



MASLA

April 27, 2005

RE: Michigan ASLA's New Mentoring Network

Dear MASLA Members and landscape architecture students:

As a part of National Landscape Architecture Month, the Michigan Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects is initiating a professional / student mentoring program. The goal of the program is to provide students with a resource to help them understand the profession and assist them in their transition into the working world. It is also intended to help professionals keep in touch with landscape architecture programs in the state and the interests of the students in those programs.

The Mentoring Network seeks to match professionals and students based on their interests and geographic locations as closely as possible. Beyond that the program is very flexible. The intent is that the student and professional will meet in person at least once each semester or communicate via e-mail and the phone if that is not possible.

The professional would be available to address questions on a variety of topics related to landscape architecture. Topics may include issues such as: input on student projects, portfolios, interviewing, finding internships, current issues in the profession, etc. At the end of the school year a brief follow-up survey will be sent to the participants so that we may refine the program. Participants may opt out of the program at any time by contacting the mentoring program coordinator.

The mentoring program will begin in earnest this fall, at the beginning of the new school year. But, students and professionals are encouraged to sign-up today and the program will become active early this summer. If you are interested in pursuing the mentoring program please fill out the sign-up form available on the MASLA's new website at <http://www.michiganasla.org/>. Also, please feel free to share additional information such as your thesis topic that further defines your interest areas within the profession.

This is the first step MASLA is making to improve the ties between practicing professionals and students. We will explore additional mentoring ideas at this year's MASLA conference on September 22 in Ann Arbor. Thank you for your interest in the mentoring program.

Sincerely,

Norman D. Cox, ASLA
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