

# The IRWA Learning Experience

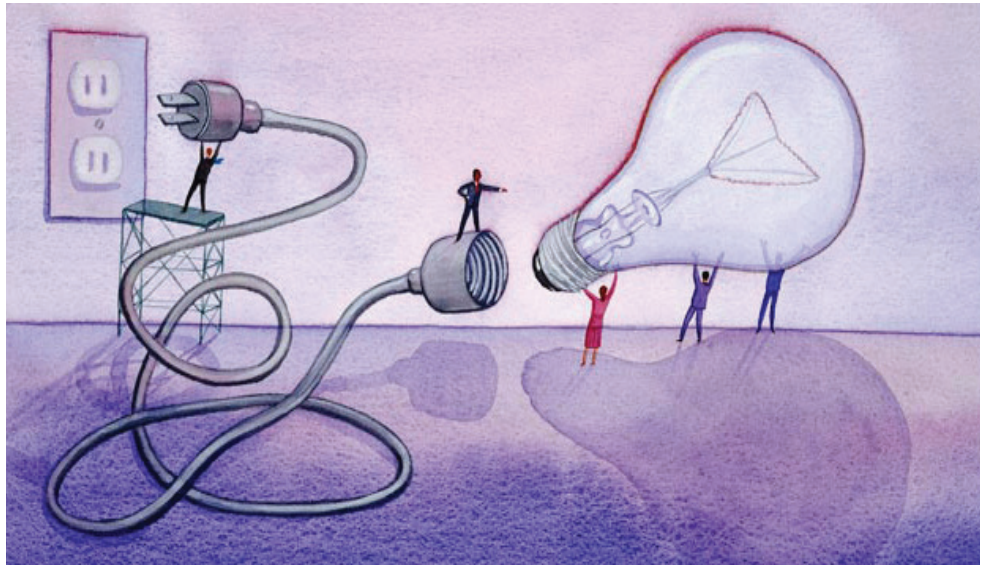
BY DEIDRE ALVES, M.ED.

“We get to help people build a better world.” This simple statement, uttered in passing during my first weeks at IRWA, houses a world of special meaning and purpose to me. It is a critical responsibility that all right of way professionals share, and it has since become the bedrock foundation of my collaborative effort here at IRWA.

This call to steward the learning experience at IRWA is one I take very seriously. It is a call that puts you—the individuals who do right of way work every day—as our central focus. You are front and center as we develop relevant, quality, valuable and innovative learning experiences and educational content that is tailored to meet the needs of today’s right of way professional. This programming is designed to speak directly to your own professional development needs, your credentialing pathway, your unique value to the industry and your critical contribution to infrastructure development and the work of building a better world.

As we move boldly into the future at IRWA, it is clear that global relationships and networking are becoming ever more critical to professional advancement and collaboration in the right of way field. Both domestic and international infrastructure development, public utilities projects, transportation and pipeline construction—essential elements of right of way work—demand the best in shared practices, from ethics to relocation assistance and everything in between.

The ability to connect instantly and learn with others in the professional development learning experience is



critical. Collaborating on right of way development projects and learning from right of way professionals from across the globe celebrates your unique contribution and the contribution of our industry to the business of building a better world. Equally as important to the learning experience is the role of mentorship in the field. This entails giving back and providing helpful insight, guidance and career direction to those new to the right of way profession so that the torch can be carried onward and the mission realized. And in this new and near future, the professional development space begs for leaders to step forward boldly and to develop both their critical and creative thinking.

Enthusiastic about its promise and purpose, IRWA’s professional development learning experience is rapidly changing as our world changes. Being ready to embrace this change is essential. Our mission is to equip you with the vital knowledge and skills necessary to keep you current, credentialed and connected through

impactful and relevant right of way content programming – programming that develops your inner professional potential in service to building a better world - together.

In next month’s article, I will outline the many different features of the IRWA Learning Experience and how you can be a part of it. Just be assured that it is designed to equip, empower and inspire you. And there is something for every right of way professional. Let the journey begin!

*As IRWA’s Vice President of Professional Development, Deidre has expertise in education, training, human performance and collaborative social environments. Deidre holds a Master’s Degree in Education, Multicultural Curriculum and Instruction from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia and a Bachelor’s Degree in International Service from the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC.*

