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From: [Caroline Pakenham](#)

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To: [Susan Boynton](#)

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YP Connections - Volume 11 Issue 3

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### [Mentorship Programs Pave a Path to a More Sustainable Future](#)

In a recent presentation on mentorship, Cristina Lugo, a member of the Water Environment Association of Ontario (WEAO) Students and Young Professionals Committee (SYPC), noted that the path after high school tends to go a little something like this: go to college, get an internship, find a job and start building your career. But how many people actually know what career they want to pursue straight out of college? College may teach us the fundamentals of math, science, literature, etc. that jumpstart our technical knowledge base, but an integral piece to career development is currently missing: finding a mentor!



Recognizing the importance of this missing piece, WEAO laid the groundwork for a mentorship program in 2010—2011, designed to help recent graduates and young professionals transition from academia into the professional work place. It was officially launched in 2013 at the WEAO Annual Conference, and that same year, the Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association (PNCWA) also kicked off their Mentorship Program.

### [Save the Date for YP Summit 2018 in San Antonio, TX](#)

It's time to dust off your boots because YP Summit 2018 is coming to San Antonio, TX next February 19-20 at the Hyatt Regency Riverwalk. YP Summit is a joint WEF and AWWA event for young professionals in the water and wastewater sector. The summit will tackle emerging issues in the water sector and provide programming to expand leadership skills. Events will kick-off on Monday, February 19 with separate leadership workshops hosted by WEF and AWWA. There will also be a welcome icebreaker reception that evening where young professionals can connect and network with their peers. The full day YP Summit will occur on Tuesday, February 20 and will conclude with an evening reception.



More details about the YP Summit and registration will be available on the [YP Summit webpage](#) this fall. In the meantime, [read our interview with 2018 YP Summit Chair, Vanessa Borkowski](#), about the benefits of attending and why young professionals should be excited about next year's event!

### [Another Record-Breaking Year for the WEF Student Design](#)

#### Upcoming Events:

6/15:  
Stormwater Seminar 2017  
Quebec City

6/22:  
Enabling the Water  
Resources Utility of the  
Future Webinar Series

7/23:  
IWA Reuse 2017

9/29:  
Water Palooza, Chicago

9/30:  
WEF Community Service  
Project, Chicago

10/1:  
Student Design Competition,  
Chicago

10/2:  
Student & YP Career Fair,  
Chicago

10/2:  
YP Reception, Chicago

[See all events](#)

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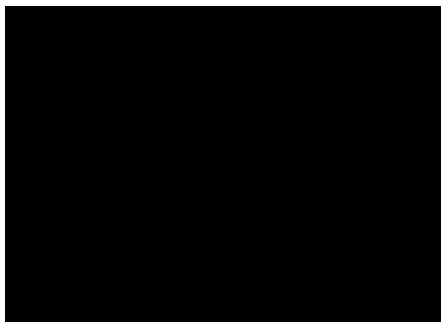
YP Connections is brought to you by the WEF Students and Young Professionals Committee. To join us or learn more, visit us online at [www.wef.org/syp](http://www.wef.org/syp)

Submissions:

Have news to share? Please

## [Competition!](#)

WEFTEC 2017 will be another record-breaking year for the WEF Student Design Competition! Not only will the competition be celebrating its 15th Anniversary, but it will also be hosting the largest number of teams in the competition's history. This year, 17 schools from 16 different Member Associations will be represented from across the country and Canada. Joining the national competition for the first-time will be the University of Kansas, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Manhattan College, George Mason University, and Florida A&M University - Florida State University. This will also be the first time that the Kansas WEA and Kentucky-Tennessee WEA will send a team to WEFTEC. We encourage you to come cheer on your alma mater or Member Association's team at WEFTEC 2017 in Chicago, IL on Sunday, October 1!



contact us  
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## [WEF Community Service Project Thrives in New Orleans](#)

The Saturday before WEFTEC begins, WEF's Students and Young Professionals Committee hosts a water-related service project to give back to the WEFTEC host community. At WEFTEC 2016, nearly 200 volunteers spent their Saturday helping build and plant bioswales at City Hall in New Orleans. After more than 8 months, the NOLA Grows Green project has taken root and added beautiful color to the grounds of City Hall. Danielle Duhe, a landscape architect at Dana Brown & Associates, Inc., spearheaded the design of the 2016 project and caught up with WEF after a recent visit to the site. "They are both [the bioswales] working wonderfully!" Duhe said. "The plants are looking great! I passed by this morning and took a picture of the spider lilies blooming. The irises have really taken off and started to spread and the muhly had a great showing of pink in the spring."



To learn more about the WEF Community Service Project and why it's so important to our WEFTEC host communities, [watch our interview](#) with SYPC Past Chair, Haley Falconer.

## [Virginia Water Environment Association YP Members Helping to Make a Difference](#)

On Earth Day 2017, members of the VWEA and VA-AWWA Young Professionals Committee, along with Friends of the Accotink Creek, hosted a stream cleanup site as part of the 29th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup. This year, the YP Committee was also able to partner with student members from George Mason University. This April, George Mason University became the Virginia Water Environment Association's newest student chapter. At the event, the student chapter members and young professionals collected over 20 bags of trash, plastic bottles, and other recyclable items despite the heavy rain. The event was a great way for the group to engage with the community and help keep the watershed clean.



## **More News for Students and Young Professionals**

[Save the Date for Student and YP Events at WEFTEC 2017](#)

[Water Environment Association of South Carolina Announces its First Student Chapter](#)

[WEF needs YOU to be a Water Advocate!](#)

[Utility Management Conference 2018 Call for Abstracts Deadline: June 21](#)

[Best Rate Registration Deadline for WEFTEC: July 14!](#)

[Water Environment Research is Now Offering the Option of Open-Access](#)

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