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Dear %%IMIS||NAME||FIRST_NAME%%,

- ❖ [Letter from Headquarters](#)
- ❖ [IIDA 7th Annual Student...](#)
- ❖ [IIDA Membership: What's...](#)
- ❖ [Blog Give-Away!](#)
- ❖ [IIDA Student Task Force](#)
- ❖ [Campus Center...](#)

Welcome to another issue of *Custom*, your IIDA student e-newsletter. This issue is packed with helpful information, program announcements including a webinar event from the NCIDQ, a give-away program for [our blog](#) and an insightful interview with **Matt Thompson, Associate IIDA**, on how you can take your IIDA membership one step further.

For those of you wondering what you can do now to become an IIDA student leader, consider starting a [Campus Center](#) for your college or university. Also, in order to ensure you will continue to receive all of your Member Benefits again this school year, make sure to renew your membership now by [clicking here](#).

Finally, I will be your point person here at IIDA Headquarters. I am always happy to help you start a Campus Center, listen to your feedback and provide general student support. You can find my contact information below.

I hope you continue to have a successful school year!

Sincerely,
Christa Koskosky

Coordinator, Student Marketing Affairs
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7th Annual IIDA Student Mentoring Week



IIDA is currently accepting applications for the 7th Annual IIDA Student Mentoring Week. [Click here to download your application.](#)

Student Mentoring Week provides IIDA Student Members the opportunity to shadow a professional in their design area of interest for one day during the week of February 2-6th. Student Members are also invited to apply for the [Lloy Hack Memorial Fund](#) scholarship, which will award the winning student and the winning student's mentor's firm with \$1000.

Please note that applicants are paired on a first come, first served basis. This remains one of our most popular student events, so please turn in your application as soon as possible. Also, **only completed applications will be considered.** We look forward to receiving your application!

IIDA Membership: What's Next?



You are gearing up to graduate and want to know what you can do with your IIDA associate membership and how you can take a leadership role within your Chapter or City Center.

Matt Thompson, **Associate IIDA** and [NBBJ](#) Designer took some time to discuss how he transitioned from IIDA Student Member to Associate IIDA and how he has taken a seat on the [Northern Pacific's Chapter Board](#) as Vice President of Campus Centers.



How did your student involvement in IIDA help shape you as a professional?

My first real experience with IIDA was the Student Mentoring Week. I said "what the heck?", signed up and got paired with a great designer from NBBJ (someone who is now my peer). We hit it off on the first day,

and I ended up going back to her for feedback on projects and competitions. One day she called me asking for my portfolio, and the next thing I knew I had an offer letter for a summer internship. That was two and a half years ago and I never left.

Did your involvement in IIDA help you transition from school to the “real world?” If so, how did your membership help you? If not, why not?

My situation was a little different, my membership and involvement with IIDA totally affected my transition from school to real world. I had been working for almost 2 years at NBBJ when I graduated. I had my last final on a Wednesday night and the next day I was a full time designer. Yes, my involvement with IIDA helped.

As a professional, do you feel students value different programs/outreach than you did when you were a student?

Definitely not, students then and now value programs that get them connected to professionals. Campus Center events in our Chapter *always* have at least one professional present, not counting the Directors, or myself. By giving the students a chance to interact with professionals at the events, it helps them become more comfortable speaking with people in their field, which in turn helps with interviewing down the road.

What made you want to take a leadership role as Vice President of Campus Centers on the Northern Pacific Chapter Board?

My mentor at NBBJ was the Campus Center Director, she suggested I become the liaison for my school, that led to me becoming Student Treasure, and then Student President, and now Vice President of Campus Centers. Along the way I had experienced the value of Campus Centers from a student point of view and wanted to make sure that value continued and grew for future students.

How would you encourage other students to get involved in their Chapter/City Center after graduation?

Why wait until they graduate? A lot of students in our Chapter start their involvement in the Chapter/City Center while they are in school. They volunteer at events-which normally gets them in for free-they come to Campus Center events, they go to CEU's...bottom line: they don't wait.

I can't say it enough, networking *now* will help when you graduate, networking after you graduate will continue to help you!!

IIDA Celebrates One Year In New Office!

Visit our blog to share in our excitement of celebrating our one year anniversary of working in our LEED Gold office. As a thank you to those of you who visit and post a comment, **one person will be selected at random to receive a student prize!** [Click here to visit our blog.](#)

IIDA Student Task Force 2008-2009

The IIDA Student Task Force for the 2008-2009 school year has just been established. Please welcome the following members: **Michelle Carroll, Student IIDA, Diane Schuster, Student IIDA, Jenna Lychako, Student IIDA, Andrea Reordan, Student IIDA, Alison Keohane, Student IIDA** and **Rand DeCastro, Student IIDA**. These students will serve as members of the task force for this school year and give valuable insight into their student membership experience. [Click here to get to know our members better.](#)

Ringling College of Art & Design: Peer to Peer Mentoring



Ringling upperclassmen recently coordinated a peer to peer mentoring day as an opportunity for both upperclassmen and underclassmen to become better acclimated to one another. This day has positioned upperclassmen as another resource freshmen and sophomores can utilize in regards to questions about lab equipment and software. This program began in the spring of last year, and the students hope this can become an annual event.

Northern Pacific Campus Centers: Design Bowl

The Inland Northwest City Center (Northern Pacific Chapter) invites you to a night of cosmic bowling for their first "Designer Bowl" membership drive and social on November 11th from 6-9 p.m. The event will take place at Big Daddy's, 3023 E. 28th Ave., Spokane, WA. *RSVPs are required for this event. [RSVP by clicking here.](#) This is a free event to IIDA Members, non-members and students!*

IADT-Tampa Announces 2nd Annual Design for a Cure



The International Academy of Design in Tampa announces its second annual Design for a Cure event, which benefits a local charity. Last year, students designed themed furniture which was then auctioned off to the highest bidder. Proceeds benefited the St. Joseph's Children's Hospital of Tampa. This year's event will be held December 2nd. Contact Elaine Domingo for more information at edomingo@academy.edu.

NCIDQ: Your Journey to Professionalism

Want to steer your career in the right direction? No need to travel anywhere to plot your course. All you need is a keyboard and you're ready to navigate! NCIDQ offers an informative presentation called Your Journey to Professionalism that helps to answer all of your questions, supplying you with just the right coordinates to plot your interior design career course. In fact, the presentation has become so popular that we're not only taking it on the road, but we're also bringing it straight to your office or home! [Click here for more information on this offer.](#)

Campus Centers 2008-2009

Below is a list of the Campus Centers that have renewed for this school year. If you feel your school should be on this list, or if you are interested in beginning your own Campus Center, please contact me, Christa Koskosky, at ckoskosky@iida.org

Arizona State University
The Art Institute of Atlanta
The Art Institute of Colorado
The Art Institute of Dallas
The Art Institute of Phoenix
The Art Institute of Pittsburgh
Art Center Tuscon
Auburn University
California College of the Arts
College for Creative Studies
Colorado State University
Columbia College-Chicago
Florida Community College
Florida State University
Gwinnett Technical College
IADT-Chicago
IADT-Orlando
IADT-Tampa
Illinois State University
Iowa State University

James Madison University
Johnson County Community College
Kean University
Kent State University
LDS Business College
Louisiana State University
Mesa Community College
Northern Pacific Campus Centers
The New England Institute of Art
Oklahoma State University
Oregon State University (Portland Metro)
Park University
Pittsburg State University
Purdue University
Ringling College of Art and Design
Salt Lake Community College
San Jose State University
St. Louis Community College
Texas Tech. University
UC Berkeley Extension
University of Florida
University of Oklahoma
University of Texas-Arlington
University of Texas-Austin
University of Texas-San Antonio
University of Texas-San Marcos
Utah State University
West Valley College
Wisconsin Regional Campus Centers

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