



Wonder Awaits

In pursuit of an IRWA certification

BY DEIDRE ALVES, M.ED.

Recently, I had the opportunity to talk with an elite-level runner. Tall, strong, self-assured and grounded, he began to tell me the story of how he completed a 100-mile race—*without ever stopping*.

Although his intense training, preparation and mental fortitude to push through adversity was extraordinary and paramount to his success, what actually captivated me the most was what he experienced *during* the race and how a beautiful inspiration changed him forever.

A Breakthrough Moment

The course of the race was arduous. Competing terrains and conditions added to its difficulty, and it was clearly a race for the elite of the elite. The course spanned a 24-hour period and not all of the runners made it.

About mid-way through the race, the runners began an ascent that progressively narrowed. Consequently, many runners dropped out at this point. But suddenly, the

course became quiet and very still. With weary bones and spirits, the runners found themselves descending to unveil a spectacular waterfall. It was a sight of wonder. One that held you in awe and touched the soul. The runners were forever changed.

And this is what captivated me the most about his race—this unexpected vision that presented itself and somehow changed the participants forever. I couldn't help but recognize that this is what happens in the pursuit of an IRWA certification. Yes, the pathway is challenging with progressive levels to reach (RWA, RWP, SR/WA). Yes, it takes mental and physical fortitude to push through adversity. And yes, not all make it. But it is the unexpected wonder that awaits the infrastructure learner which makes it all worth it. These breakthrough learning moments forever change you, making you better at your job, more capable of serving the needs of the public good, professionally advanced in knowledge and skill, and ready to positively impact the infrastructure industry.

Pursuing a Certification

The pursuit of IRWA certification changes you forever. I invite you to experience the wonder that awaits you by simply having the willingness to receive it, move forward and say “yes” to the gift of professional development in your life.

When you reflect on the IRWA purpose of improving the quality of people's lives through infrastructure development, never forget that *you* are part of our beautiful purpose. Your quality of life, your professional development and your pursuit of professional excellence through our IRWA Certification Program. ✦



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