This month’s *EM* focuses on education, which has always been an important topic for me. I have been, and am currently, associated with several school boards and as a lecturer, from pre-K through to university level. Through these experiences, I have learned three core truths about education: (1) a good education can greatly enhance a person’s life, (2) you can always learn more, and (3) everyone has something to teach.

When I hear statements such as the fact that more or less 90% of the data created in human existence has been generated in the last two years and that the pace is only accelerating, I am reminded of the importance of A&WMA members’ role in creating, digesting, assimilating, and disseminating accurate and factual data and the implications of that information. One of the most important aspects and benefits of being a neutral forum is that we allow for varied and different opinions related to the interpretation of data, and provide avenues for it to be elucidated, discussed, and debated. Our forums allow for listening, learning, sticking with or changing our opinions, and agreeing to agree or disagree. Listening is a skill that is difficult to master, but it’s clear that our members are good at it. Our Association’s emphasis is about sharing, teaching, learning, and connecting. We are all becoming better educated, even as we are all educating one another.

As scientists and engineers, we tend to enjoy sharing ideas, information, and teaching. To this end, this month’s issue includes three feature-length articles that discuss a variety of environmental education, training, and outreach programs, and underscore some of the challenges encountered by students and teachers alike. In addition, this month’s *EPA Research Highlights* column highlights the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) opportunities. Who’d of thought you could build your own particle sensor using materials collected from around the house? The column also shows us how to find some great lesson plans for K–12 learners on ecosystem goods and services to help build awareness around sustainability and healthy communities. A&WMA’s own Education Council (www.awma.org/edcouncil) is heavily involved in professional development and training, and K–12, secondary, and post-secondary education programs. Take a moment to explore their current offerings and consider volunteering your time to help make a difference.

One of the things that excites me most about this Association is how dynamically its member-generated content, networking, and innovation evolve around the science of our time. Our mission is to foster this energy and focus. As an association, A&WMA supports a strong bond with universities and other research entities because strong science and engineering are critical to our mission. Additionally, graduates and young professionals form a significant part (~45%) of our membership. It is so exciting to hear what innovative, groundbreaking, and important research, ideas, and energy these members contribute. Engaging with students is enlightening and a window into the future. I hope that each one of you will take the time to mentor a student or young professional, and introduce them to the Association at the Chapter, Section, or International level. I look forward to a dynamic year of teaching and learning with you.