



**Here are a few updates from IRWA's International Leadership. For more information on Committees, Communities of Practice and Councils, please visit the IRWA Website and click on "About Us."**

## EDUCATION

As the new year rolls into place, many wonderful things have occurred these past few months, and the Partnership for Infrastructure Professional Education (PIPE) wanted to provide this update. The PIPE Committee consists of Mary Anne Marr, SR/WA (Chair), David Arnold, SR/WA, Kristen Bennett, SR/WA, Amir Vafamanesh (Staff) and James Olschewski, SR/WA (IEC Liaison).

In June 2019, the World CLIMB was held in Portland, Oregon right before the 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Conference. The World CLIMB was a resounding success with international members added to our instructor pool, allowing for instructors located in all parts of the world to bring education close to home.

Upon completing the World CLIMB, PIPE began the new fiscal year based on a strategic plan. The following is a list of items already completed:

- Updated Class Experience Survey form. Instructors will now be rated on a 1-5 scale and scores will be tracked to two decimal places. The form also includes the opportunity for student evaluation of course materials.
- All instructor materials have been uploaded to the website. Instructors are now able to download both participant and instructor manuals.
- New instructor recertification program.
- Completed review of IRWA courses to identify top 20 list from a financial/attendance perspective.

### PIPE is currently working on:

- Developing a process for course updates along with a draft of course standards.
- Developing a technique for instructor performance management.
- Developing a procedure for how instructors add new classes to their approved program listing, along with preliminary review of instructor qualifications.
- Developing an online form for instructor course feedback that will feed into database for automatic sorting/categorization.

PIPE is very excited about the progress that has been made thus far and is looking forward to completing this list. The members of PIPE would love to hear from all members—especially our Education instructors—regarding all aspects of our education, including areas that could improve our world class education.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

With all the changes presently happening within our Association, the Finance Committee felt that it was important to provide some updates as to what is happening with the Finances of our Association. The Finance Committee has been meeting monthly to go over the finances, review the final Auditors Report and develop new policies and procedures thanks to recommendations from the IGC and comments from members.

The first accomplishment is the newly revised IRWA Business/Travel Expense Report Form in both U.S. and Canadian formats. The new form changed some of the items to be reported, clarified some eligible expenses, listed items that are no longer permissible and (for the first time) listed Alcohol as an item to be categorized. The new category for Alcohol was added at the request of the IGC this past June 2019 as a way to help track some of our spending areas and to see what efficiencies our Association is hoping to have implemented.

The Finance Committee will be meeting in January 2020 to review and prepare the annual budget for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. We would love to hear your concerns and accept your input to make this the best year yet.