



October 28, 2016

Subject: 2016 APWA PWX

Dear Members of the Executive Committee,

Thank you for selecting me for the Emerging Public Works Leaders Program and for sending me and the rest of the 2016 class to APWA PWX. I am so grateful for the knowledge I gained and the networking I was able to do as a result.

The first thing I attended at the conference was the opening session that included Captain Scott Kelly. I had known I wanted to hear his speech when I first saw he was scheduled and was so glad I could hear him speak. It was inspiring to listen to him and learn from such a great example of a leader. I was truly inspired when he outlined how easy it could have been for him to capitulate and not push himself to achieve his goals. Some people say you just have to walk through that door to become great, just commit to doing it. There is a third option, you can run through that door and embrace it.

After the opening session I took my first look at the exhibit hall and I began to really dive into all that it offered. From talking to vendors I knew my municipality used, as well as seeing many others with technology that could benefit us, I was very impressed. I learned we were merely scratching the surface on how we were using some of existing software and equipment and left with many more ideas that I hope to implement for my City.

I attended educational sessions on asset management and the national weather services as it relates to Public Works because of my involvement with our winter operations. It was a theme across the whole of PWX educational sessions to continue to learn and find as many different ideas that I could take in and determine if I could use them to better my municipality. I also attended a seminar on 'How to Achieve Excellence in Snow and Ice Control', various GIS sessions on the exhibit floor, and I also attended the 'Preparing the Next Generation of Public Works session.

I thought it was important to see what the 2015 Class of Emerging Public Works Leaders had spent a year working together on and I was not let down. They gave lots of tools that could be used to help implement programs to help grow and keep employees, especially younger generations, invested in their community or work place. I also thought one of the best parts of

their seminar was the question and answer session. It was great to hear from the perspective of some of the experienced leaders in Public Works interact with some the youngest professionals and really try and understand how to best utilize and foster my generation of Public Works employees.

There was a small team of us sent up to PWX from my municipality. We really tried to embrace Minneapolis and went to several restaurants as well as walked down by the Mississippi River in some of the historical areas of the City, even if it left me a little worn out by the end. I attended the Young Professionals Networking Reception as well as our Chapter Dinner. It was great to meet and talk with everyone and I could not have had a better time.

I took so much away from my time at PWX. Whether it was the unique way the Twin Cities has embraced bike and pedestrian traffic or the importance of understanding the true breadth of the capabilities of some of the technologies you may already be paying for. I appreciated the entire experience that was PWX as an Emerging Leader and am excited to apply all that I learned towards bettering my community in the future.

Sincerely,

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