



The program is now held in Northern Illinois and Central Illinois. The IGIA has been fortunate to see this program expand and grow over the last several years with nine community colleges currently participating in the program. College of DuPage, McHenry County College, Kishwaukee College, Joliet Jr. College, Illinois Central College, Illinois Valley Community College, John Wood Community College, Parkland Community College and Richland Community College. It is the goal of the committee and association to push for further growth.

This program is successful with the support of IGIA members that continue to volunteer their time, their staff, their services and their facilities, many participating in the program for many years.

In addition to providing an excellent program for the students, IGIA will present each college that participates in the program with two (2) \$500 scholarships to be awarded to any student(s) enrolled in the horticulture degree program at their college.

From former HOPE Participants....

I give this program a 'two-thumbs' up. I have been interviewing for internships/employment and almost every employer who has interviewed me has participated in the HOPE program while they were in school! I myself have had an eye-opening, outstanding experience. Thank you to all involved that make this program happen....this student is truly grateful! TC

Through participation in the program I have an internship with Midwest Groundcovers for the summer, and I am over the moon about the whole thing. Knowing that I wouldn't be where I am now (or am going) if it wasn't for the IGIA and the HOPE program! EJ

For additional information in regard to the H.O.P.E. Program, please contact the IGIA office at 888-525-3900 or 217-546-4733.

Illinois Green Industry Association...serving the
Nursery and Landscape Industry Since 1925

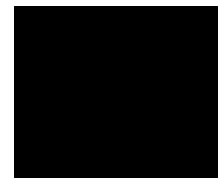
IGIA

H.O.P.E.

Horticulture Occupational & Professional Experience



Providing community college students with an opportunity to experience the Illinois Green Industry with a "hands-on" approach to prepare for careers in Horticulture



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IGIA H.O.P.E. (Horticulture Occupational & Professional Experience)

Since 1979, the Illinois Green Industry Association has been providing community college students with an opportunity to experience the nursery and landscape industry in Illinois with a

“hands-on” approach to prepare them for careers in horticulture.

Top students are selected from participating schools to take part in the H.O.P.E. program, for which they receive credit. From September through early spring, students are provided business work experiences along with educational opportunities during MidAm and ProHort that will give them an advance start on their career.

Each month of the program participating students devote two full days to the H.O.P.E. program, providing them a better understanding of the inner workings of a typical green industry business.

Student Participant Expectations:

- Show enthusiasm and interest
- Be on time
- Follow the guidelines your host sets forth
- Be courteous and professional
- Be prepared to actually work (up to 2 hours on one activity)
- Bring the proper equipment - warm clothing, rain gear, boots, gloves, etc.
- Conduct yourself appropriately while at host locations
 - Attend both days of the event

- Thank your hosts and understand the commitment the nursery makes to ensure this is an effective program...it takes planning and effort for the hosts to prepare for the program...this opportunity is not offered in this depth to everyone

Suggested work experiences:

- Safety: learn how to tie down a load, how to hook up equipment, general safety techniques for power equipment, pruning equipment, fertilizers and pesticides, etc.
- Production: Start to finish stages of production of material (propagation, cuttings, pruning, spacing, digging, over-wintering techniques, etc.)
- Facilities: Greenhouses, hoop houses, pump houses, irrigation facilities, retail spaces, potting sheds, sales offices, etc.
- Order Processing: From order entry through pulling and preparing orders for shipment or pickup
- Other: Inventory, Specialty Equipment, Sales/Marketing, Administration
- Luncheon topics may include: Business Tips, Do - Don't in the nursery business, Industry Trends, time for student questions and networking



Providing on-the-job training and instruction designed to offer the skilled workers needed to compete in the Illinois green industry.