

Alumni Meeting 4/19/16

Meeting Recap for Alumni Website

Welcome new Alumni members!! This year holds many exciting changes in the growth of our EAST Alumni Association. Some of our future plans include: updating our database to better connect Alumni to one another and our local programs through a mentor pairing system, guest speakers at regular monthly meetings, learning opportunities (including Alumni seats in Student Technical Training sessions), holding networking events, and continuing our regular monthly meetings both in Little Rock and pilot chapter locations. The following recap of our April meeting will help outline our plans and provide opportunities for your participation.

Our April meeting was attended both in person and through Google Hangouts. We revisited the Alumni participation in **EAST Conference 2016**. 32 Alumni preregistered for the event and approximately 15 were able to attend. Alumni volunteered as Program Showcase Judges, Booth Judges, Breakout Session presenters, General Session speakers, and in other miscellaneous roles like manning the Alumni booth which provided information and registration opportunities for graduating seniors. This year, some of our Alumni were treated to complimentary hotel rooms thanks to donations supporting the organization. Working alongside and supplementing EAST Initiative staff roles, helped to provide a high quality event for current students in celebrating 20 years of EAST!

Moving into current and future planning for Alumni, we next discussed our plans to create an **Alumni-EAST program mentoring system**. Suggestions are needed for naming the request for Alumni assistance. Requests will be submitted in a similar fashion to TSG Help Tickets and will be used to pair Alumni with EAST programs in their area according to specialty need. These will be short term pairings which may include Alumni serving as a guest speaker, an expert in a particular career field, or assisting with technical support issues to name a few examples. If you have a suggestion for a tag name, please send these to rinda@eaststaff.org.

In our efforts to grow services offered to Alumni, we will begin hosting **Guest Speakers** at each monthly meeting. Alumni have requested topics such as: resume writing and interviewing skills, workplace interactions, making the transition from the classroom to college to the workplace, and using your EAST skills in non-tech careers to name a few. Our May meeting will feature **Spencer Watson, Communications Director for EAST Initiative**. Spencer will share social media usage tips for Alumni growth and promotion. He will also provide some advice to using your social media to cultivate employment opportunities and networking. In addition, as **EAST Student Technical Training** sessions begin this fall, we will now have 2 Alumni seats available during select trainings. Watch for session announcements in early September and use this free training to gain new skills which might propel your current career!

Plans are being made and tickets are available for our **Alumni Networking Night with the Travs!** Several of our Alumni have volunteered to serve in the following roles: Greeters - Jacob Brown & Tiffany Earnhart, Photography - Kyla Thompson (OK), Will Call Tickets - Rinda Hall & Jessica Dunham. In addition to Alumni, the EAST Board of Directors and EAST Initiative staff have been invited to attend and will add to the fun and networking opportunities. This is a great time for you to reconnect with old friends and make new ones as we welcome new Alumni members and enjoy each other's company on **Saturday, June 4 at Dickey Stephens Park.** Enjoy the all-you-can-eat-buffet of burgers, hot dogs, and sides from 6:10-8:10 PM. The game begins at 7:10 PM. Tickets for EAST Alumni and guests are \$7 per person. The ticket price includes entrance to the game, food and beverage, and a chance to win door prizes. [Tickets can be purchased online at EventBrite.com through Thursday, May 19.](#) Be sure to purchase your ticket(s) to attend prior to May 19!! Reach out to your old friends and help spread the word through social media by sharing the invitation!

In addition to our June 4 Alumni Networking Night with the Travs, the following dates and locations have been set (make plans to attend a meeting/event near you!):

Tuesday, May 17 - Regular Meeting, EAST Initiative, 6215 Ranch Dr, Little Rock (6 pm)

Saturday, June 4 - Alumni Networking Night with the Travs

Tuesday, June 21 - Regular Meeting, EAST Initiative, 6215 Ranch Dr, Little Rock (6 pm)

Tuesday, July 19 - Regular Meeting, Fayetteville (location TBA)

Tuesday, Aug 16 - Regular Meeting, EAST Initiative, 6215 Ranch Dr, Little Rock (6 pm)

Tuesday, Sept 20 - Regular Meeting, EAST Initiative, 6215 Ranch Dr, Little Rock (6 pm)

Tuesday, Oct 18 - EAST Night Out - attend an event close to you!

Tuesday, Nov 15 - Regular Meeting, EAST Initiative, 6215 Ranch Dr, Little Rock (6 pm)

We hope to see you on Tuesday at 6:00!