



## NASCC Direct Connect Session

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### Advice for Emerging Structural Engineers:

While you're still in school

- Attend structural engineering seminars by your local ASCE chapter – They are often free/cheap for students and a great way to network with structural engineers in your area. Interviews are much easier if you are not meeting everyone for the first time.
- Get as much exposure as you can to ASCE 7, analysis/design software, and modeling/drafting software. This can really set you apart from your peers.

As a Structural Engineer-In-Training

- Try to gain as varied of experiences as possible at your firm, both in terms of structural systems and project types. This will help you discover what parts of structural engineering you enjoy the most and provide a solid base for your PE/SE exams.
- Understand the foundation of every design spreadsheet or computer program you use. Use simple hand calcs to ensure the results make sense.
- Think about how it will be put together – drawing it to scale will help. Consider connections before and during member/frame analysis, not just after.
- Keep it simple. This will often help constructability and your design budget.
- Grammar matters. Always. Even with e-mails.

In the Structural Engineering Office

- Watch and listen how senior engineers interact with clients and other engineers – you might learn a new approach to a situation
- Have fun; be passionate about what you do.

Interacting with your Client

- Listen.
- Try to look outside what the client has asked you to do and understand what their goals are, both for this project and beyond.
- At a meeting, if you don't know the answer to a question, it's ok to say that you will look into it back at the office, but do so and provide a response as soon as possible.
- Be interesting, be somebody the client wants to spend time with.