Augusta University’s MPA program has students from diverse academic and professional backgrounds. We have students who just received their bachelor’s degrees and students who are professionals with significant experience in public service. We’re a small program with fewer than 40 students, but we’re projected to grow in the future. We’re expanding our program’s offerings through innovative curriculum options, networking, and professional organizations. Housing a student chapter of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) increases the opportunities for our students and helps the program network with public servants in the field.

Spring 2017 was the first semester for the Augusta University ICMA Student Chapter. Even though our chapter is new, we were able to hold three events and lay a successful foundation for the chapter moving forward.

**Student ICMA Chapter Mixer**

Our first event was a meeting to introduce our chapter to the Augusta University MPA students. At this meeting, we introduced the members to the benefits of the ICMA and discussed plans for future events. The students selected a president (Parker Riggs) and chapter mentors (Adam Metress, County Manager of Madison County, Georgia and Todd Glover, City Administrator of North Augusta, South Carolina).

**Recruitment**

Members of the ICMA student chapter helped the MPA program director with two recruitment events. The members were involved in educating undergraduate students and the general public about the benefits of the Augusta University MPA.

**Town and Gown Speaker Event**

The ICMA student chapter worked with the MPA program to cosponsor the program’s Spring 2017 Town and Gown speaker event. The speaker series offers talks on issues that are relevant to Augusta University and the broader community.
We ended the semester with an event that helped the public of Augusta, GA participates in the re-development of the Augusta Downtown area. The project manager of the Augusta re-development project, Gary Warner came to visit with students and various members of the public about the project and how he started in the field of community development. The event was a big success. Various attendees were happy with how much they learned about the project and the ability to have all their questions and concerns answered by someone who had direct knowledge of the project.

Future Plans

Looking forward to the 2017-2018 school year, we hope to capitalize on the successes we had in our first semester. We want to continue to grow the program and help teach high schoolers and undergraduates about the importance of an MPA degree. The chapter also plans to hold more events that demonstrate the resources of the Augusta University MPA to the people who are making the decisions in the community. Hopefully, this will help build more trust in our community between its citizens and public servants.

As we continue to grow the program our chapter will also continue to grow. This will allow us to touch more students and help more people in society. The future looks very bright for the Augusta University ICMA Student Chapter.