

Professional Mentor Program

NEW
pilot program
for landscape
irrigation
members

Connecting member companies or individuals in need of industry advice or ideas to overcome business challenges and solve difficult issues



Learn more at www.irrigation.org/mentorprogram.

The IA Professional Mentor Program was adapted from the U.S. Department of State's 2019 Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative.

The Irrigation Association recognizes that all businesses face numerous challenges.

The goal of this pilot program of the IA is to help our members and their businesses navigate and overcome some of these roadblocks to increased growth and success.

Through 2022, the pilot program will focus on the landscape segment and take a limited number of mentees to work with mentors for up to four hours. These volunteer mentors have diverse industry backgrounds and offer expertise and a wealth of institutional knowledge to be paired with specific challenges.

Quite often, just having a fresh set of eyes and a willing pair of experienced ears analyzing an issue will result in a productive solution that can overcome a difficult challenge.

The Professional Mentor Program is free and not intended as a long-term resource. If there is interest, the mentor can provide a list of IA member companies that can provide further consultation on a fee basis.

How does the mentor program work?

IA mentors are entrepreneurs and business leaders, including but not limited to practicing entrepreneurs, startup veterans and other professionals with practical business experience. They are there to guide you as you work to address your top business challenges.

Mentorship sessions provide you with the opportunity to contemplate resolutions that you will implement after the mentorship. The IA will accept a limited number of applications on a first-come, first-served basis during the pilot program. You will meet with your mentor virtually in one-on-one sessions throughout the mentorship period (up to four hours). Before meeting with a mentor, you will complete a Business Challenge Assessment worksheet, and these business challenges will be discussed during these meetings.

How do I apply for the program?

To participate in the IA Professional Mentor Program as a mentee, follow these steps:

Step 1. Read about the program at www.irrigation.org/mentorprogram. Click on the application link to complete and submit the online application via the SmarterSelect platform. On the application, you will be asked to identify one or two business challenges you are experiencing. These challenges will be the focus of discussions during your mentorship meetings.

Step 2. Submitted applications will be reviewed on the first of each month with notification via email within two to three weeks after submittal.

Step 3. If you are selected to participate in the IA Professional Mentor Program, you will be asked to complete a Business Challenge Assessment worksheet and submit it to your mentor prior to your first meeting. This worksheet is available for download at www.irrigation.org/mentorprogram.

Meeting with your IA mentor

The total time of your mentor meetings will be at least four hours over the course of the mentorship. Mentors will coordinate the dates and times for these meetings based on when you are both available. All meetings will be conducted virtually in one-on-one sessions. Meeting with your mentor may require additional flexibility to accommodate both of your busy schedules.

For more information and to apply, go to
www.irrigation.org/mentorprogram.