

FRIEDMAN FAMILY VISITING PROFESSIONALS PROGRAM

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Virtual Visit Best Practices



A program of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute

Best Practices for putting on a great Virtual FFVP Visit

- Start planning early so everyone can get activities on their calendars.
- Spread out activities over a few days to avoid virtual meeting fatigue.
- Include a variety of activities, both formal and informal. Some of the best conversations happen in informal settings.
- Use a video conferencing service you are familiar with (Zoom, Microsoft Teams, etc.). Be sure to allow your professional to share their screen while presenting their lecture.
- Advertise! Spread the word through email newsletters, social media, and Slack. Even give a quick announcement during one of your classes.

Sample Virtual Visit Agendas

TIME:	ACTIVITY:
12:00 PM – 12:50 PM	Lunch chat with Stanford EERI student chapter officers
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Careers panel discussion with David Cocke and three other industry professionals
2:05 PM – 3:00 PM	One-on-one meetings and mock interviews with David Cocke
4:00 PM – 5:30 PM	Guest lecture by Visiting Professional

TIME:	ACTIVITY:
12:00 PM – 12:45 PM	Meet the Friedman Family Visiting Professional (FFVP)
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Seminar from David A. Friedman
2:00 PM – 2:30 PM	Discussion with the Speaker: Highlights & In-Depth Discussion of Projects from the Seminar
2:45 PM – 3:30 PM	Student Presentations to the Speaker
3:30 PM – 4:00 PM	FFVP Wrap-Up with David

Ideas for Additional Activities

Beyond just having your visiting professional give their lecture, consider having a few of the following activities:

- Lecture Q&A
- Informal chats over lunch
- Career Discussions
- Mock Interviews
- Student Research Presentations
- Meeting with university's Seismic Design Competition team
- Meetings with student chapter officers, graduate students, or faculty

Sample Career Discussion Questions

- As a student who is seeking to enter industry soon, it is easy to apply to big name companies and take whatever offer is available especially during a pandemic. What factors do you see as essential when finding “the first job”?
- How do you see the industry evolving in the next few years and what do you think engineers like ourselves should be doing to stay ahead of the curve?
- Has there been any shift to embrace and/or value above-code standards: (i.e continued post-disaster operation) during the pandemic?
- As policymakers begin laying out the recovery-based objectives in the NIST-FEMA report over the next decade, do you think this will become a trend on its own or will it need a federal/state level mandate?
- In response to the changing environmental demands, how has the industry shifted in the sector of sustainable design? How can the preservation/retrofit of historic buildings incorporate LEED or other sustainable practices in design or construction?
- What soft skills do you notice in applicants during interviews/new hires that stand out?
- Many students in the program will soon be making the transition from graduate school to professional practice. What advice would you give your old self going through that transition if you were to do it this year?
- What are the benefits of being involved in EERI, SEAONC, or other organizations as a young professional and what are the best ways for students and young professionals to get involved in these groups?
- What is the transition like to go from design to project management? What are some strategies to stay involved in projects from a managerial level?
- What prompted you to start your own engineering firms? What challenges did you face when you were starting your company and what tips would you give to engineers who want to start their own companies in the future?
- Have any of you worked in academia or considered working in academia? What made you decide to go into industry instead?

Thank you Stanford University for these great questions!

