Planning Tomorrow: Knowledge, Skills, and Values for the Future

Linda C. Dalton, PhD, FAICP
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo
ldalton@calpoly.edu
Planning Today (from APA surveys)
  - Planners
  - Public agencies
  - Private and non-profit work
The Future (from forecasts)
Planning Tomorrow (implications)
  - The planning office
  - Knowledge
  - Skills
  - Values

Overview
Planners - Demographics
Planners - Experience

2014: Median years in current position = 6

- 1 to 10 years
- 11 to 20 years*
- 21 or more years
Public Agencies
Private and Non-Profit Work
Demographics
Economics
Human Settlements
Natural Environment
Politics
Social Justice
Technology

The Future
All Planners and Offices
- Career mobility
- ‘Working anytime, anywhere’
- ‘Bring your own device’

The Public Agency
- Pension funding
- ‘Disruptive’ attitudes toward regulation

The Private Firm
- Conglomerates, associates, and sole proprietors
- Space and technology sharing

The Future Planning Office
Natural Environment
- Resource management
- Catastrophes
- Applied science

Demographics & Human Settlements
- Health and wellness
- Housing
- Transportation systems
- Aging infrastructure

Economics
- Capital
- *Revitalization & ‘retrofitting’*

Knowledge
Human Settlements & the Natural Environment

- Contingency planning

Technology

- Proficiency, currency, adaptability
- Use of ‘big data’

Demographics, Politics & Social Justice

- Communication across generations and interests
- Plan-making that mediates differential impacts of public policy on diverse constituents

Skills
Demographics
  • Closing the gaps in the profession and the community

Economics & Social Justice
  • Educational opportunities
  • Wealth disparities

Technology
  • Access, security and privacy

Politics
  • The Public Good

Values
Tomorrow’s Planners Need

- More **knowledge** about revitalization and ‘retrofitting’ than traditional land use as many areas approach build out.
- **Skills** to address socio-economic consequences in plans so as to avoid gentrification.
- **Values** that reinforce the Public Interest – for example, that we regulate development to protect the ‘health, safety, and welfare’ of people and property.
- And all of this takes **Leadership**.

Summary