AIA Michigan

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Hi folks,

For this month's entry, I really want to focus on the idea of Mentorship. But first, I need to close the loop on an item I brought up the last time I wrote to you.

In my last entry, I mentioned that the biggest news to hit the Young Architects Forum this year is that the Regions are dissolving, and all YARDS will be state based. Just as a reminder, this doesn't really affect Michigan simply because we're already state based. But for those who aren't state based, the change will happen like this: The YARDS that are transitioning into next year will maintain the regions they already represent. Those who are rolling off for their replacement to come in will see this change take place by the end of this year. This will be an exciting change because it means our team will be growing very quickly.

Now onto Mentorship. The first opportunity that I want to let you know about is called the COF/YAF Align Mentorship program. This program acts as a vehicle that connects fellows with emerging professionals to help align EPs with their career goals. When you apply, you will be grouped into what are called PODs that will consist of 4-6 young architects and 2-3 fellows. This program not only helps align an emerging professional's strategy with their career goals, but also gets more youth involved with the COF's initiatives. I highly recommend joining this program because the best way to reach your destination is to talk to someone who has already been down the path. To join, reach out to Ryan McEnroe, AIA at ryan.t.mcenroe@gmail.com or call/text (480) 244-9402.

The other program I wanted to tell you about is called Nexus. Although similar to Align, Nexus has a slightly different take to the format of connecting fellows with emerging professionals. Those who join will meet on set dates to discuss a certain topic with a guest speaker. From there, you will break off into cohort discussion groups to expand on the discussion. Finally, you will rejoin the larger group to wrap up final thoughts and takeaways. The format leads to great discussion and the next meeting takes place on Oct. 19th with the topic "Educational Pipeline." To join this program, email the Nexus team at architectsmentoring@gmail.com

There are many more mentorship programs out there, but I wanted to highlight two that are growing rapidly and have a strong connection with COF. Whatever program you join, just make sure you stay with it. The path to your career goals is not a sprint, it's a marathon. Running marathons takes preparation, focus, and dedication. These mentorship programs will help build all three of those for you.

Well, you now have your homework till we talk again in November.

Till next time, stay safe, stay warm, oh...and Happy Fall yall!

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