

INTERNATIONAL MENTORING ASSOCIATION

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Dear IMA Members:

Our IMA Conference has continued to be our annual “gathering place” to share ideas, present our experiences, and to sustain our Mentoring community through professional dialogue. Last year’s event marked a new beginning. First, we recognized the anniversary of the 20th annual conference of the IMA. At the same time, we announced a new stage of development as an organization—one anchored in organizational renewal and realigning some of our functions. Finally, we used a new and more interactive Conference format.

Included in this new format were: (a) the World Cafe that enabled all of us to meet and dialogue throughout the Conference; (b) the interactive Talk Show format that featured multiple perspectives around a common aspect of Mentoring ; (c) diverse and informative workshops offered in longer time periods; and (d) several colleagues representing international perspectives. If you were able to attend, you contributed to the success of our Conference by taking advantage of these as vehicles to share with us your experiences in Mentoring.

We are intent on sustaining this new momentum to “reach even higher”—the theme of the 2008 Conference. We’ve used the reactions and ideas of the 2007 Conference participants to frame the 2008 Conference so that we can deepen our learnings, increase our understandings, and expand our network both nationally and internationally about the world of Mentoring practice.

We’ve scheduled the 2008 Conference to take place at Las Vegas. Here are the details:

2008 Annual IMA Conference
Theme: Reaching Higher: Developing & Sustaining Human Potential
through Mentoring and Coaching
Timeframe: April 23-25, 2008
Location: Tuscany Suites and Casino
Las Vegas, NV
[www://tuscanylv.com](http://www.tuscanylv.com)

We’re planning to include, as we introduced this past year, the World Cafe concept, the Talk Show Format, pre-conference institutes focusing on development of mentoring skills and techniques, and, a variety of workshops addressing a range of strategies, programs, and relevant issues on Mentoring. We’ve also modified our design so that the Conference will formally conclude mid afternoon on Friday, April 25 to allow you to enjoy other experiences in Las Vegas.

Perhaps the most significant dimension will be the fresh perspective that each of you can bring to our community conversation as participants, presenters, and/or discussants.

A Call for Proposals will follow shortly. We urge you to submit a proposal remembering that we are interested in presenting a variety of Mentoring programs and strategies each of which can be at a different stage of development. Learning occurs as a result of hearing about and interacting around programs that are both “under construction” as well as others that are at a later stage of model development. It’s the dialogue that counts in all of this—the rich conversations that move all of us to a higher level of valuing Mentoring as a 21st strategy for human growth and development.

We ask you, as members, to consider three things:

- plan on attending the 2008 Conference in Las Vegas to sustain our Mentoring conversation;
- consider presenting at a workshop or Pre-Conference Institute;
- share this information with some colleagues whom you believe may be interested in our Mentoring community.

As always, we encourage your ideas, reactions, and recommendations so that the International Mentoring Association continues to be the organization that you want it to be.

Sincerely,

Joseph Pascarelli
President

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