

# MENTORSHIP PROGRAM OVERVIEW

## AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION

### SAN DIEGO SECTION

#### MISSION

The Mission of the SDAPA Mentorship Program is to foster an exchange of professional expertise and innovative planning practices in an effort to provide participants the opportunity to enhance their career and personal skills through the creation of mutually beneficial relationships and friendships between students, young planning professionals and experienced planning professionals in the industry.

#### GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of Mentorship Program is to successfully match YPG members and students (Protégés) with experienced planners (Mentors) for guidance and support, while offering mentors an opportunity to strengthen ties with our future leaders of the planning community and the American Planning Association (APA).

The Objectives of the Mentorship Program are described as follows:

- Recognize APAs commitment to professional and technical development;
- Accelerate and enhance career and professional development of participants;
- Increase knowledge of the technical and/or organizational aspects of planning;
- Make friends and develop long-lasting relationships between participants

The intent of the Mentorship Program is to introduce YPG members and students to the professional realm of potential careers. In recognition of the varying degree of potential mentors' interests and limited availability, the Mentorship Program consists of three categories of Mentors with multiple avenues of contribution to the Program. The Program is structured to provide for a varying degree of participation based on the Mentors' level of interest in the Program and feasibility of time commitments.

#### BENEFITS TO PROTÉGÉS

- Gain a fresh perspective and additional experience
- Create valuable networking and recruiting opportunities
- Increase self-awareness of personal and professional capabilities
- Further professional and personal goals
- Enhance planning skills and improve performance
- Expand their understanding of the discipline
- Strengthen ties with the planning community and APA



#### BENEFITS TO MENTORS

- Enhance coaching and mentoring skills
- Gain satisfaction in being able to contribute to someone else's growth
- Gain new perspective on the field of planning
- Expand their network and professional contacts

**Look out for the launch of the SDAPA Mentorship program in early 2011! If you are interested in the Mentorship Program, either as a Protégé or a Mentor, please leave your business card, sign up, or contact Oswaldo Perez @ [Ope@sandag.org](mailto:Ope@sandag.org).**