.

Please submit nominations by February 14th in letter or email format to the Wisconsin Section of ASCE at wi.sec.asce@gmail.com.

As an FYI, your submissions will be received and assembled for review by Jill Miller

(at wi.sec.asce@gmail.com). Should you have questions, Jill may be responding to your correspondence.



Dream Big Events November 2020

Have you shared the award-winning documentary *Dream Big: Engineering Our World* with the school that your children attend? Have you seen ASCE's greatest movie making achievement? Have you shared it with school aged young people? Throughout November you have a chance to do just that.

ASCE's movie *Dream Big* was created for large format movie screens or IMAX, but due to Covid 19 that is just not a viable way to share this stunningly beautiful film now. It has been three and a half years since the movie debuted and still many young people have not seen it, or they may have grown to an appropriate age to be impacted in the past three years.

Teachers doing remote learning are under great pressure to engage their students. This movie will captivate them. ASCE is also providing additional resources for teachers and students.

Public libraries and ASCE members across the country are invited to participate in an exciting virtual engineering experience this month of November called *Dream, Build, and Create*, an introduction to engineers and engineering for people of all ages, especially families and children. This inspirational program will offer people a free film screening of the award-winning documentary *Dream Big* on November 10, 14, 17, and 24. In addition to the film, ASCE is organizing several virtual panels in November where patrons can join live conversations with our Dream Teams of young, diverse engineers. Dream Teams will include Cities of the Future, Women in Engineering, Black Engineers, and even a Spanish-language Dream Team.

Dream Big will be available in English, Spanish, and closed-captioning. There are no set times on these dates—the passcode is good for 24 hours so people can view when it's convenient.

Get started now. Follow this link to ASCE.org ASCE Dream Big November 2020 to find out more. In addition to the free screenings of *Dream Big*, these panel discussions are scheduled so far:

- Women in Engineering, Tuesday, November 10, 12pm CST
- Cities of the Future, Tuesday, November 10, 6pm CST
- Black Engineers, Thursday, November 12, 4:30pm CST
- El Futuro se Disena, Thursday, November 19, 2pm CST
- Chats with Change Makers, Friday, November 20, 1pm CST
- Engineering Extravaganza, Tuesday, November 24, 3pm CST

Please get involved and share these great opportunities. If you have questions, contact Jeannine Finton at jfinton@asce.org



Congratulations 2020 ASCE Wisconsin Section Award Recipients and New Life Members!

Wisconsin Section Awards: Individual Award Winners Distinguished Service Award - Clark A. Wantoch, P.E., M.ASCE Executive Director at Wisconsin Concrete Pipe Association

Individual Merit Award for Engineer in Consulting Practice -Christopher A. Robb, P.E. Senior Principal Engineer at Geosyntec Consultants

Individual Merit Award for Engineer in Education - Dean John F. Katers, Ph.D., A.M.ASCE Dean, College of Science, Engineering, and Technology, University

of Wisconsin-Green Bay

Individual Merit Award for Engineer in Government Service -William S. Mohr, P.E., M.ASCE

Supervisor of Southeast Freeways at Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Wisconsin Young Civil Engineer of the Year Award - Jordan Adler, P.E., A.M.ASCE Transportation Engineer at GRAEF

Wisconsin Section Awards: Project Award Winner

Engineering Achievement Award - Category B - Ephraim WIS 42 Streetscape

Nominated by Kenneth E. Nelson, F.ASCE, P.E., Trustee, Village of Ephraim

Design Engineer: AECOM Technical Services, Inc. Consultants: Baudhuin Surveying & Engineering and Subsurface Exploration Services, LLC

Outstanding Senior Civil Engineering Student Award Recipients

Amanda Kaiser, S.M.ASCE - University of Wisconsin - Platteville Luke Royal, S.M.ASCE - University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee 2020 Wisconsin Section New Life Members Michael C. Felker, P.E., M.ASCE John Robert Genskow, P.E., M.ASCE Hans-Peter Huttelmaier, P.E., M.ASCE William F. Kralj, P.E., M.ASCE Susan Rasmussen, P.E., M.ASCE

New President, New Code of Ethics By: ASCE National

Jean-Louis Briaud of Texas is ASCE's new Society president, sworn in along with Dennis Truax as president-elect and five new board directors at the Annual Business Meeting. A new Code of Ethics, fully revised for the first time since 1974, was approved by the Board of Direction.

Meet the 2021 President and read the new Code of Ethics here.



In a way, my dream has come true. It is now my turn to help you make your dream come true, and I cannot think of better advice than to tell you to become a member or continue to be a member of ASCE, to get involved and to enjoy the company of your colleagues.

JEAN-LOUIS BRIAUD 2021 ASCE PRESIDENT

Efforts on Formation of Architectural Engineering Technical Committee Continue

By: Larry Buechel

The Wisconsin Section is continuing the process to formally establish an Architectural Engineering Technical Committee for its membership. At the Section Board of Directors meeting in September, the Board approved a proposal for formation of the technical committee within the Section, and approved draft modifications to its Constitution and Bylaws that are necessary to allow ASCE Institute-only members to join the Section's technical committees/institute chapters. Those proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws have been sent to the ASCE Governing Documents Committee for review and approval. Following receipt of that approval, those proposed

Constitution/Bylaws changes will be presented to the Section membership for review. It is hoped this process of establishing the Architectural Engineering Technical Committee will be completed by the end of 2020.

If you have interest in joining this Architectural Engineering Technical Committee, please email the Section at **wi.sec.asce@gmail.com**.

Introducing The Committee on Preparing the Future Civil Engineer and the Engineer Tomorrow Initiative

By: Ken Mika

There is an awareness among many that the knowledge base civil engineers must now acquire to keep up with the world's complexity and increasing regulatory and standards growth cannot be accomplished in a four-year baccalaureate degree. While mentored experience and on the job training is a significant contributor to enhancing knowledge, postgraduate education is typically required in order to meet several of the recommended outcomes in the Civil Engineering Body of Knowledge, third edition (CEBOK3). This advanced level of education may be obtained through a master's degree program or through alternative learning options. In either case, we, as a profession, must recognize that the future of the profession will require more education.

The ASCE Board of Direction (BOD) has approved the following definition of this issue:

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), as the acknowledged leader of the civil engineering profession, has a responsibility to establish and advance standards to fulfill its mission to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. This responsibility includes the establishment of a body of knowledge (BOK) to describe the minimum knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for the future professional practice of civil engineering. ASCE has determined there is a gap between the CEBOK and the current educational and experiential requirements for professional licensure in civil engineering. Additional education and relevant experience is required for the future civil engineer. Otherwise, civil engineering is at risk of losing relevance and its place as a learned profession.

To address the issues identified in this statement, the BOD designated a new committee, the "Committee on Preparing the Future Civil Engineer" (CPFCE). Encompassing the former Raise the Bar committee and its associated initiative, the new charge statement is "The Committee...shall advance the Society's educational qualifications and professional standards for the practice of civil engineering." This Committee's function is fully aligned with ASCE Goal No. 4 which states, "ASCE advances the educational and professional standards for civil engineers." The BOD has refreshed the efforts on the importance of all civil engineers striving to meet the outcomes of the CEBOK3 and to identify new pathways for future civil engineers to be recognized for the attainment of those outcomes. Among the specific tasks assigned to the CPFCE were updating Policy Statement 465, developing a new brand and creating a communications plan to inform the membership of this new direction. It is an exciting time of new energy being invested into this important effort, recently branded as "Engineer Tomorrow."

The Engineer Tomorrow initiative has an emphasis on early outreach to all student and younger members and, as well, to inform all membership levels. CPFCE members are available to speak with your group and to share the goals and benefits of the Engineer Tomorrow initiative.

Informed by the services of a marketing consultant, the CPFCE communications team finalized a formal communications plan in late 2019 to build awareness around the evolving initiative.

Within this plan, The CPFCE has identified the following objectives as essential to fulfilling its purpose:

- Increase awareness of the need for post-graduate education and mentored experience for CEs to fulfill the necessary body of knowledge
- Increase the percentage of CEs enrolling in post-graduate educational programs
- Underscore the positive impact of higher educational standards on the profession as a whole
- Empower individuals to take responsibility for the future of the CE profession
- Highlight the opportunities and successes of ASCE members with advanced education
- Prompt members with advanced degrees to mentor and encourage others to gain additional skills, knowledge, and education.

A task committee of CPFCE has also completed a robust evaluation of if and how professional certification could be used to acknowledge attainment of the CEBOK3. In 2019, the task committee presented an interim report to the BOD which included research on certification processes and programs offered in other fields and how aspects of these systems may be applied to credentialing within the civil engineering profession. The committee also reviewed the available certifications relevant to civil engineering practice, including those offered by ASCE via Civil Engineering Certification, Inc. (CEC) and by other organizations. Data gathered confirmed that no single existing certification is universally recognized as the qualifier of the appropriate knowledge, skills, and attitudes for the practice of civil engineering, including its specialty areas, at the professional level, and meeting the outcomes of the CEBOK3. The task committee has concluded that this may present an opportunity for ASCE to develop such a system, informed by the success of the medical profession's model. More recently, the task committee worked with a market research consultant to gather data from various stakeholders within the engineering industry related to the desirability, feasibility, and viability of a certification program. The results of this research are currently being evaluated and will be presented to the BOD before any decision is made on creating a certification program.

For more information on the Engineer Tomorrow initiative and to schedule a presentation to your group, please contact ASCE's Manager of Professional Advancement, Jennifer Hofmann at JHofmann@asce.org.

2020 ASCE Wisconsin Report Card Update By Jennifer Schaff and Ken Mika

The 2020 ASCE Wisconsin Report Card was released on September 15 through a virtual release event. If you were unable to attend the live event, you can watch the

event which was recorded and is stored on **the Section's YouTube page**. Approximately 130 people logged in on Zoom and many more were logged in through the FaceBook Live link. Approximately 20 individuals from various media groups around Wisconsin and Minnesota were in attendance; which the Report Card Committee was informed is a record for an ASCE state Report Card release. If you have not reviewed the Report Card, **it can be found here**.

Immediately following the release, the 2020 ASCE Wisconsin Infrastructure Report Card was being quoted in various television, radio, and print media and a few of our members were interviewed for the stories. Below is a list of where to find the various media articles.

- Broadcast
 - <u>KFAN 100.3 (Minneapolis/St. Paul) Dan Barriero Show Wisconsin</u> <u>Infrastructure Report Card - 9/18/2020</u>
 - <u>WISC (Madison) Wisconsin is underinvested in transit and roads –</u> <u>9/15/2020</u>
 - <u>WJFW (Northern Wisconsin) Infrastructure Report Card</u> <u>Released – 9/15/2020</u>
 - <u>WAOW (Wausau) Wisconsin's Infrastructure through the eyes of</u> <u>the American Society of Civil Engineers – 9/15/2020</u>
 - <u>KMPS (Minneapolis/St. Paul) Wisconsin Infrastructure Report</u> <u>Card Released – 9/15/2020</u>
 - <u>KBJR (Duluth) Wisconsin's Infrastructure could use</u> <u>improvements - 9/15/2020</u>
 - <u>KDLH (Duluth) 2020 Report Card Grades Wisconsin</u> <u>Infrastructure – 9/16/2020</u>
- Articles
 - <u>Wisconsin Public Radio A Look At The State Of Wisconsin's</u> <u>Infrastructure - 9/23/2020</u>
 - <u>A "C" Grade 9/15/2020</u>
 - <u>WHBY (Green Bay) Engineering group grades state's</u> <u>infrastructure - 9/15/2020</u>
 - WKBT (La Crosse) Wisconsin infrastructure gets a 'C' in new report card 9/15/2020
 - <u>WisBusiness Wisconsin earns a "C" on its 2020 Infrastructure</u> <u>Report Card – 9/15/2020</u>
 - <u>WAOW (Wausau) Wisconsin receives 'C' ranking on</u> <u>infrastructure report card – 9/15/2020</u>
 - <u>The Daily Reporter NOT MAKING THE GRADE: ASCE report</u> <u>card gives Wisconsin roads a 'D+' – 9/15/2020</u>
 - <u>Transport Topics Arizona, Wisconsin Earn C Grades on ASCE</u> <u>Report Card – 9/15/2020</u>
 - <u>WisBusiness Thursday AM Update 9/17/2020</u>

Most recently, the Report Card Committee reached out to Wisconsin's elected federal legislatures and have been conducting phone calls with their staff discussing the Report Card. All of the calls have gone very well and their staff have been very appreciative of our members' efforts.

Moving forward, our Report Card Committee is discussing ways to keep advocacy going with our Report Card, including possible drive-ins to Madison, phone calls to state officials, and opinion columns in print media. If you would like to participate in

future advocacy, please reach out to Jennifer and Ken.

Thank you again to all of our volunteers, assisting ASCE employees, Impact Association Management, and Platform Communications and all of our release event sponsors!

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2020 Wisconsin Report Card Release Event Silver Level Sponsors









2020 Wisconsin Report Card Release Event Bronze Level Sponsors





Get to Know

Matt Dahlem, PG 2020-2021 ASCE Wisconsin Section Secretary

Like most engineers and scientists, Matt has always had a deep seeded need to be able to comprehend

complex systems, how they work, and wrapping his head around mathematical and physical principles. Growing up, Matt used to gaze across Lake Wisconsin at the beautiful Baraboo Bluffs, and like many reading this, he found himself looking at the natural world around him and asking himself "why?" and "how?" He was told by many in the area that the Baraboo Bluffs were remnants of the rim of an ancient volcano and Devil's Lake filled in the extinct volcano's caldera. However, Matt's high school teacher told him that these explanations were completely false and in reality, the current landscape was the result of 1.85-billon years of sedimentation, lithification, subduction, metamorphism, folding, stress, strain, tensional/compressional forces, uplifting, tectonics, oceanic inundation, erosion, glaciation and weathering processes. This changed Matt's view not only on the physical world around him, but it taught him a good lesson in that one should rely on data and not opinions. This is what led to Matt's geological and engineering interests. After high school, Matt wanted to take his natural curiosity with the environment and geological principles and apply this scientific knowledge to practical use. This led him to earning his bachelor's degree in geology and then a master's degree in engineering from the University of Wisconsin, followed then by a second masters degree in geology from the University of Kentucky.



After college, Matt began his consulting career in Wisconsin focusing on contaminant hydrogeology, environmental engineering, and remediation projects. Today, Matt works for Fehr Graham Engineering & Environmental, a premier provider of engineering, environmental and funding solutions for commercial, industrial, institutional and government clients across the United States. Matt is the Branch Manager of the firm's Sheboygan, Wisconsin office. He focuses on redevelopment projects from initial site assessment through construction, with expertise in state

environmental regulations, site investigation and remediation, due diligence, risk reduction and environmental engineering design.

Personally, Matt and his family reside in the Township of Sheboygan, near Whistling Straits golf course by Lake Michigan. Matt is married to the love of his life, Erika, who herself is a Wisconsin Professional Soil Scientist and Senior Project Manager for GRS Group, focusing mainly on property risk mitigation. Matt and Erika have two sons, Luke and William, who love fishing, swimming and boat rides at their cottages in Lodi and Lakewood, WI. Matt is an avid outdoorsman who loves to hunt and fish but also loves Wisconsin sports, as he is a season ticket holder for the Packers and Badgers and partial season ticket holder for the Brewers.

Matt is active within the ASCE Wisconsin Section, having served as ASCE Wisconsin Section Director-at-Large from 2015-2019, he is the 2021 ASCE Wisconsin Section Spring Technical Conference Planning Committee Chair and he currently serves on the ASCE Wisconsin Section Board of Directors as Secretary.



Southeast Branch Update

The Southeast Branch board continues to meet virtually. Planning is underway for

future monthly member meetings via Zoom. We've seen excellent participation in our virtual meetings, but we can't wait to get back to in-person networking and social events when the time is right!

Southeast Branch scholarships

The Southeast Branch is seeking nominations for our annual scholarships to be awarded to Civil Engineering students from UW-Milwaukee, Marquette, and MSOE. Information and the application form can be found at <u>https://www.ascewise.org/scholarships/</u>.

STEM Expo

The YMG is tentatively planning the STEM Expo for Spring 2021. Stay tuned for more information!



Membership at a Glance

Total WI section members: 1,841 Affiliate: 59 Assoc: 338 Distinguished: 6 Fellow: 56 Member: 1,057 Student: 325 New Members (since last newsletter): 34

ASCE Board Rescinds Proposed Life Member Changes

The following letter was provided by Darrell Berry. This letter was emailed to all ASCE Life Members on November 3rd. Along with other Life Members, Darrell provided his comments to the Society regarding the proposed changes to Life Member criteria and fees; and was happy to learn of the decision that the Society made!

"Following our previous correspondence, many of you shared your concerns regarding proposed changes to ASCE Life Member criteria and fees. We are pleased to report that at its October meeting, the board voted to make no changes to current Life Member criteria or fees and to keep them exactly as they have been in recent years.

We appreciate the heartfelt comments we received from many of you. As promised, every one of your comments was shared with the board in their entirety prior to our meeting on October 26 and 27. Board members were profoundly moved, as were we, by how meaningful your membership in ASCE has been to you throughout your long careers.

The board was sincerely appreciative of your contributions to the Society and profession and welcomes your continued input and engagement. The board also encouraged all of our Life Members to continue to give back to our profession and Society by engaging as a Mentor in ASCE's Mentoring Program, participating in and supporting Student and Younger Member programs, recruiting new members, contributing to the ASCE Foundation which funds key programs for the Society and profession, and participating in many other ASCE activities and initiatives.

Thank you for taking the time to send us your comments, and for your continued membership and support of our Society and profession."





The 2019-2020 ASCE Wisconsin Section

Yearbook

was released in September! Download a copy here.

ASCE Wisconsin Section 2020-2021 Board of Directors

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Branch Director, Fox River Valley Branch Brad Severson, P.E. raSmith Brad.Severson@rasmith.com





ASCE Collaborate is a place to get advice about a project, talk shop, and discuss topics

relating to our profession. You may know there are five forums for ASCE members, but did you know the Wisconsin Section has its own<u>online community</u> for you to connect with other engineers in the Section? I encourage you to visit the community and introduce yourself by clicking the "add" button in the discussion header.

ASCE Collaborate also allows you to

Find other ASCE Members using the exclusive<u>ASCE Member Directory</u>.

Find or become a<u>mentor</u>to accelerate your career development or guide others from your experience.

Have questions? Visit the <u>New User</u>page.

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