

Engaging Students with AARC: An Educator's Guide

The main aim of this toolkit is for members of the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) community to be able to provide invaluable tips and benefits to students on the importance of AARC membership and being involved in the profession.

About AARC

The AARC was founded in 1947 as the American Association of Inhalation Therapists and later renamed in 1974 to reflect the broader scope of respiratory care. Its mission is to promote respiratory health through advocacy, education, and research. AARC strives to advance the respiratory care profession by providing resources, support, and networking opportunities for its members, who include respiratory therapists, educators, students, and other professionals in the field.

AARC plays a crucial role in advancing the field of respiratory care by setting standards, advocating for legislative policies, and providing continuing education opportunities. The association collaborates with healthcare organizations, government agencies, and educational institutions to ensure quality care for patients with respiratory disorders. AARC also publishes clinical practice guidelines, and hosts conferences and events to facilitate knowledge exchange and professional development within the respiratory care community.

Benefits of AARC Membership for Students

Student involvement in AARC is essential for the future of the respiratory care profession. By participating in AARC activities, students gain access to valuable resources, mentorship opportunities, and networking connections that can enhance their education and career prospects. Involvement in AARC allows students to stay updated on the latest advancements and trends in respiratory care, develop leadership skills, and advocate for their profession. Additionally, active engagement in AARC fosters a sense of community and camaraderie among students and professionals, strengthening the overall respiratory care workforce.

Educators can help support student involvement by promoting membership benefits such as networking, career advancement, mentorship, and advocacy opportunities. The next several pages of this toolkit detail these items and how you as an educator can help support your students in their future profession.

Professional Development Opportunities

- **Access to Educational Resources** - Student members can access a wealth of educational materials, including journals, textbooks, and online courses that enhance their knowledge and skills.

- **Continuing Education Credits** - AARC offers opportunities to earn continuing education credits, essential for maintaining licensure and staying current in the field.
- **Webcasts** - AARC webcasts are online educational events that take place right on your computer. AARC members can attend a live event and earn free CRCE© credit or watch a past program and take a quick test for credit.
- **Respiratory Care Journal** - Members gain access to the [official monthly science journal of AARC](#) that highlights the latest in research. It is indexed in PubMed and included in the *Web of Science*.
- **Workshops and Conferences** - Students can attend workshops and conferences, such as the [AARC Congress](#), where they can learn from experts, participate in hands-on sessions, and gain insights into the latest trends in respiratory care. Students can also volunteer for an opportunity to gain free entrance to conferences. Educators can also attend [Summer Forum](#) to learn best practices in respiratory care education from leading experts.

Networking Opportunities

- **Connection with Professionals in the Field** - AARC student membership provides access to a network of experienced professionals who can offer guidance, advice, and support for a respiratory therapist's entire career.
- **Mentorship Programs** - Programs like [AARConnect](#) offer mentorship opportunities, where students can be paired with seasoned practitioners for career advice and professional growth.

Career Advancement

- **Job Postings and Career Resources** - The [AARC Career Center](#) lists employment opportunities and resources that help students transition from education to employment.
- **Recognition and Awards** - AARC acknowledges the achievements of students through various awards, scholarships, and fellowships, boosting their professional profiles. More information about student resources can be found at <https://arcfoundation.org/>.

Advocacy and Involvement

- **Opportunities to Influence Policy and Legislation** - Students can participate in [advocacy](#) efforts, such as attending state meetings where legislative issues are being discussed and contributing to policy changes that benefit the respiratory care profession and patients.
- **Involvement in Community Health Initiatives** - Through AARC, students can engage in initiatives that promote respiratory health in their communities, such as health fairs, gaining practical experience and making a positive impact.

How Educators Can Promote AARC to Students

Respiratory therapy educators are an integral part of the growth of the profession and of AARC as an organization. Integrating information about AARC membership, benefits, and resources into your curriculum is an important first step. Students receive a discounted rate on membership and can sign-up easily by visiting <https://www.aarc.org/membership/student-membership-benefits/>

Educators can also promote AARC by:

- Incorporating AARC resources into their course work through [AARC University](#)
- Inviting students to utilize [AARC exam resources](#) to prepare for state licenses and RT credentials
- Inviting AARC representatives for guest lectures or workshops
- Helping student organizations and clubs establish an AARC student group and/or online community
- Organizing events in collaboration with AARC both on the national or state level. For example, working together with [HOSA](#) and supporting student competitions.
- Creating a team for AARC's [Sputum Bowl](#) at our Annual Congress meeting
- Purchasing AARC branded materials and providing to students for [Respiratory Care Week](#), school competitions, successful completion of educational activities etc.
- Working with school personnel to share resources from AARC social media posts and encouraging students to like or follow AARC on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, TikTok, X, and YouTube.



Questions?

If you need further information or assistance, please visit the AARC website at www.aarc.org or email us directly at info@aarc.org or call us at 1-972-243-2272.