IWPC 2022

Celebrating 5 Years

TOGETHER FOR CLEAN WATER
Speakers

Speaker:
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Illinois Water Environment Association

Speaker:
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Introducing Future Leaders to Opportunities in Water (InFLOW)

WEF InFLOW is a program to enhance diversity and inclusion in the water workforce.

This scholarship opportunity engages participates in WEF programs and events to:

• Solidify their interest in working in the water sector; and
• Increase probabilities for employment and long-term success working in water.

www.wef.org/inflow
InFLOW at the Local Level

- The Illinois Water Environment Association (IWEA) and Illinois Association of Water Pollution Control Operators (IAWPCO) had their first local WEF InFLOW in 2019

- Two Tracks:
  - STEMPath identifies scholars enrolled in undergraduate/graduate degree programs from historically underrepresented ethnic and racial groups.
  - CareerTech connects with underserved scholars who may face barriers to employment.

IWPC InFLOW Goals, Criteria, and Benefits

- 15 Minority Student Participants
- Fully engage the students in Conference activities
- Full Time Students
- Universities and Community Colleges
- Exposure to Careers in the Water Sector
- Scholarship Program
  - Conference Registration, Travel, Room and Board
Student Selection

- Worked with Deans to get support of program
- Requested professors to recommend students
- Utilized YP network (recent grads) to recommend students
- Interested students filled out a web form to express their interest
InFLOW Itinerary

- Pre-Conference Conference Call
  - Explain Program
  - Answer Questions
- Intentional Program
  - Involve Students in the Conference
  - Invite Conference Attendees to Interact with InFLOW Participants
- Be Welcoming to InFLOW Participants
InFLOW Itinerary

- Keynote Speaker Session
- WEF Delegate
  - Special welcome to InFLOW Students
  - Invitation to all participants to interact with InFLOW
- Technical Sessions
  - Former InFLOW students have presented at the past two Conferences
- Operator’s Challenge
- Mobile Session
- YP Program
InFLOW Challenges

- Identifying Student Participants
  - Start Early
  - December Posed Challenges with Winter Break
  - IWPC during finals was problematic
  - Community College Students Not Interested
    - Provide Benefits

- Identifying Program Sponsors
  - Solicit at Same Time as Conference Sponsors
  - Start InFLOW Planning at Onset of Conference Planning
Opportunities During IWPC

- Technical sessions
- Exhibit Exploration
- Career Fair
- Networking and young professional events
- Student Poster Competition
- Operators Challenge
- Direct access to corporate sponsors
- On the spot interview opportunities
- On the spot mentoring at the conference*
- Solidify interest in working in the water sector!

Photos Credit: Jeff Frederick and IWEA
Sponsorship

- **Sponsors Support:**
  - Sponsorship support provides travel assistance, hotel accommodations, registration, and additional networking opportunities.

- **Sponsor Benefits**
  - Help to introduce a scholar to the water industry
  - Opportunity to meet scholars first-hand
  - Job recruitment opportunities
  - Being steward of the water industry
  - Support local STEM and CAREER Tech programs
THANK YOU!!!

For more information

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