

Invitation to be a Board Buddy for incoming Board of Director members
ISMETA - Board Development Committee (BCD)
April 2024

In preparation for welcoming new members to the Board, the Board Development Committee invites you to consider volunteering to pair with a new member as a Board Buddy. Becoming a Board Buddy would start 1 July 2024 and last for 1 year.

In this on-boarding process, the standing Board member serves as a welcoming ambassador and guide/mentor for the new member. The goal is to optimize the new members' first year of Board service, launching them into a productive and satisfying term.

The intention of this relationship is for the new Board member to have a "go-to" support person and a "sounding board" as they make their way into learning the multiple facets of ISMETA and how to serve at the leadership level. An excellent resource is:

<https://ismeta.org/about-ismeta/visioning-the-future>.

The commitment is to:

- Check-in regularly with your buddy for the first few months. The Board buddy pairs determine how frequently they check-in with each other, however, it is important to note the established Board member is holding a process which includes familiarizing the new member to the larger context of Board service. Regularity, even if brief, is important so that any concerns can be addressed;
- Attend two On-Boarding meetings to be scheduled for everyone's availability. The first is with all buddy pairs, representatives from the Board Development Committee and the Board President. The second is a semi-formal check-in for the Board Buddy pairs with the Board President and Executive Director and/or Managing Director to learn where more support may be needed, and strategize accordingly.

The Board Buddy relationship aims to maximize the new members' skills, creativity and gladness as they find their ground and voice in ISMETA's leadership. They learn about nuances of our organizational processes and develop their knowhow to work collaboratively. The relationship is a way to strengthen a sense of community, deepen board culture, and optimize leadership.

If you would like to serve as a Board Buddy for one of the incoming Board members, please reach out to Ellen Barlow, chair of the Board Development Committee. The committee will pair each new Board member with a current Board member.

Thank you!