

### Recognizing Outstanding Leaders Within APWA



**Robert Broadbent Distinguished Service Award**

**Lance Olson, PE City of Henderson Public Works Director**

The Robert Broadbent Distinguished Service Award recognizes individuals who demonstrate exceptional leadership within both the public works profession and the broader community. The award celebrates those who build public trust in infrastructure professionals and inspire others through sustained service and involvement.

At the 2025 Fall Conference, this honor was presented to Lance, whose long-standing contributions to the APWA Nevada Chapter and the public works industry exemplify the spirit of the award. Through years of professional dedication and community engagement, Lance has played an important role in advancing the mission of public works while mentoring colleagues and supporting the growth of the chapter.

His leadership reflects the values embodied by the the award's namesake: commitment, integrity, and service to both the profession and the community.



**Harry S. Swearingen Award for Outstanding Member of the Year**

**Lonnie Johnson, PE, J-U-B**

The Harry S. Swearingen Award for Outstanding Member of the Year recognizes individuals who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to APWA through chapter leadership, volunteerism, and support of the organization's goals and strategic vision.

At the 2025 conference, the award was presented to Lonnie, whose dedication to the chapter and the profession has had a significant impact across Nevada. Lonnie has been deeply involved in chapter leadership and initiatives, helping guide programs that support professional development, collaboration, and the continued advancement of public works.

His service has also extended into leadership roles within the chapter, including serving as a chapter president and continuing to support the organization as a past president.



**Crystal Briscoe "Spitfire" Award**

**Tanner Richardson, EI (CA Group)**

The Crystal Briscoe "Spitfire" Award is presented annually to a young professional under the age of 35 who demonstrates outstanding involvement in the chapter and commitment to the future of public works. The award celebrates emerging leaders who bring energy, initiative, and innovation to the profession.

This year's recipient, Tanner, represents the next generation of public works leadership in Nevada. Tanner has been actively involved in chapter initiatives and events, contributing enthusiasm and fresh perspectives to the organization's programs and outreach efforts.

Through active engagement with the Young Professionals group and participation in chapter activities, Tanner has helped strengthen connections among members while promoting the importance of public works careers.

Lance Olson, Lonnie Johnson, and Tanner Richardson were presented with their awards at the Fall Conference in Lake Tahoe, Nevada.

# APWA Nevada Hosts Spring Conference at M Resort

Celebrating excellence in public works, professionals from across the state gathered in Southern Nevada for the APWA Nevada Spring Conference, held at the M Resort Spa Casino, breaking a record of more than 400 attendees and a sold-out golf tournament. The event brought together engineers, public agency leaders, and industry partners to share best practices, discuss emerging trends, and recognize outstanding infrastructure projects shaping communities throughout Nevada. The conference highlighted innovation, collaboration, and excellence in project delivery and core values that continue to define the public works profession.

## A Forum for Collaboration and Innovation

The Spring Conference featured technical sessions, panel discussions, and networking opportunities focused on key issues such as infrastructure resilience, workforce development, and sustainable design. Attendees explored advancements in transportation systems, water infrastructure, and municipal operations, reflecting the growing complexity of public works in rapidly expanding regions like Southern Nevada. Set against the backdrop of continued population growth and infrastructure demand, the conference underscored the importance of regional coordination and forward-thinking planning.



## Recognizing Project Excellence

A central highlight of the conference was the annual Project of the Year awards, which recognize outstanding achievements in public works across multiple categories and budget ranges. This year's award recipients demonstrated excellence in design, construction, and community impact.

### Structures: \$10 Million–\$20 Million

The City of North Las Vegas was recognized for the APEX Elevated Water Tank project. This critical infrastructure investment enhances water system reliability and supports continued industrial and residential growth in the Apex Industrial Park area.

### Transportation: \$10 Million–\$20 Million

The Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County was recognized for the TE Spot 11 Package 3, Steamboat Parkway Improvements project. The project improves traffic flow, safety, and multimodal access in a rapidly developing area of Washoe County.

### Structures: Greater Than \$20 Million

The City of Henderson was recognized for the Fire Station 92 & Municipal Operations Yard project. The facility represents a significant investment in public safety and operational efficiency, combining modern fire response capabilities with expanded municipal service infrastructure.

### Transportation: Greater Than \$20 Million

Clark County Public Works was recognized for the Jones Boulevard (Blue Diamond to Windmill) project. This major corridor improvement enhances capacity, safety, and connectivity in one of the Las Vegas Valley's key north-south routes.



## Advancing the Profession

Beyond project recognition, the conference reinforced the vital role public works agencies play in maintaining and improving quality of life. From transportation corridors to water systems and emergency services facilities, the honored projects exemplify how strategic investment and collaboration can deliver lasting community benefits. APWA continues to support these efforts by fostering professional development, promoting innovation, and advocating for sustainable infrastructure solutions.



## Looking Ahead

As Nevada communities continue to grow, the importance of resilient and efficient public infrastructure remains paramount. The APWA Nevada Spring Conference not only celebrated past achievements but also set the stage for future progress, inspiring public works professionals to continue advancing the systems that keep communities connected, safe, and thriving. With strong participation and a focus on excellence, the event reaffirmed APWA Nevada's commitment to recognizing leadership and supporting the next generation of infrastructure innovation.

# CELEBRATING THE APWA NEVADA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

APWA Nevada Chapter is proud to recognize the recipients of its 2025 Intern-Focused Scholarship Program, an initiative designed to support and encourage the next generation of public works professionals. Each year, the program provides financial assistance to Nevada students pursuing careers in fields that support critical infrastructure and community services.

For 2025, the Chapter committed a minimum of \$8,000 in scholarship funding, with awards of at least \$2,000 each. These scholarships help students pursuing degrees in public works-related disciplines such as civil engineering, construction management, architecture, public administration, and related technical fields.

This year's recipients represent both Northern and Southern Nevada and demonstrate a strong commitment to academic excellence and public service:



Northern Nevada  
Jaime Garcia  
Kettja Bennett  
Southern Nevada  
Daniel Nevarez  
Kayla Meyer



Each recipient has shown a passion for public works through their academic studies and hands-on internship experience within the industry. The scholarship program specifically emphasizes practical experience, requiring applicants to have completed a public works-related internship or work experience within the past year.

## Investing in the Future of Public Works

Public works professionals play a vital role in maintaining and improving the infrastructure that communities rely on every day—from transportation systems and water infrastructure to environmental services and public facilities. Through programs like the APWA Nevada scholarship, the Chapter continues to invest in students who will lead and innovate in these essential fields.

**If you are interested or know someone who is, the 2026 scholarship application is open and can be found here:**

<https://nevada.apwa.org/resources/2026-scholarship/>

**The due date is May 30, 2026**

## Building Connections Beyond the Workplace: APWA Nevada Young Professionals

The American Public Works Association Nevada Chapter's Young Professionals (YP) program continues to grow as a vibrant community for emerging leaders in public works throughout the state. While professional development and technical education remain core components of the organization, APWA Nevada YP has also focused heavily on creating opportunities for members to build meaningful relationships outside of the office through social events, volunteer efforts, and community engagement.

The APWA Young Professionals program serves members under the age of 35 who work across the public works industry, including engineering, construction, utilities, transportation, consulting, and local government. Through a mix of networking, leadership development, and recreational activities, the group has created an environment where young professionals can connect with peers while building lasting friendships and professional networks.

Over the past year, APWA Nevada YP has hosted and participated in a variety of events that brought members together in both professional and social settings. Community involvement has remained a major focus, with YP members volunteering at local charity and outreach events that support Nevada communities. These volunteer opportunities not only reinforce the public service values central to the public works profession, but also allow members to give back alongside fellow industry professionals.

In addition to volunteer activities, APWA Nevada YP has organized several outdoor and recreational events designed to strengthen connections among members. Group hikes throughout Southern Nevada offered opportunities for professionals to unplug from daily work demands and enjoy Nevada's unique outdoor landscapes while networking in a relaxed environment. Sporting event outings also proved popular, giving members a chance to connect outside of conference rooms and project meetings while supporting local teams and enjoying time together socially.

The group has also embraced more casual social gatherings that help foster camaraderie across the industry. Karaoke nights, board game socials, and after-work networking events have become favorite traditions among members, creating welcoming spaces for both new and longtime participants to build relationships. These events help break down barriers between agencies, consultants, contractors, and vendors while encouraging collaboration across the public works community.

Professional development has continued alongside these social and community-building activities. During the APWA Nevada Spring Conference, Young Professionals participated in dedicated networking sessions, leadership discussions, and conference events aimed at supporting career growth and mentorship opportunities. The YP luncheon and social gatherings during the conference allowed attendees to connect with experienced industry leaders while also strengthening relationships among peers from across Nevada.

One of the strengths of APWA Nevada YP is its ability to balance professional growth with genuine community-building. By creating opportunities for volunteerism, recreation, and social interaction, the organization has developed a strong culture that encourages involvement and engagement among young professionals entering the public works industry.

Looking ahead, APWA Nevada YP plans to continue expanding its calendar of events with additional volunteer opportunities, networking mixers, outdoor activities, technical tours, and social gatherings throughout the year. As Nevada's infrastructure and public works needs continue to evolve, the chapter remains committed to supporting the next generation of leaders by creating opportunities for connection, collaboration, and professional growth.

Through service, mentorship, and shared experiences, APWA Nevada Young Professionals is helping build not only stronger careers, but also a stronger public works community across Nevada.



# Upcoming APWA National and Nevada Events, Mark Your Calendars!

**APWA Nevada Scholarship  
Applications Due**  
May 30, 2026

**PWX 2026: The Premier Public Works Event**  
August 30–September 2, 2026  
Houston, Texas

**APWA Nevada Fall Conference**  
September 23-25, 2026  
Lake Tahoe, Nevada

For more events, visit: <https://nevada.apwa.org/event/>

## Interested in Becoming an APWA Member?

APWA is more than just a professional organization, it is a community dedicated to supporting the people who build, maintain, and improve the infrastructure that keeps our communities running every day. Whether you work in engineering, transportation, utilities, construction management, public administration, or operations, becoming an APWA member provides valuable opportunities for professional growth, networking, leadership development, and industry involvement.

For professionals across Nevada, APWA membership offers direct access to both local chapter activities and national resources that can help advance careers at every stage. From young professionals entering the industry to experienced leaders looking to mentor the next generation, APWA creates connections that strengthen both individual careers and the public works profession as a whole.

### Benefits of APWA Membership

One of the greatest advantages of APWA membership is access to a strong network of public works professionals. Members have opportunities to connect with peers, agency representatives, consultants, contractors, and industry leaders through conferences, networking events, luncheons, technical tours, and social activities hosted throughout the year.

Membership also provides access to professional development and educational resources, including:

- Industry conferences and training workshops
- Leadership and mentorship opportunities
- Technical resources and publications
- Continuing education opportunities
- Certification and credentialing support
- Scholarship and career development programs
- Young Professional and Emerging Leader involvement

For younger members and emerging professionals, APWA's Young Professionals program offers additional opportunities to build industry connections through social events, volunteer activities, sporting outings, community service projects, hikes, networking mixers, and mentorship programs.

Members also gain access to national APWA resources, including webinars, best practice guidance, advocacy efforts, and the annual PWX Conference, one of the largest public works conferences in North America.

Beyond career development, APWA membership allows professionals to become active participants in shaping the future of public works within Nevada communities. Members can serve on committees, contribute to chapter initiatives, participate in community outreach efforts, and help support educational programs that inspire future generations to pursue careers in public infrastructure and public service.

### How to Become an APWA Member

Joining APWA is a simple process. Individuals can sign up online through the official APWA website by selecting the membership category that best fits their profession and career stage. Membership options are available for public agency employees, private sector professionals, students, retirees, and young professionals.

- To become a member:
- Visit the APWA membership page
- Select your membership category
- Complete the online application
- Choose the Nevada Chapter during registration

### Begin participating in local and national APWA events and programs

New members are encouraged to get involved early by attending chapter events, joining committees, participating in Young Professional activities, and connecting with fellow members throughout Nevada.

### Building the Future Together

Public works professionals play a critical role in maintaining the infrastructure and services that communities rely on every day. By becoming an APWA member, individuals gain access to a professional network that supports growth, collaboration, leadership, and innovation across the industry.