

## Toronto Students Tour NYC Planning

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Students from Toronto's Ryerson School of Urban & Regional Planning pose with their instructor Tom Ostler following a walking tour of GatewayJFK.

Tom Ostler, an instructor at Toronto's Ryerson School of Urban & Regional Planning, crossed the border with a group of his planning students for a study trip to New York City this past September. With help from fellow instructor Shahan Deirmenjian and Scott Grimm-Lyon, AICP, the New York City representative to APA New York Metro Chapter, Ostler organized tours, discussions, and meetings with planners and allied professionals for insight into the city's complex planning issues.

The four-day itinerary included walking tours of Lower Manhattan — which focused on the history of architecture and zoning — and Hudson Yards and the High Line, led by staff from the Hudson Yards/Hell's Kitchen Alliance and the Pratt Institute. Grimm-Lyon, executive director of GatewayJFK, facilitated a discussion on the JFK Airport Business Improvement District, and staff from the department of city planning shared the history of Hudson Yards and New York City's Privately Owned Public Spaces, an incentive program that provides private owners with bonus floor area in exchange for public space. A meeting with the Metro Transit Authority closed out the trip, allowing students to hear from the chief environmental engineer about Hurricane Sandy recovery and implementation of resiliency measures. Between it all, the students were given plenty of time to explore the city.

"We are very appreciative of the time and energy that these professionals put into our meetings," says Ostler. "These annual field trips are an important part of Ryerson's curriculum in that we believe it is important for the students to experience major international cities through a planner's eye."