

THE INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT SERIES

Get to know the people behind the purpose

BY DEIDRE ALVES, M.ED.

IRWA strives everyday to improve people's quality of life through infrastructure development. And at the front lines bringing this powerful purpose to life is our IRWA CLIMB Certified Instructor Team. Over the next few months, I will be bringing you The Instructor Spotlight Series, which will highlight some of the instructors on the team and allow them to share their thoughts on teaching for this impactful industry and what it means to be an infrastructure educator. We are very lucky to have this high-caliber team to serve the educational needs of our current and future students. I am proud to introduce the first CLIMB Certified Instructor in our series.

FAITH ROLAND, SR/WA

What is the most rewarding part of instructing for the IRWA?

My biggest smiles from teaching come the week after a class. I'll get an email or a quick call from a student where they recall a practical example or tip I shared during class. They remember the tip, take it back to their job, try it and then it works! Giving students real practical tools and tips they can immediately use is something I always strive for in a class. When they remember what I said, then immediately apply



the lesson to their daily work, I know I've made a difference and helped them grow in right of way.

IRWA's purpose is to improve the quality of life through infrastructure development. As an IRWA instructor, how do you contribute to the fulfillment of this purpose?

We improve quality of life and infrastructure development by improving the quality of the practitioners who complete the projects. As an industry, we are only as good as our least effective and least trained members. The more trained and highly skilled we become, the greater the impact and influence we have as a group. Every agency or company should have minimum standards of training that are required before a right of way agent is sent to the field to impact lives. I know that everyone that leaves my class has a few more skills and is better equipped to make a difference and improve quality of life. We make a difference one student at a time.

What is the most important thing you would like your future students to know upon entering your class?

Every student should be in my class because they believe in themselves and the personal investment they are making through education. Whether they attend classes because their boss told them to or because they feel peer pressure to get initials after their name, they should understand the value they hold as their own. Their time and often their financial commitment to education is something that, once earned, cannot be taken away. Without IRWA education and credentials, I would not have been able to accomplish all that I have in our industry over the past 25 years. I hope they are not afraid to invest in themselves, as I did, so they can reap similar rewards and fulfillment in their profession.



Deidre Alves is IRWA's Chief Learning Officer.

A special thank you to Faith for being the first instructor in our Spotlight Series. For more information on our CLIMB Certified Instructor Team or to book one of our CLIMB Certified Instructors with your Chapter today, please visit www.irwaonline.org/members/irwa-course-instructors and click "Find an Instructor" or contact education@irwaonline.org.



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