

# Annual Report 2014-2015



## Fall 2014

This has been a good year for our student chapter. We held regular monthly meetings that included robust discussions of issues facing local governments in our area including events and municipal responses in Ferguson Missouri. At the beginning of the fall semester, we held a professional development discussion panel in which we invited four local government administrators to give us their insight on public service and government administration, and how we can best prepare ourselves for future positions in local government. The panel discussion was a rousing success and the local officials were exceptionally helpful. All those in attendance benefitted from their knowledge and experience in the public sector.

In November, our meeting included a Panel session on Participatory Budgeting with special guest presenter Christine Ingrassia, Alderwoman for the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward in the City of St. Louis. This collaborative panel discussion was attended by students and faculty from both the University of Missouri - St. Louis and also Saint Louis University.

In December, we held a holiday celebration in which several local government officials attended and provided our students with the opportunity to discuss current local government issues and network in a relaxed, holiday atmosphere. The event went well into

the evening (past midnight) and not only allowed our students to see local government officials in a personal setting but also gave our chapter some great exposure to those we will be working for and with in the future.

## Spring 2015

January gave us the opportunity to plan for the remainder of the school year. Then in February, we gained a new Chapter Mentor, Andy Hixson. Andy is the City Administrator for Manchester, Missouri. During the February meeting, Andy Hixson and our Chapter Advisor, Julie Stone, reviewed résumés and gave feedback to members. Getting advice and feedback from these two highly experienced officials proved to be extremely valuable to those students preparing to graduate this semester and enter the job market.



Public Policy Administration students attended a local government discussion (pictured above) on economic development

## University of Missouri – St. Louis ICMA Student Chapter

that the UMSL ICMA Student Chapter hosted in April. Guest speakers included Irvetta Williams, Director of Housing and Economic Development for the City of Jennings, and Doug Rasmussen, former Senior Vice President of Business Development for the St. Louis Economic Development Partnership. Areas of economic development discussed included recent trends in municipal and regional economic development, use of economic development incentives, and the differences in private sector and public sector approaches to economic development.

Also in April, the UMSL ICMA Student Chapter and other students from several local university MPA programs were invited to the St. Louis Area City/County Management Association's (SLACMA) monthly meeting and presentation to local government leaders. This invitation allowed our students to introduce themselves and to network with local administrators and managers. It was a huge success.

May brought about graduation for the Class of 2015 and several ICMA Student Chapter members gathered at a reception to celebrate with members of the faculty and alumni.



Pictured are (clockwise from top left) ICMA

Student Chapter Vice-President Peter Phillips, Andrew Dressel, UMSL PPA Director Dr. Deborah Balser, John-Paul Knobloch, Chapter President Don Stolberg, Joy Tuidar, Lauren Smith, and Daniel Hutti.

Also in May, the Missouri City/County Management Association (MCMA) invited students to attend the annual MCMA Conference in Lake Ozark, Missouri and even offered a \$150 scholarship to several students to help defer the costs. Our Chapter President was able to attend this conference due to the generous scholarship and was able to make a number of contacts and connections, as well as receiving the benefit of council from several senior ICMA members. State and local ICMA organizations should continue to offer students the opportunity to attend a state or national conference.

Our final event for the academic year will be a celebration in June with students, faculty, and local government officials celebrating the graduates from the MPPA program and also installing our new chapter officers for the upcoming year.

### Goals

Many of our student chapter members are taking local government courses in the PPA program that are offered in conjunction with the St. Louis Area City/County Management Association. Our members have benefitted greatly from the contacts and networking with local government officials, as well as the panel discussions we have had. It is incumbent on our new leadership that we continue that path and recruit more members so that this vital organization not only survives, but thrives.