



August 30, 2016

Back to (NIRI) School

I sent my oldest child back to college last week. Next week our two younger children head back to high school. For many of us, this time of year brings back nostalgia for when we returned to campus, reconnected with friends, enjoyed the excitement of learning new things, and the good times within the school community.

This time of year also marks the beginning of most NIRI chapters' program years. I'm no different from many of you in feeling affinity, and in my case nostalgia, for my NIRI chapter involvement. Mine began with the Capital Area chapter in the 1990s, continued with a move to an IR job in South Carolina and the Charlotte chapter, then back to DC and the Capital Area for several more IR positions. After joining the NIRI staff in 2007, I've been fortunate to attend and speak at many other NIRI chapters.

[NIRI chapters](#) are so critical to the NIRI member experience. Through NIRI chapters, I developed a network of peers that have helped at every stage of my career; a group of colleagues that I remain connected to and continue to build upon. The professional development programming at NIRI chapters introduced me to, and continues to teach me about all of the [domain elements](#) of our practice. [Chapter events](#) provided me with opportunities to interact in small group settings with the many service providers in our community, offering hands-on experience with the important products and services that helped me become a more effective IRO.

I'm clearly sold on the benefits of NIRI chapter involvement. Through chapters you can develop leadership experience, on a volunteer basis, that often simply isn't available in your day job. I encourage everyone [to find](#) and connect or reconnect with their local chapter, or the Virtual chapter. Find out what the volunteer leaders at your chapter have waiting for you this fall. It's back to school time at NIRI!

Best regards,
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