

Cardenas Emerging Professional Scholarship

This award, previously known as the New Professional Award, was renamed in honor of Sally Cardenas, a lifetime member of CIWEA and a recognized leader and mentor in the field. Awardees are new to the field, interested in connecting with other professionals, and in learning how to make their college programs stronger. The award is presented annually to one practitioner from a two-year college and one from a four-year college.

Two-Year Recipient:

Matthew Weis, Program Coordinator, Work-Based Learning at Cabrillo College

Matthew worked with youth as an instructor and program manager for Outward Bound before accepting his position at Cabrillo College. He was drawn to the field out of his desire to empower and aid young people to pursue their goals.

At Cabrillo, due to many organizational and management changes, he had the opportunity to rebuild and develop the work experience program. He has been able to integrate the department into all CTE program and industry meetings, and outreach to regional employers and K-12. He helped create a regional online internship tool in collaboration with local 2-year and 4-year colleges, community organizations, and economic development agencies that is used to connect students with employers in a variety of industry sectors.

He has a clear vision for where he wants to take the program in the future. And, by the way, while building the work experience program at Cabrillo, he immediately joined CIWEA and was elected to the board of directors as conference co-chair. The board had some reservations about the appearance of selecting one of our own members for this award, but in the end felt that Matthew's accomplishments as a newcomer to this field were outstanding and worthy of recognition.