MENTORING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

It is incumbent upon the many leaders of both the profession and of individual offices to share their knowledge and passion with their future successors. This session will focus on developing mentor-protégé relationships that will inspire students, interns, and developing professionals alike. Mentoring, to successful practitioners, is an indispensable investment.

EDUCATION CREDITS:
AICP, FL, GBCI, & LA CES/ non-HSW

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1) Find out how mentor-protégé relationships begin and develop in a professional office setting.

2) Learn best practices for being a successful mentor.

3) Explore how to set a path for gaining the most from the mentoring experience.

4) Become part of the mentorship process by preparing students for that aspect of their professional life both as protégés and mentors themselves.

5) Realize that being mentored never stops no matter how far you excel in your career.

Purdue Landscape Architecture
Graduating Class of 2014
As a partner at the acclaimed landscape architecture practice OLIN, Susan Weiler applies her expertise in interfacing with complex engineering systems and construction technologies to projects of myriad locales and typologies, including the U.S. Embassy in Berlin; the LDS Conference Center in Salt Lake City; and the renovation of Dilworth Plaza in Philadelphia. She teaches regularly and has lectured widely, including TEDx talks and the ASLA Annual Meeting. Susan is co-author of the book Green Roof Systems: A Guide for the Planning, Design and Construction of Landscapes over Structure, a primary resource on the topic of green roof design.

Bernie is an Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture at Purdue University. For the last twelve years, he has been the Internship Coordinator of Purdue’s unique internship program that requires all students to complete a forty-week (year long) internship in an approved landscape architecture office, public or private. Bernie works closely with each cohort of students to prepare them for the internship experience. He uses his extensive network of practicing LAs to identify office environments that match students’ skills and needs. He has witnessed many transformative learning experiences and endeavors to identify best practices for the mentor-mentee relationships.

Dana graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Landscape Architecture from Purdue University in May 2014. Dana earned an Associates degree in Horticulture, also from Purdue, in 2012. She is well-rounded in both fields. A 2011 Summer Intern at Filoli, a National Trust Estate Garden in Woodside, California taught her valuable horticulture practices and gave hands on experience in the landscape. Dana then interned for a year at OLIN, in Philadelphia, where she was involved in the creation of high profile, exceptionally designed public and private spaces. Dana recently joined Kimley Horn & Associates, in their Miami office, challenging herself with new plant material and designs in a tropical climate.
TOPICS WE’LL TOUCH-

I. The Challenges of Mentoring the Next Generation
   a. Communication across generations
   b. Making time to make connections
   c. Attending to professional and personal growth

II. The players in a mentoring relationship
   a. Mentor – (seasoned) professional
   b. Mentee or protégé – student or emerging professional

III. The benefits
   a. Growth of both individuals
   b. The thrill of teaching and learning across generational and other lines
   c. Learning ‘the ropes’ in entering the profession

IV. Characteristics of a good mentor
   a. Ample experience both professional and personal
   b. Willingness to share it
   c. Ability to reach across generations
   d. Motivation to pass along relevant professional knowledge

V. Characteristics of a good mentee/protégé
   a. Willingness to learn and internalize
   b. Willingness to listen and respect the voice of experience
   c. Ability to assimilate new knowledge – active learning

VI. The imperative of embracing the mentoring challenge
   a. Connecting with high school students – ACE Mentor Program
   b. Professionals offering office visits and school presentations
   c. Offices offering summer and extended internships
   d. Mentoring new graduates and emerging professionals

VII. Perspectives of the presenters
   a. Internship coordinator
   b. Professionals from a large and a small firm
   c. Student and emerging professional

VIII. A Challenge to Practicing Landscape Architects
   a. Start now; there are many eager students and emerging professionals ready
   b. Go back to school in your memory; remember your mentor
   c. Go back to your alma mater and find an intern/mentee
   d. Make the profession stronger and the world a better place