

## SACNAS Chapter Discussion

The following questions were submitted for the SACNAS Chapters Townhall held in April 2025.

This document is subject to change. Last updated 06/05/25.

Submitted Question	Answer	Action and Resources
<b>IMPACT</b>		
<b>How will the changes laid out by the current administration impact SACNAS/SACNISTA members in the next few years?</b>	<p>SACNAS remains committed to our mission and members. While the organization is focused on learning and adjusting to new administration priorities including executive orders that impact all our members and partners, we are steadfast in our mission to:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Foster the success of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans, from college students to professionals, in attaining advanced degrees, careers, and positions of leadership in STEM. Everyone is welcome to become a SACNAS member.</p> <p>To advance our mission, SACNAS has a strategic plan that keeps us grounded and focused on three priorities: (1) Growth (2) Impact and (3) Influence. To continue our progress toward these goals, we are adjusting to the loss of government support and collaboration including funding, expert presenting research, exhibiting for recruitment of opportunities, and mentoring. The primary impact on the organization currently means it is more critical than ever to expand partnerships and collaborations beyond non-government sources. As individual members and chapters, you can help by maintaining your membership to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Help SACNAS demonstrate to partners the impact of our membership community – the more members, the better!</li> <li>- Support the organization with your dues</li> <li>- Ensure your members continue to receive news and benefits from SACNAS</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACTION:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain your membership and encourage your chapter members to join/renew membership too (<a href="#">here</a>), to remain connected to updates and continue accessing year-round benefits and services.</li> <li>• Invite professionals that support your chapter to sponsor your membership (<a href="#">here</a>) and/or become a member themselves (<a href="#">here</a>) - upgraded professional members have the option to select a chapter to receive a portion of their dues.</li> </ul> <p><b>SACNAS Membership:</b>  <a href="http://www.sacnas.org/memberships">www.sacnas.org/memberships</a></p> <p><b>SACNAS Strategic Plan:</b>  <a href="https://www.sacnas.org/strategic-plan">https://www.sacnas.org/strategic-plan</a></p>
<b>What is SACNAS doing for funding and what does the leadership see as the future of SACNAS for the next 4-5 years? Will there be changes?</b>	<p>Like other organizations, SACNAS cannot depend on government funding; therefore, we are seeking new non-government funding opportunities. We continue to strengthen current partnerships and develop new partnerships.</p> <p>We need more SACNAS members and individuals to donate to SACNAS. Every dollar helps. Our Giving Campaigns focus on supporting all students, programs, and services.</p>	<p><b>ACTION:</b></p> <p>Donate any amount to SACNAS, and/or help amplify our fundraising efforts. With many traditional sources of funding, including grants, being reduced in spending, our ability to send students to NDiSTEM is increasingly</p>

## SACNAS Chapter Discussion

	As for the future, the SACNAS Board of Directors will begin discussing a new five-year strategic plan for 2027-2031.	dependent on the generosity of individuals like you.  <b>Donate:</b> <a href="https://connect.clickandpledge.com/w/Form/64fa46a6-595b-451a-a9bc-ba698300fe0">https://connect.clickandpledge.com/w/Form/64fa46a6-595b-451a-a9bc-ba698300fe0</a>
<b>Do we need to change the language (ex. DEI) on our websites/ads?</b>	<p>As a non-profit organization, SACNAS is not required to change our language (website, logo, etc). Our primary focus is to continue reaching and supporting members. To that end, we are adjusting language to minimize potential impacts to members and our community including government, academia, industry, and nonprofit partners.</p> <p>Chapters can continue to emphasize that SACNAS is an inclusive organization - all are welcome to join us as a member and join their local chapter. Our name is a testament to our founding (<a href="#">see here</a>), and since 1973 we've grown to be the largest multicultural and multidisciplinary STEM event in the country. All are welcome to be "SACNISTAs".</p>	<b>SACNAS FAQ:</b> <a href="https://www.sacnas.org/memberships#faq">https://www.sacnas.org/memberships#faq</a>
<b>NDiSTEM CONFERENCE</b>		
<b>Will the conference be affected?</b>	<p>Yes, we will be impacted. Currently, (1) there will be no government presence including exhibiting, presenting, and mentoring. (2) With many traditional sources of funding, including grants, being reduced in spending, our ability to send students to NDiSTEM is increasingly dependent on the generosity of individuals and members (<a href="#">donate here</a>).</p> <p>We are committed to hosting the best NDiSTEM Conference in Columbus, Ohio to bring our community together. We need to be in community to learn, support, and celebrate. As always, members continue to receive a \$100 discount on registration and chapters are encouraged to (1) seek external funding support, and (2) register as early as possible to maximize their funds and send as many students as possible to NDiSTEM.</p> <p>A great way to secure funding for your participation in NDiSTEM is to present. Keep an eye out for the following opportunities to share your research at NDiSTEM including STEM symposia (for professionals) and research presentations (for students and postdocs).</p>	<p><b>ACTION:</b> Register to attend the NDiSTEM Conference. Spread the word on your campus by sharing <a href="#">this flyer</a> for more information.</p> <p>Registration is open now and members save \$100 on their registration! Register by June 30 to save the most. If you don't yet know who can attend, but you have the funds we have group pass options (<a href="#">here</a>)!</p> <p><b>SACNAS NDiSTEM Conference:</b> <a href="https://www.sacnas.org/conference">https://www.sacnas.org/conference</a></p>

## SACNAS Chapter Discussion

	<p><b>(for Professionals) STEM Symposia:</b>  <a href="https://www.sacnas.org/conference/session-proposals">https://www.sacnas.org/conference/session-proposals</a></p> <p><b>(for Students &amp; Postdocs) Research Presentations:</b>  <a href="https://www.sacnas.org/conference/research-presentations">https://www.sacnas.org/conference/research-presentations</a></p>	<p><b>Funding Your Way to a Conference:</b>  <a href="https://www.sacnas.org/conference-funding-guide">https://www.sacnas.org/conference-funding-guide</a></p>
<p><b>How is NDiSTEM going to be impacted if all the federal partners withdraw? What if the recruitment booths are down?</b></p>	<p>SACNAS is committed to hosting NDiSTEM with or without government partners. We will adjust to the loss of government partners and NDiSTEM will likely look different this year without their participation. However, SACNAS has a long history of partnership with academic institutions, private industry, and non-profit organizations. We are grateful for their continued participation and commitment to providing opportunities and resources for our attendees.</p>	<p><b>ACTION:</b> Tell your institution to exhibit at the NDiSTEM Conference! Institutions with a SACNAS chapter should have a presence in the hall and by highlighting your chapter, can signal to fellow attendees that their campus welcomes SACNAS and what we stand for.</p> <p><b>Information about Exhibiting:</b>  <a href="https://www.sacnas.org/exhibiting">https://www.sacnas.org/exhibiting</a>        For help in inviting your institution to exhibit, contact <a href="mailto:exhibits@sacnas.org">exhibits@sacnas.org</a>.</p>
<p><b>Will there still be C.O.L.O.R. (Chapter Officer Leadership October Retreat) this year at the NDiSTEM Conference?</b></p>	<p>Yes! To maximize participation, C.O.L.O.R. will be a smaller event this year and follow a cost-sharing model. This means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Applicants are invited to contribute \$500 toward their participation (a “cost-share”) Applicants can reference our funding guide for tips to request funds externally. Any accepted applicants who are unable to secure the cost-share, will be fully funded by SACNAS.</li> <li>- The application will be competitive. Take time to submit a strong application and don’t exclusively rely on this funding.</li> </ul> <p>As always, chapters should continue fundraising on their campus. Chapters are invited to share their fundraising links with the national office for us to help spread the word.</p>	<p><b>ACTION:</b> Apply for COLOR <a href="#">here</a> by June 30.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Start fundraising now!</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Submit your chapter’s fundraising link <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b>Funding Your Way to a Conference:</b>  <a href="https://www.sacnas.org/conference-funding-guide">https://www.sacnas.org/conference-funding-guide</a></p>

## SACNAS Chapter Discussion

FUNDRAISING		
<b>Are there any donations that the national organization can give to small local chapters?</b>	<p>Chapters in good standing are eligible to apply for Chapter Awards. Awarded chapters receive a small financial award in addition to the physical award. SACNAS offers an upgraded professional membership where individuals can direct a portion of their member dues to an active SACNAS chapter (like yours!).</p> <p>Chapters should continue fundraising on their campus. Chapters are invited to (1) Explore the fundraising resources provided by the national office and (2) share their fundraising links with the national office for us to help spread the word.</p>	<p><b>ACTION:</b> Tell your chapter advisor and other supporters to become an upgraded professional member (<a href="#">here</a>)!</p> <p><b>Chapter Fundraising Webinar:</b>  <a href="https://youtu.be/yV-nBdgf32A">https://youtu.be/yV-nBdgf32A</a></p> <p><b>Chapter Awards:</b>  <a href="https://www.sacnas.org/chapters/chapter-awards">https://www.sacnas.org/chapters/chapter-awards</a></p>
ADVOCACY		
<b>How does SACNAS/my chapter participate in advocacy?</b>	<p>All SACNAS chapters are officially recognized student organizations on your campus. Therefore, while chapter members are welcome to organize and/or participate in advocacy activities, chapters should first make sure you know your institutional policies, guidelines, and practices for advocacy. Partner with your Government Relations and Student Affairs offices at your institution.</p> <p>As a private citizen, contact your elected officials—local, state, and national representatives—share the impact on you and your community.</p> <p>At the national level, SACNAS partners with other organizations to advocate for STEM, such as sign-on letters, coalitions, and partnerships. This continues to be a growing area as stated in our strategic plan.</p>	<p><b>Examples of SACNAS Advocacy Collaborations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">UCS open letter</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">AIBS sign-on letter to congressional leaders</a></li> </ul>
SAFETY		
<b>How can we create/maintain safe spaces for our chapters/chapter members?</b>	<p>SACNAS is a nonprofit organization composed of members, chapters, volunteers, and staff. When planning events, chapters can create a safe space by having closed events or invitation-only events, as needed.</p> <p>The National Office also hosts members-only events and virtual platforms for members and chapters to connect in a safe space. Participants must have an active SACNAS membership to participate, which includes agreement with our Code of Conduct (<a href="#">here</a>).</p>	<p><b>ACTION:</b> Join SACNAS Member Mixers (<a href="#">here</a>) and engage on our members-only platform (<a href="#">here</a>) for a safe and welcoming environment to support you.</p> <p><b>Code of Conduct:</b>  <a href="https://www.sacnas.org/hubfs/Document%20Files%20(pdf,%20doc,%20xlsx)/CodeofConduct_02072021.pdf">https://www.sacnas.org/hubfs/Document%20Files%20(pdf,%20doc,%20xlsx)/CodeofConduct_02072021.pdf</a></p>

## SACNAS Chapter Discussion

<b>What can chapters do if we start getting targeted at our institutions?</b>	<p>First, make sure to notify your institutional leaders and/or Deans. All chapters are officially recognized student organizations, and your institution must be aware.</p> <p>Chapters are also an extension of SACNAS. Share your concerns or questions with the SACNAS National Office as soon as possible.</p>	<b>Chapter Support:</b> Contact Angel Rebollar at <a href="mailto:chapters@sacnas.org">chapters@sacnas.org</a> or Daniela Bernal at <a href="mailto:daniela@sacnas.org">daniela@sacnas.org</a> .
<b>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT</b>		
<b>How does SACNAS plan to support early career researchers during this time period?</b>	<p>We continue to host and provide support, as much as we can, for our leadership and professional development programs. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Summer 2025: Linton-Poodry SACNAS Leadership Institute (LPSLI) for early to mid career professionals.</li> <li>- Fall 2025: Postdoc Leadership Institute (PLI) for postdocs</li> <li>- Fall 2025: Chapter Officer Leadership October Retreat (COLOR) for undergraduate and graduate chapter officers</li> </ul> <p>We invite and support the early career faculty to present their research at our NDiSTEM Conference, especially for STEM Symposia. Academic credit for promotion and tenure is key.</p> <p>Attend the NDiSTEM Conference to connect with senior faculty and STEM leaders for mentoring.</p> <p>Volunteer for the NDiSTEM Conference. We need faculty members to volunteer!</p>	<p><b>ACTION:</b> Share the following opportunities with members at your institution:</p> <p><b>Chapter Officer Retreat:</b>  <a href="https://www.sacnas.org/chapters/retreat">https://www.sacnas.org/chapters/retreat</a></p> <p><b>SACNAS Leadership Programs:</b>  <a href="https://www.sacnas.org/leadership-programs">https://www.sacnas.org/leadership-programs</a></p> <p><b>(for Students &amp; Postdocs) Research Presentations:</b>  <a href="https://www.sacnas.org/conference/research-presentations">https://www.sacnas.org/conference/research-presentations</a></p> <p><b>(for Professionals) STEM Symposia:</b>  <a href="https://www.sacnas.org/conference/session-proposals">https://www.sacnas.org/conference/session-proposals</a></p> <p><b>(for Professionals) Volunteer:</b>  <a href="https://www.sacnas.org/conference/volunteer">https://www.sacnas.org/conference/volunteer</a></p>

**Chapter Support:** Angel Rebollar at [chapters@sacnas.org](mailto:chapters@sacnas.org) or Daniela Bernal at [daniela@sacnas.org](mailto:daniela@sacnas.org).