

# TEXAS PLANNING MENTORSHIP PROGRAM: First Year Review

## BACKGROUND

In October 2014, the Texas Emerging Planning Leaders Committee created the Mentorship Program. The purpose of the program is to connect planning professionals, foster intergenerational communication, and pass on institutional knowledge about planning in Texas.

Instead of one-on-one mentor pairs, program participants are placed in communities of 5 to 8 people. Each community has individuals at different stages of their career.

## 2014-2015 Program Stats

**231 Participants**

**36 Communities**

**2 Community Mash-Ups Held**



## PROGRAM SUCCESSES

According to a participant survey conducted in July, over **80% of communities have met.**

Activities include meeting for a meal or happy hour, attending a section event together, visiting community member's offices, reviewing resumes, and participating in conference calls.

Furthermore, there have been at least two known instances of a mentorship participant **receiving a job offer** because of connections they made in their mentorship community.



## PROGRAM REFINEMENTS

Based on feedback received from the participant survey conducted this summer, the TxEPL Committee is making the following changes to further refine the program and ensure its continued success:

- More structured events throughout the year, including events focused on students
- More detailed guidelines of what's expected of community leaders
- Group participants by home zip code to encourage more participation

Applications for interested participants will be available in September at [www.txplanning.org/mentorship](http://www.txplanning.org/mentorship)