

The journey of our chapter began in October 2016, when a Graduate Assistant named Rob Richardson submitted the initial charter and chapter agreement to nationals. On October 18th, 2016, The College at Brockport became the 64th Student Chapter of ICMA and Mr. Richardson assumed the role of Chapter President. Over the next six weeks, he assembled a group with 14 other students to lay the groundwork for the Chapter; this team became known as our “Founders” group. Ian Coyle, who serves as Livingston County Administrator, was chosen to be Advisor in the Profession and Dr. Celia Watt was chosen as faculty advisor.

On November 28th, 2016, the Founders held their first meeting. At the meeting, 4 sub-committees were formed; Charter/Constitution/Bylaws, Inter-Chapter Communications, Recruitment/Engagement and Event Planning. Each of these groups had specific responsibilities to prepare the chapter for the Spring Semester, and from December 2016-January 2017 they met over winter break to execute these tasks.

The Spring Semester was dedicated to recruitment, establishing infrastructure, and successful transition. On January 30th, 2017 the founders met to report in the progress of their sub-committees, approve e-board positions and ratify our constitution. In total, 6 e-board positions were created: President; Executive Vice President; VP of Communications, VP of Engagement, VP of Membership and VP of Treasury. The chapter decided to install the following e-board as a temporary measure to provide leadership and move the initiative forward until the elections scheduled for March occurred:

President: Rob Richardson
Executive VP: Miguel Baique
VP of Communications: Kirsten Sciandra
VP of Engagement: Lindsey Luft
VP of Membership: Cara Farrell
VP of Treasury: Joe Gunther
Advisor in Profession: Ian Coyle
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Celia Watt

On February 7th, 2017 the chapter hosted its first event. They organized a panel discussion for the MPA department that included 3 practitioners in the field of City/County Management: Jason Molino, City Manager of Batavia; Bryan White, Village Manager of Fairport, and Ian Coyle. The discussion revolved around their profession and experiences, as

well as the role ICMA has played in their development and how membership in the organization has benefitted them. The discussion was attended by almost 70 students, and the event offered exposure that became a powerful recruitment tool. Over the next two weeks, the roster grew to 29 students nearly doubling our membership. Considering there are roughly 200 people enrolled in the MPA program, our membership accounted for roughly 15% of the entire department.

On February 27th, 2017 the first full chapter meeting was held. New members learned about the ICMA and its code of ethics, and nominations for e-board positions took place. The same day, we submitted our new club request to Brockport Student Government (BSG). This was a pivotal step, because receiving BSG recognition would allow us to interact with both Graduate and Undergraduate students and work with other student organizations sanctioned by BSG. It also allows ICMA to access to BSG funding and creates a chapter bank account for future revenue.

On March 27th, 2017 the chapter held its first elections. The following e-board was selected to lead our growing organization into the 2017-2018 academic year:

President: Joe Gunther

Executive VP: Lindsey Luft

VP of Communications: Kirsten Sciandra

VP of Engagement: Bruce Kowiak

VP of Membership: Cara Farrell

VP of Treasury: Amelia Yousey

Advisor in Profession: Ian Coyle

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Celia Watt.

On March 31st, 2017 the motion to approve SUNY College at Brockport Student Chapter of ICMA in the Student Senate passed unanimously, and the became a fully sanctioned BSG organization. This recognition solidified the chapter as a viable student group, and will create countless opportunities to engage and impact the College at Brockport community.

The chapter held its last meeting of the year April 24th, 2017 and discussed the transition in leadership and potential initiatives for the following year. In addition to building a strong relationship with BSG and other student organizations, they plan to partner with other student organizations to organize events that promote diversity, inclusion and raise awareness. Although we will lose 9 members to graduation, we have a strong foundation and sustainable infrastructure

that will allow the chapter to hit the ground running in the fall and ensure future success. The leadership transition went extremely smoothly, and the next e-board is extremely prepared to lead the group moving forward.

Overall, our organization had an extremely successful first year. Unfortunately, it also experienced loss. In March, one of our members, Patrice Cummings, passed suddenly at the age of 25. She was a beloved and highly respected member of the MPA community, and a critical part of the Founders group. Although she is no longer with us, her contributions to the formation of the SUNY College at Brockport's ICMA Student Chapter will live forever.