



PREPARE FOR IRWA'S ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

BY AIMIE MIMS, SR/WA

Countless benefits to attending this yearly event



The 66th International Education Conference will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota this June. The Annual Conference is designed for right of way professionals to come together for education on current industry trends and professional development tools, as well as networking opportunities, leadership recognition, community building and a bit of fun!

Benefits of Attending

One of the unique things about our Conference is that many of our speakers are IRWA members and subject matter experts who draw from their own experiences to illustrate their topics. Our education sessions are focused within a variety of disciplines including Asset Management, Environment, Ethics,

International, Local Public Agencies, Pipeline, Professional Development, Relocation, Survey and Engineering, Transportation, Utilities and Valuation.

Conference also provides the opportunity for members to connect face-to-face with other right of way professionals and share their experiences with those who understand the industry firsthand. Attendees are able to celebrate one another, recognize successes and apply lessons learned. It's invigorating to spend time with hundreds of industry professionals at the networking sessions, exhibit hall, Awards Luncheon and Monday Night Event. And don't forget the joys of simply grabbing a beer or Coke with an old or new friend.

Employer Support

If you haven't yet had a chance to attend a Conference, I highly encourage you to considering joining us. To gain employer support, it's often helpful to develop a proposal that outlines the benefits of attending Conference, your intended schedule of educational sessions, an explanation of how your attendance will directly support your company's goals and finally, how the information gained at Conference will benefit others in your organization. Many members agree to write an article for their company website or present the benefits they gained by attending Conference.

A Look Back

One of my favorite Conference memories is participating in the Young Professionals event during the 60th Annual International Education Conference, which took place in Hartford, Connecticut in 2014. At the time, having worked in right of way for about five years or so, this experience opened my eyes to the incredible network of right of way professionals, namely young professionals in our industry. I was inspired and motivated by the array of talent I met and heard speak at the sessions. For the first time, I began to see the way in which I could become a leader and make a difference in our chosen profession. This Conference truly had a positive impact on the trajectory of my career and I'm so thankful I had the opportunity to attend.

Get Ready for Minneapolis, Minnesota

This year's Annual Conference is particularly exciting for me as it is being held in my home state of Minnesota on June 21 through June 24. The 2020 Conference Planning Committee and staff have been hard at work planning for and preparing an unforgettable experience. Minneapolis in June is a beautiful time to visit our great state and perhaps tag on an adventure up north to the Boundary Waters, see the

source of the Mississippi River in Itasca State Park or check out one of our 16,000+ lakes. You can stay local and explore the Mall of America, the Minneapolis Institute of Art or catch a show at the Target Center (I hear Justin Bieber is in town this week). The Minnesota Twins are also playing in town at the Target Field on June 19, 20 and 21 against the N.Y Yankees and on June 26, 27 and 28 against the Colorado Rockies. Just be sure to check out the Conference schedule of events so you don't miss out on any of the Conference activities.

The 2020 International Education Conference in Minneapolis is bound to be notable and one I'm certainly looking forward to. I hope to see you there!

Congratulations

I'm also pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate Denver, Colorado Chapter 6 as the 2023 IRWA Annual International Education Conference host Chapter! Congratulations to the Chapter leadership and members for their hard work investing in this bid. We look forward to joining you in Denver in 2023! 🌟

