



The Young Professionals' Mentorship sub-committee is excited to present the second annual **Mentorship Speed Networking Event on Sunday, April 26th**. Last year, there was a full house of industry leaders and young professionals, with the mentors sharing their experiences in a small group setting. The event is expected to be full again in 2020. It provides the opportunity for Young Professionals to pose questions to company presidents and municipal directors in a relaxed setting, and then continue the fascinating conversations at the Icebreaker Event which follows as the part of the 2020 WEAO Technical Symposium and OPCEA Exhibition. The Icebreaker event requires a purchase of ticket to attend if not registered for the conference.

This event is open to all Young Professionals. Conference registration is not required to attend the Young Professional (YP) Mentorship Event. Participation in the WEAO mentorship program is not necessary to attend this awesome event! Look for the Mentorship Networking Session in the Conference Program on Sunday evening.

If you are participating in the WEAO Mentorship Program or have an informal mentorship type relationship, here are tips to continue the conversation.

- **Connect by asking rapport-building questions.** The key here is to ask good open-ended questions and show genuine interest. Can you spot the difference between a simple "How are you" and "What was your favourite job as a Young Professional?" and/or "How did it lead to your current position"? A few other examples are "You specialize in X. why did you choose that niche?" and "Tell me about an interesting project you were involved in during the last 3 years."
- **Find common ground.** Everyone likes to talk about the things about which they are passionate – Finding a passion you share is the key to connecting and beginning to build a lasting professional relationship. Beyond your mutual love of all things water, you both may have an interest for travelling, a popular television series, or a sport. Asking simple questions and listening intently will help identify these commonalities.
- **Empathize with their challenges.** Just as being a young professional comes with its share of challenges, your mentor regularly faces professional and personal challenges. By inquiring about a recent problem faced at work and genuinely listening, you change the conversation from you and me, to **we**.
- **Follow up on something interesting.** Did you mentor mention (or post about) a job/project pursuit, conference where they were presenting, or life event in a previous session? Following up on these tidbits of information shows that you are engaged and listening intently.