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Dear Professor,

I'm writing to you as the faculty advisor for your bridge team. Please share the information below as you see fit.

With respect and regret, I have decided to end our partnership with ASCE for the *Student Steel Bridge Competition*. AISC, in coordination with our many professional, industry, and academic volunteers, will conduct all aspects of the 2019 *Student Steel Bridge Competition* without ASCE involvement, including regional *Competitions*.

We appreciate the partnership we have had with ASCE, and that it has benefited all of the students who have participated in the *Competition*. We extend our sincere thanks to Leslie Payne, Carol Bowers, Ping Wei, Jim O'Brien, and the many others who were involved in it over the years at ASCE.

Your needs as students, advisors, and schools are of paramount importance, and we are focusing the ongoing *Competition* on giving you a better experience. AISC will continue to support you and build the *Student Steel Bridge Competition* as a fun, meaningful, and rewarding activity for you.

Attached is a summary that includes answers to the questions we've received to date. We hope you find it helpful and that it answers questions you may have. If you have any other questions, please ask -- we will add to this compilation as appropriate as you do.

Thank you, and we hope to see you at the 2019 AISC National *Student Steel Bridge Competition*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles J. Carter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Charles" being the most prominent part.

Charles J. Carter, S.E., P.E., Ph.D.  
President



## **2019 AISC Student Steel Bridge Competition Q&A**

Here are answers to the questions we've received to date. We hope you find it helpful and that it answers questions you may have. If you have any other questions, please ask -- we will add to this compilation as appropriate as you do. You can contact Christina Harber, AISC Director of Education ([harber@aisc.org](mailto:harber@aisc.org); 312.670.8312) or Maria Mnookin, AISC Education Program Manager ([mnookin@aisc.org](mailto:mnookin@aisc.org); 312.670.5418).

The most current version of this Q&A is available at [www.aisc.org/nssbc](http://www.aisc.org/nssbc).

### **Is the Student Steel Bridge Competition still happening in 2019?**

Yes. The AISC *Student Steel Bridge Competition* is alive and well, and we intend to continue to grow and improve it. Rules will be issued in August as expected, and all colleges and universities in the U.S. and U.S. territories with an engineering or engineering technology program are invited to participate. AISC will support and help to coordinate regional *Competitions* as desired by the host schools. All you need to participate is a student team and a faculty advisor. The team can be an ASCE student chapter, a club, or just a group of students with a faculty advisor.

### **Are AISC and ASCE both still partners in the Student Steel Bridge Competition?**

No. With respect and appreciation for our many years together as partners, AISC decided to separate from ASCE because differences in our organizational goals grew to become fundamentally incompatible.

### **What differences caused AISC to separate from ASCE?**

There are two main differences that we've discussed between us for several years:

1. AISC has a domestic focus while ASCE has international growth goals.
2. AISC prefers fewer eligibility restrictions while ASCE desires to increase ASCE Chapter requirements in order to qualify to participate.

These differences are not new and were small at first but have both grown with time. They have been discussed progressively for many years and previously we found common ground. We didn't find common ground this time.

### **Did AISC and ASCE attempt to resolve these differences?**

Yes. When ASCE informed AISC in May 2018 that they had made changes to their eligibility criteria and would like to expand international participation, AISC responded that such changes

were not agreeable. We actively discussed possible solutions for the two months between then and August 2018. Multiple compromise proposals were put on the table, but none were found acceptable to both AISC and ASCE.

**Why must this separation take place now?**

The annual calendar of events requires the start of activities for the 2019 *Competition* in August of 2018. With no other option left on the table, AISC informed ASCE of our decision.

**Did AISC separate because of a vote taken by its Board of Directors?**

No. This has been claimed but is not correct; there was no such vote. The AISC Board was updated on the state of the disagreement between AISC and ASCE. They confirmed that the decisions were for AISC staff to make. Thereafter, AISC staff made the decision to inform ASCE we would separate.

**Has AISC decided to include only U.S. schools in the AISC *Student Steel Bridge Competition*?**

Yes. AISC is funded by the domestic steel industry in the U.S. and focuses on the domestic industry, design community, and academia. While we were comfortable in the past subsidizing limited non-domestic participation to accommodate the needs and wishes of ASCE as our partner, we now must return to the domestic focus of our mission as we move forward on our own. Schools located in the U.S. and U.S. territories with an engineering or engineering technology program are all welcome to compete in the AISC *Student Steel Bridge Competition*.

**What are AISC's goals for the bridge teams?**

We want a simple *Competition* that's fun, meaningful, and rewarding. We want to give you the rare opportunity to design, build, and test a structure and to experience teamwork, project planning, leadership, and project management from conception through construction. We'll keep the process simple, provide practical value, and focus on you and the *Competition*.

**What are AISC's goals for the regional *Competitions*?**

We believe the regional *Competitions* should be just that: groups of nearby schools where the gathering can help foster current and future professional relationships.

**What are AISC's goals for the national *Competition*?**

We want the national *Competition* to parallel the regionals with the top-performing bridge teams in each regional *Competition* meeting.

**What is AISC doing for the international schools who are affected by this decision?**

In Canada, the Canadian Institute of Steel Construction (CISC) already operates a parallel national competition in Canada. We have offered to share our rules and help them if they desire our assistance. In Mexico, we also have offered to assist the Instituto Mexicano de la Construcción en Acero (IMCA) to establish a national competition in Mexico. In any other

country, AISC is happy to work with its equivalent organization in that country to help them create a competition in their country.

**Are domestic ASCE student chapters still welcome to participate?**

Yes. AISC welcomes all domestic ASCE student chapters to participate in the AISC *Student Steel Bridge Competition*. This affiliation is not required, however, and bridge teams can be created separately from ASCE student chapter activities. It's up to you.

**Can a regional *Competition* be hosted in conjunction with a domestic ASCE regional conference?**

Yes. AISC welcomes any domestic host school that wishes to hold their regional *Competition* as an independent event in conjunction with their ASCE regional student event weekend. This is not required, however, and it can be held as a standalone event on a different date. It's up to the host.

**Does AISC provide insurance for the regional and national competitions?**

Yes, AISC has both a General Liability and Umbrella coverage for all of the regional and national events.

**How do we participate in the 2019 AISC *Student Steel Bridge Competition*?**

All information related to the 2019 AISC *Student Steel Bridge Competition* can be found at [www.aisc.org/nssbc](http://www.aisc.org/nssbc). Any updates also will be posted there as well.

**What's a basic snapshot of the new process?**

There are no significant changes to the format of the *Competition* and the new process is largely similar to the old process. Following is a snapshot of the basics:

- Obtain the 2019 Rules (to be released in August) and start designing your bridge!
- Register your team by December 31.
- All schools in the U.S. and U.S. territories with an engineering or engineering technology program are eligible to participate.
- A faculty advisor is required.
- Requirements and the registration form can be found on AISC website.

**What are AISC's eligibility requirements for participation?**

You must represent a school in the U.S. or U.S. territories with an engineering or engineering technology program to be eligible to participate. You also must have a faculty advisor. That's it.

**How will the regional *Competitions* work?**

You will participate in regional *Competitions* organized by a host school and AISC. Regional divisions will remain the same as the U.S. ASCE conferences. Exceptions may be made for new schools and special cases. Dates and locations of regional *Competitions* will be posted on the AISC website. Some regional *Competitions* may be held concurrently with the ASCE

conference as an independent event. Schools participating at a regional *Competition* will receive at least \$250 funding from AISC.

**How will the national *Competition* work?**

The 2019 AISC National *Student Steel Bridge Competition* will be hosted by the University of Texas at El Paso, May 24-25, 2019. The highest-scoring teams at regionals will qualify for the national *Competition*. Schools participating at the national *Competition* will receive at least \$500 funding from AISC.

**Can AISC help us make connection to our local steel industry to help us?**

Yes. AISC will help you connect to a local steel fabricator, if you need our help.

**Can AISC help us in other ways?**

Yes. Tell us what you need and we'll do whatever we can. Please contact Christina Harber, AISC Director of Education ([harber@aisc.org](mailto:harber@aisc.org); 312.670.8312) or Maria Mnookin, AISC Education Program Manager ([mnookin@aisc.org](mailto:mnookin@aisc.org); 312.670.5418).