

Executive Summary

Society of Developing Directors

Introduction

The Society of Developing Directors was first proposed by Group B of the 2022-2023 Class of the National Emerging Leaders Program. The National Funeral Directors Association's strategic plan acted as the writing prompt for the program's members to generate ideas which spawned "ambitious change". This prompt was the seed in which grew into the idea of a 35 and younger organization in which students, interns, and licensees could connect, while simultaneously gaining interest in lifelong leadership, learning, and NFDA membership. Ultimately, our vision is to see NFDA embrace this society as a partnership.

Mission Statement

The Society of Developing Directors empowers funeral service professionals who are 35 years of age or younger to foster collaborative thinking to drive professional innovation, while also driving the mission of NFDA. We believe that we should act as a community and use tools to inspire lifelong involvement in funeral service. We are dedicated to keeping the excitement about being in the profession and helping it evolve.

Leadership

The Society of Developing Directors will consist of a five-person executive committee. Each member serving a one-year term. The fifth member of this committee would be an individual associated with an accredited mortuary school.

Partnership

By partnering with valuable faculty within mortuary schools across the country, we raise awareness of a society that embraces students and fosters interest in involvement. Sub-committees, such as a student advisory committee to the Executive Committee, and other student sub-committees that align with our initiatives will be further discussed to increase student engagement.

Key Benefits

Ability to post profile and resume including willingness to relocate for potential NFDA member employers to see. This benefit is for all members but will be mostly focusing on students. NFDA member firms can get to this list and reach out to qualified candidates. Our goal is to become the premier organization for professionals under the age of 35 that can come together and learn about being involved in funeral service. This society creates a credible source for content and support for one another. Also giving members the opportunity to speak out about topics they'd like to hear and give an opportunity for them to present and teach.

Conclusion

Few, if any, organizations bridge the gap between the younger generation and the older. With a collaborative effort with NFDA, we could ensure membership for years to come. We will become a credible source for education on the funeral profession, as legitimate sources for information are challenged every day. This allows a factual perspective to what it takes to be a lifelong member of funeral service. This new concept also presents the opportunity to secure lifelong membership to the NFDA, ultimately fostering the association's future. Creating a new network of involved young professionals is the vision of this society and kindling inspiration to be the bright future of the funeral profession.