



# Class C Advisor

*In February, the MAGCS Class C committee sponsors a Winter Workshop geared toward the Assistant Superintendent. On those cold winter days, the content has been aimed at what we as assistants can and should be doing to improve as professionals with the ultimate goal of becoming superintendents. While many of us have the necessary skill sets to manage our greens and fairways, that isn't necessarily all that is needed in order to make the jump from the little class "C" member to the big "SM" that we all strive for. We have had consultants and head hunters come in and let us know about some innovative ways to get our resumes to the top of the pile and to get that interview. We have had them tell us how to handle the interview process and get that job. The elder statesmen of Class C have taken those messages and turned them into interviews and jobs. If you had scanned the room perhaps two years ago, you would have seen people that have since gotten superintendent positions locally. They were in that room listening to Jim McLaughlin or Bruce Williams. They went on to apply the skills that were offered.*

While we as a committee do believe that this is important, this year we are going to try a little bit different route. One that we hope will be beneficial not only for assistants looking for a superintendent position, but also for those that have already attained them.

In the morning we are going to have two staff members from GCSAA. Penny Mitchell is the GCSAA Senior Manager of Certification. She will be directing her talk on certification toward how assistants can maximize their education in order to be best prepared for Class A status and, eventually, the coveted CGCS title. She has comprehensive knowledge on the certification process, so this is a golden opportunity for all members who have questions on CGCS. Coming with Penny from Lawrence, Kansas, will be Lyne Tumlinson, who is Director of Career Services at GCSAA. She will speak about Employer Issues and Career Track. This will include not only trends, but tips on how we can stay on the leading edge of those trends. Again, this is a topic that is beneficial not only to Class C members, but to anyone in MAGCS who is looking for some guidance.

After lunch, there will be a panel discussion with an open question and answer session. The emphasis will be on career tracks that may offer viable options for people looking to move forward in a flooded job market. Those on the panel will include

Eddie Sagan, who is the Facilities and Systems Manager at McDonalds Corporation; Travis Stephen, General Manager of the Rockford Riverhawks baseball team; and Eric Adkins, who is Superintendent of Grounds at Toyota Park, which is the home to the Chicago Fire soccer team. They will offer perspectives on a business very similar to ours that is seldom researched as a job option for those of us coming out of college. They should be able to open our eyes to a world of turf and grounds management that can serve as serious career options. I think we can all



agree that in a career where there are 300+ applicants for one open position, options are a good thing. So be sure to bring your questions for this esteemed group.

I believe that the Class C committee has put together a great morning session that will serve as a unique opportunity for all classes of MAGCS. That,

coupled with the panel discussion, should ensure a great day of learning that will open our eyes to the options available both inside and outside of our industry. On behalf of the Class C committee, I want to thank Leann Cooper at GCSAA for helping line up the morning session and our own Sharon Riesenbeck for all her work on the afternoon roundtable. I hope that many of our members, not just Assistants, will come out and take advantage of this great opportunity. See you February 17 at the Golf House. **-OC**