

ICMA Student Chapter 2016-2017 Appalachian State University

The Appalachian State University ICMA Student Chapter had a very productive year. The chapter had four meetings over the fall and spring semesters. In addition to Student Chapter attendance, members were involved in various local government meetings in North Carolina. Events attended outside the Student Chapter by our members include the North Carolina City and County Management Association (NCCCMA), North Carolina Local Government Budget Association (NCLGBA), North Carolina Criminal Justice Association, and the Southern Criminal Justice Association.

Fall Semester

The ICMA Student Chapter assisted the Appalachian State University Local Government Alumni Association (ASULGAA) with the Fall Conference and a golf tournament that raises money for scholarships for current MPA students. The annual Fall Conference allows current students to meet alumni that work in the local government profession and begin to find summer internships.

At the end of the Fall semester, the NCLGBA hosts a winter conference in Charlotte, NC. Current ICMA Student Chapter President Adam Murr attended this conference as a scholarship recipient. Student Chapter Member Stedman Smith also attended the North Carolina Criminal Justice Association and Southern Criminal Justice Association conferences, presenting research related to local government law enforcement.

Spring Semester

During the spring semester, members attended the NCCCMA Conference and attended various sessions that aided in professional development focused on local government administration. Student members in attendance included: Adam Murr, Stedman Smith, Katherine Hayes, and Hunter Nestor. All students in attendance identified internship and job opportunities as a result of networking efforts. At the conference lunch, Chapter President Adam Murr was recognized as the NCCCMA Dr. Matt W. Williamson Local Government Scholarship recipient.

Student chapter meetings involved visits from speakers. The Student Chapter would like to thank alumni for their mentorship. Visiting speakers include: Brock Long (FEMA Administrator), Josh Edwards (City of Durham), Paarth Mehta (Catawba County), John Ward (Town of Boone), Ken Noland (Town of Wilkesboro), Seth Eckart (Town of Valdese), Jerry Church (Town of Granite Falls), Mike Peoples (City of Gastonia), James Inman (Bessemer City), and Laine Bailey (City of Salisbury).

Summary

The ASU ICMA Student Chapter is fortunate to have a strong relationship with program alumni. Our members are constantly provided development opportunities in local government. Notable speakers who interacted with the Student Chapter include members of federal, state, and local government. Students enjoy frequent communications with our strong alumni base. Our alumni truly add value to our student chapter and help produce a great new generation of local government leaders.

Best Chapter Event Entry

The Appalachian State University ICMA Student Chapter's favorite event this past academic year was the North Carolina City and County Management Association (NCCCMA) meeting. The NCCCMA conference was February 1-3 at the Sheraton Imperial RTP in Durham, NC. The meeting gave our members the opportunity to engage with in-service local government professionals, and with other Student ICMA Chapters from various North Carolina Colleges and Universities.

The Appalachian State University ICMA Chapter enjoys especially strong bonds with local government professionals in the State of North Carolina, as approximately two-thirds of City and County Managers in the state receive their Master of Public Administration degrees from Appalachian State University. This strong connection to alumni provides students with networking experiences necessary to succeed in the local government profession.

Topic

The NCCCMA conference included sessions specifically geared towards local government management. Sessions covered topics such as Student ICMA Chapter roundtables, Coaching for MPA students, Management's Role in the Human Resources Process, What Managers Need to Know about Financial Reporting and Audits, Innovation and Design Thinking, and Career Development. These topics were all important for our chapter because they helped establish necessary skills and knowledge to perform in local government internships and careers. Most importantly, this event helped our members network, creating connections, identifying work opportunities, and gaining insight.

Involvement

Student members in attendance included: Adam Murr, Stedman Smith, Katherine Hayes, and Hunter Nestor. Appalachian State MPA students from outside the Student Chapter include: Will Sigmon, Michelle Dineen, and Tim Price. As an event disconnected from the Student Chapter's location in Boone, NC we feel that this attendance was very good. Our chapter hopes to expand on this attendance in the future by creating further financial support to cover the costs of room, board, and attendance.

Impact

The event reached all students in attendance. The event provided high-quality educational experiences. The event also gave students the opportunity to meet professionals and learn more from them about experience in local government professions. This even was a success because our members in attendance reported higher confidence in their abilities to become local government leaders. The event was also a success because all students in attendance from Appalachian State University were able to identify either an internship or career opportunity to follow up on towards the end of the spring semester.

The student chapter members in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the NCCCMA conference in Durham, NC. Next year when the conference venue is moved to Winston-Salem, NC we expect greater student attendance. Our student chapter hopes by applying for ICMA Annual Conference funds, we are able to broaden our participation in the ICMA and send at least one representative to the October conference in San Antonio. We look forward to the response to this application from the ICMA and are thankful for the opportunities and resources already provided to us.

Respectfully,

Adam Murr and the Members of the Appalachian State ICMA Student Chapter