

IRWA Granted Special UN Status

The IRWA has recently been granted Non-Government Organization Special Consultative Status by the United Nations (UN) through its Economic and Social Council.

This Special Consultative Status will allow IRWA to participate in UN meetings and events, interact with other organizations holding the same status and impact the world with our body of knowledge and body of experience. In this role, we have the opportunity to contribute our services and technical expertise to a number of activities including information dissemination, policy advocacy, joint operational projects, and intergovernmental processes.

IRWA has joined the ranks of just more than 4,000 organizations in the world with this special status. In an effort to spread our purpose and become an outward-facing organization, we now have the wonderful opportunity to be heard by a truly global audience and contribute to its agenda.



The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Staff Completes Emerging Leaders Program

IRWA Headquarters successfully completed a new staff development program, Project Eli (Emerging Leader Innovator). Led by Deidre Alves, IRWA's Chief Learning Officer, this challenging program was offered to a select number of high performers at headquarters. The program was designed to provide the tools needed to develop their area of impact and purpose as an emerging innovator.

Project Eli Objectives:

- To develop leadership, self-awareness and communication skills
- To increase individual sphere of impact within the organization
- To cultivate an enterprise-mindset
- To participate in deep-case dynamic analysis
- To craft a unique and innovative solution, product, or service for IRWA

Throughout the three-day program, the Project Eli team had the opportunity to assess their strengths and weaknesses, challenge themselves with various exercises and gain a number of high-performing skills and tools. The program ended with a successful team collaboration, resulting in the creation of an exciting product for the Association. This staff development program is just one of the many ways in which Headquarters is working to ensure the delivery of quality products and services to the entire Association.



Deidre Alves, M.Ed., celebrates her five year anniversary with IRWA.



IRWA staff is recognized at the culmination of Project Eli. From left is International President Jerry Colburn, SR/WA, DeOnna Koonce, Carlos Gonzales, Amir Vafamanesh, Astrid Anaya and Mark Rieck. Kneeling in front is Deidre Alves and Ethel Navales.