

NEW MEMBER PROFILE

Name:

Margie Kurkowski

Membership Category:

Associate

Title:

Business Development & Marketing Director

Certification(s):

n/a

Company:

Wright Heerema Architects

Company description:

Wright Heerema Architects is an architectural firm that provides integrated master planning, programming, architecture and interior design services. Our experience in corporate headquarters, office buildings, higher education projects, and interior architecture is a result of our ability to help clients define and realize their long-term goals. Using expertise refined by years of award-winning work, and a firm understanding of building technology and trends, we develop a fully integrated design solution, and drive it to a successful completion. Our firm was founded in 1996, with a vision to provide the highest level of design and service to the most demanding clients. By our fifth anniversary, we had built an organization of quality professionals, and completed more than 5 million square feet of projects (primarily corporate headquarters and commercial office buildings). Since 2001, our work has greatly diversified to include financial institutions, higher education, commercial office interiors and office building redevelopment. In 2007, we moved to the historic Marquette Building in Chicago's vibrant loop. The space provides us with a facility that fosters open collaboration among staff, and an effective place for meeting and interaction with our clients.

Last book read:

In progress – The Many Lives of John Lennon

Last movie seen:

Midnight in Paris

My Favorite Vacation City/Country:

Paris, France and Provence

Favorite Sport and Team:

Blackhawks

What has been the most challenging part of your job recently? And, have you made any changes to try and solve some of those issues?

Increased competition has driven architectural fees very low and it is increasingly difficult compiling fees that will cover the cost to complete the project. Some changes implemented have been new technologies to cut project time.

What have been the most important steps in your life (schools, jobs, etc.) that have led you to where you are today?

Some of the most important steps in my life have involved giving back to the community. Through many philanthropic efforts I've met many people and have advanced in my career through relationships I've developed.

Many people who work within the FM world have to act as 'leaders' in their jobs. What do you think makes a good leader, and have you done anything recently that has made you a leader?

I think good leaders create an environment in which great ideas can be born. This can happen by giving responsibility and the resources for others to foster and inspire new ideas.

In late summer I was appointed Chair of Programs for the CoreNet Chicago Chapter, and have to plan monthly luncheons with topics and speakers. I've had to delegate responsibility to a committee of 20 members to inspire new ideas, as well as, implement them.

A year from now, what will you have hoped to accomplish, professionally or personally?

Professionally, I'd like to continue advancing in my career through professional and philanthropic opportunities.