



GROWING WITH IRWA

Lifelong learning & professional advancement

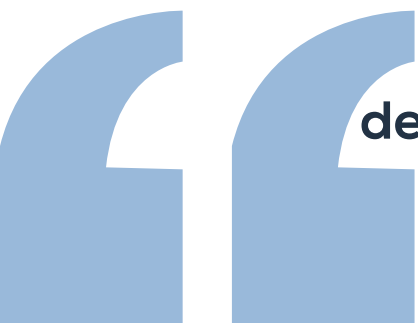
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I have always been a believer in the benefits of lifelong learning, be it for personal or professional growth. Nurturing your natural curiosity about things that interest you and taking the initiative to explore and seek to understand the world around you generates many benefits. One of the reasons I enjoy being a part of the International Right of Way Association so much is that I'm constantly surrounded by people who are invested and engaged in their professional growth, curious to learn new things and often are willing to share their time and talents to support and mentor others who are seeking to grow their knowledge and experience in our challenging industry. Now, more than ever, investing in professional education to keep knowledge and skills current is essential. The world is changing; we must keep pace and change with it.

Right of Way and Recovery

Infrastructure projects — energy, transportation, water and telecom systems — underpin economic activity and trigger growth and development across the globe. As the COVID-19 vaccines take hold and the world turns to recovering from the pandemic that has impacted the fiscal health of the public and private sectors, infrastructure projects will present key opportunities to generate jobs, economic growth and tangible public benefits. Energy demands grow, transportation needs are changing and the social and environmental concerns of infrastructure projects are under the microscope of public scrutiny in what is becoming an increasingly digital world. These infrastructure projects offer opportunities for right of way professionals to be a part of the pandemic



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recovery, part of the renewal of vital infrastructure and part of the energy transition that is happening in many countries right now. Nevertheless, these are challenging times, and while the work is exciting, the adoption of new technologies and processes have accelerated. Right of way professionals must have the necessary knowledge and advanced skills; they must be resourceful, resilient and well informed to excel in this environment. Having industry knowledge and experience is a competitive advantage, but keeping pace with the changes happening in today's world takes work. Every opportunity to learn and update those skills is valuable. That is where the IRWA comes in, offering right of way professionals opportunities to meet, learn and network with the best of the best in our industry.

IRWA as a Resource

IRWA provides many ways to support right of way professionals who seek to gain the advantage of knowledge and proficiency in their chosen field.

The Association offers access to first-class instructors and a wide variety of courses that educate both new and seasoned public infrastructure real estate professionals. Courses are available in person, online and virtually, and they are designed to suit the adult learner's preferences and needs. Our curriculum covers all things related to infrastructure real estate. Class participants engage in active learning to broaden understanding, learn best practices and discover answers to some work-related problems that need a fresh approach to uncover a solution.

Pursuing an IRWA certification or designation demonstrates a commitment to your profession and also offers opportunities to increase income, gain eligibility for more senior positions and signals to others your proficiency in your chosen field. In today's competitive job markets, having an IRWA designation or certification will be noted as an asset by the decision makers working in our industry who know and acknowledge that IRWA-educated employees demonstrate high standards of ethics and professional competency.

Another way that right of way professionals can learn about growth and developments in our industry is to attend IRWA events such as the annual International Education Conference, a Region seminar or a Chapter luncheon. Whether it is attending education sessions during our International Education Conference or a seminar, IRWA events offer members direct access to engaging presentations by industry experts and leaders. Networking opportunities at these events also help right of way professionals to expand their support group of like-minded colleagues who can provide fresh insights and perspectives and help generate new ideas on solving real world problems in our industry. And if you can't attend in person, our International Committees have educational webinars to help members stay current on the latest trends and standards.

Finally, IRWA offers a variety of online resources that give the lifelong learner even more opportunities to explore our profession. IRWA University's online library holds a

treasure trove of publications on a variety of topics including leadership training and social ecology. Additionally, members can access an archive of the issues of this publication, the Right of Way Magazine, covering decades of innovative and industry specific expert advice. For members who enjoy taking part in online forums, our member network provides opportunities to engage with our International Industry Committees. There is no end to the amount of online expertise and experience one can tap into when you join a committee forum discussion and present a challenge or dilemma to an engaged group of right of way professionals.

Conclusion

Investing in professional education to keep skills current is essential, as our industry and members lead and support infrastructure projects now and into the future. As you can see by the broad variety of education options mentioned above, IRWA offers many ways to support right of way professionals who seek to gain the advantage of knowledge and proficiency in all facets of infrastructure real estate.

It's said that success occurs when opportunity meets preparation. Consider the challenges ahead as we step into this new normal. Are you ready? The IRWA is here to support your professional growth by offering you an abundance of different learning and networking opportunities. Our community of members and leaders will welcome you, support you and help you succeed. So what are you waiting for? Let's get to work!

Thank you, merci. 🙏