

# Your Learning...

*“You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You’re on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the one who’ll decide where to go!”*

Dr. Seuss, Oh the Places You’ll Go!

BY DEIDRE ALVES, M.ED.

And oh, the places we’re going here at IRWA Professional Development!

Welcome to The IRWA Learning Experience, where you are at the center of it all. Everything is built around you and your specific needs. You are in the driver’s seat and it’s you who will decide which way to go. In designing your own path in professional development, participation and engagement with IRWA, the possibilities are truly limitless.

IRWA is creating a fresh approach to learning innovation, where high-impact content and creative programming unite the right of way industry in shared experiences and excellence in practice. Traditional, digital video-enhanced and mobile learning are all incorporated in the delivery of the experience, which is designed to meet the unique needs of each and every right of way professional. It is an experience with a rich variety of learning options custom fit for you.

Your IRWA membership gives you unprecedented access to a dynamic network that empowers you to decide the what, where, why, when and how of learning. With it, know that you are never alone with the IRWA community and resources that are always by your side - from the negotiation table to the front lines in the field and everything in between.

Here is a sneak peek at three of the new features of The IRWA Learning Experience for you to engage with and participate starting this year.



## COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

As our global presence continues to expand, we have added access to dynamic Communities of Practice in transportation, utilities, and pipeline in our Member Network, all led by industry leaders specifically trained to direct and curate relevant content for each community to reach its highest potential. These robust communities provide opportunities for interactive participation in both domestic and international right of way projects. This is an ideal place for collaborative discourse, shared best practices and an exchange of current information within right of way sectors. You can join the discussion taking place in your own area of expertise or participate in any of the others to increase your competency, industry perspective and fluency in a new area of professional interest.

# Your Way



**“Traditional, digital video-enhanced and mobile learning are all incorporated in the delivery of the experience...”**

## **DIGITAL RESOURCE** LIBRARY

As we continue building our digital resource library, the Principles of Right of Way eBook takes center stage as an invaluable resource. You now have right of way access everywhere you go, at your fingertips on your iPhone, iPad, or as an interactive PDF download on any mobile device. We also are debuting a new discussion group on our Member Network, where you can discuss the right of way concepts presented in the book.

## **IRWA MENTORSHIP** PROGRAM

The IRWA Mentorship Program offers a unique opportunity for those more experienced members to give back through guidance, support, career insights, best practices, encouragement and inspiration to young professionals just

starting their right of way career. It is also an opportunity for those who are new to the profession to have someone to guide them on their career plan while learning how to advance in IRWA through various professional development opportunities. Mentors have always served as important role models and leaders within IRWA. This program is designed so that protégés can eventually advance to mentor status, where they can share in the IRWA legacy of support and sharing. Mentorship pairs will have access to extensive training and support throughout the program to ensure that it delivers a highly engaging and quality learning experience.

As we will unveil more of features of the IRWA Learning Experience, we invite you to discover, explore and engage in the many professional development opportunities available. Come be a part of it all and help us build a better world... together.

*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.*

