Exploring the Impact of Joining a Construction Honor Society

Fan Zhang, Ph.D. and Daniel Evans
University of Southern Mississippi
Hattiesburg, MS

Sigma Lambda Chi (SLC) International Construction Honor Society is the only student honor society in the field of Construction. Having a construction honor society in the Construction Management program is a great way to boost students’ morality and pride. It is considered to be prestigious to join the honor society. However, no measurable results have been published regarding the benefits of joining an honor society in construction. Also, it is a challenge for an online 4-year construction program to induct online students who are eligible and willing to join. According to SLC International officers, online students’ induction has never been done before. This research study is developed to meet three purposes: 1) to establish a procedure for online students to join SLC; 2) to measure how joining a construction honor society can benefit students; 3) to measure how joining a construction honor society as industry honorary members can impact the industry professionals, the students, and the academic program.

A survey will be developed to measure how SLC helps students. Interviews will be conducted to get industry honorary members’ and faculty members’ feedback. The procedure for online students’ induction was discussed among faculty and chapter officers. It is evaluated and re-established based on the experience and lessons learned. The survey and interviews have not been deployed. The procedure for online students’ induction was established. It is similar to the procedure for face-to-face students, but online students don’t have to attend the information meeting in person. However, they need to physically come to campus to be inducted, but not necessarily during the annual induction ceremony time period. A short ceremony will be performed for them when they are on-campus.

This research study explores the impact of being a member of a construction honor society and also establishes a procedure for online students’ induction. It will serve as guidance for other construction programs who are considering starting a student honor society, especially for those programs with online students.

Keywords: Construction Honor Society, Sigma Lambda Chi, Online students, Industry Honorary Members