



SIIA ENDEAVORS

POPULAR MENTORING EVENT ALLOWED PARTICIPANTS TO CONNECT FROM ANYWHERE

The Self-Insurance Institute of America, Inc. (SIIA) further demonstrated its ability to effectively connect members in new ways by conducting its popular Mentor Connection Forum last month entirely via Zoom.

Designed to connect younger SIIA members (under 40) with senior level industry executives in a rotating small group mentoring format, the Forum has been previously produced as an in-person event.

The new "Connect from Anywhere" approach proved to be a great success based on the overwhelming positive feedback received from both mentors and mentees. Here's what some of the participants had to say:

EVENT FEEDBACK....

"Having just started my career in stop loss insurance, something that really resonated with me during the forum was the importance of lateral movement over vertical movement in your career. It's the idea that sometimes the best move for you is to become more of a generalist, rather than climbing the corporate ladder as fast as possible. Overall, it was a great experience, and I was pleasantly surprised by how well the virtual platform was carried out. I felt just as connected to my peers and colleagues as I would have if it had been in-person. I am very happy this great event was able to be conducted during Covid-19."

Ben Hopton, Underwriting Assistant, Tokio Marine HCC – Stop-Loss Group

"I wasn't sure how well the program was going to work given that we could not have in-person contact with the younger member participants, but I was very pleasantly surprised. It was equally as rewarding for me to be able to share my experiences and relate to them in a more relaxed setting with no distractions. Not as much pressure than face-to-face for all."

Liz Midtlien, Vice President, Emerging Markets, AmeriHealth Administrators

"This was my first SIIA event and I really enjoyed it from start to finish. I gained some pretty valuable advice which I can take back and use as I continue to grow my career within the industry. I'll definitely be attending future events."

Bryan Dunton, Health Benefit Plan Consultant, The Phia Group

"In a year where so many are struggling due to COVID's impact on their business, it was so refreshing to hear from these industry veterans that the most important things are: you're happy, you're passionate about something, and your life is more than your job."

Lisa Elder, Sales Director, Maestro Health

"I was REALLY impressed by how invested the mentors all seemed to be. I got the sense that they genuinely wanted to be there and cared about helping the participants grow."

Tony Birdsong, Data Analytics, TPAC Underwriters, Inc.

"I thoroughly enjoyed being a mentor, learning from the attendees about their concerns; hearing about their goals and giving advice to help them grow and learn about how to be their personal best. It was so rewarding, especially once I got the timing down!"

Lisa Moody, CEO, Renalogic



"I enjoyed engaging with attendees and sharing ways to pave the path to great leadership. I believe gaining broad exposure to a wide range of experiences accelerates career development.

This 'lattice approach' provides the opportunity to learn from mistakes while building the confidence necessary to determine the best actions to take as a leader. Hopefully, my contributions empowered others to see what's possible for the future."

Rob Gelb, CEO, V&L

SIIA thanks S&S Health Care Strategies and Guy Carpenter for their generous financial sponsorship of this unique industry event.

The next Connect from Anywhere (CFA) Mentor Connection Forum has been scheduled for June 17-18, 2021. Watch for event details closer to the date. In the meantime, please contact Justin Miller at jmiller@siaa.org should your company be interested in supporting this Forum – and the broader SIIA Future Leaders initiative – by becoming an event sponsor. ■

