



Illinois Water
Environment Association

IWPC 2022

Celebrating 5 Years

— TOGETHER FOR CLEAN WATER —



Speakers



Illinois Water
Environment Association



Speaker:
Edward Jankun
Associate Civil Engineer at the Metropolitan
Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Illinois Water Environment Association



Speaker:
Dr. Lindsay Birt
Client Solutions Manager at Xylem
Illinois Water Environment Association



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 participants 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

Photo Credit: Jeff Frederick





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.



Illinois Water Environment Association



IWPC 2019: Together for Clean Water Conference: February 11-13, 2019



University of Illinois

Environmental Resources Training Center at Southern Illinois University



Edwardsville Water/Wastewater Operators Training Center

Loyola University in Chicago





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

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April 25-27, 2022



Introducing Future Leaders to Opportunities in Water

Seeking Female and Minority College Students Attending Illinois Colleges and Universities to Participate in the InFLOW Program!

InFLOW is a scholarship program that strives to identify promising students from underrepresented minority groups and aims to solidify their interest in working in the water and wastewater industry. This program helps students foster a network within the water sector to increase probabilities for employment and for long term success.

Selected applicants will enjoy complimentary access to the Illinois Wastewater Professionals Conference (IWPC) 2022 and all InFLOW programming, including:

- Networking with peers and industry professionals
- Roundtable discussions/tracks geared toward students and young professionals
- Technical tracks on leading water issues
- Introduction to water sector
- Exhibitor showcase provides an opportunity to see leading industry products and environmental solutions
- Complimentary IWPC access includes travel to/from the conference (mileage reimbursement or transportation arrangements), hotel accommodations, registration and all meals, banquets and networking receptions while at the conference

Apply Today!

https://illinoiswpc.org/inflow_scholarships.php

**Application Deadline is
Friday, March 25, 2022**





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!



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

Photo Credit: Jeff Frederick



Photo Credit: IWEA



Photo Credit: Morgan Brown



Photo Credit: IWEA

THANK YOU!!!



Speaker:

Dr. Lindsay Birt

Client Solutions Manager

Xylem

Corporate InFLOW Sponsor Co-Chair

Lindsay.Birt@xylem.com

Illinois Water Environment Association

For more information

Edward Jankun

Associate Civil Engineer

MWRD

IWEA InFLOW Coordinator

JankunE1@mwr.org

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