



Now is the time to be thinking about Hiring a student for the summer

A Message from the Membership Outreach Committee

I think many of us remember the sometimes ominous task of searching for summer employment or looking for your first job as a young professional. While some of us may have been fortunate to perhaps have a clear direction of where we want to be and may have found a mentor early on in our careers, others may have a harder time first coming to grips with questions such as: "what kind of planning work do I want to do", "where do I want to practice" and "what kind of employer do I want to work for"? A summer placement is a great opportunity to explore the answers to these questions and more.

For many years, the Membership Outreach Committee has had a strategic relationship with planning students in Ontario. Each year a representative from the committee visits each of the accredited planning schools in Ontario. At which they have the opportunity to detail the benefits of being a member of the Institute and share stories of their beginnings as a young planner starting out in the profession. I am always amazed at the diversity of their backgrounds, their enthusiasm for the profession and their eagerness to get involved as soon as possible.

As OPPI members, we have a responsibility to pass along our experience and expertise to the next generation of professionals. Whether it be mentoring a recent graduate, providing a co-op/internship employment opportunity or supervising entry level staff, our members have an obligation to make an investment in the profession that has served them so well.

It may seem like a sometimes daunting task to mentor a future young professional. You may wonder, as your life seems busier than it has seems to have ever been in the past, how is there ever the time to take on the additional task of mentoring a student or junior staff member? However, I am certain that if you take the time, you will be equally amazed at how rewarding the experience can be for yourself. You may even find that you might learn something yourself!

As spring approaches, we are asking you to consider the possibility of hiring a student/intern this summer or even take a little bit extra time to mentor a junior staff member within your organization. In broadening our membership base, we need to continue to instil passion and inspiration in student planners and young professionals.

Our message to you is simple. Go inspire someone – you will never regret that you did!

Pam Whyte, MCIP, RPP
Director, Membership Outreach

P.S. Posting a job ad for a student is considerably less expensive than posting a regular job! Please see

<http://www.ontarioplanners.on.ca/content/HireAPlanner/postajob.aspx>