

The ICMA Student Chapter at East Tennessee State University enjoyed its first full academic year as an official ICMA Student Chapter. This was very important to the MPA program, as its roots are as the second oldest program for city management in the country. The program at ETSU was originally a Master of City Management (MCM) program through the 70s and 80s before transforming into a Public Management Program and then a Public Administration program. With the rich history of city management and the many city manager alumni, we had great resources through the formation of this chapter. The chapter started its first year strong with 11 members total, including three officers. Our student chapter mentor within the profession is Angie Carrier, who is the Director for Development Services with the City of Johnson City, and former City Manager of White House, Tennessee and Dandridge, Tennessee, where she was awarded City Manager of the Year by the Tennessee Municipal League. Our faculty advisor and sponsor is Dr. John David Briley, who is also the head of the MPA program at ETSU.

Officers

Steven Sawyers Mott
Chapter President

Trevor Tetzlaff
Chapter Vice President

Jessi Stevens
Chapter Secretary

Fall Semester

The ICMA Student Chapter held three meetings within the fall semester, attended the Tennessee City Management Association fall conference, and hosted one event. The three meetings consisted of discussing topics regarding local government service and management and brainstorming ideas for the future of the chapter regarding events, public service, and possible future topics for discussion. The event the student chapter hosted was with Pat Hardy, a municipal management consultant through the University of Tennessee's Municipal Technical Advisory Service. The presentation that he had focused on interview content and skills for our student chapter as the next generation of city managers. We attended the joint TCMA and KYCMA fall conference in Knoxville, Tennessee, and had members assist with the success of the event as well. Over all, we had six members attend the conference for its full three-day duration. It was an excellent opportunity to attend sessions to inform us regarding our future careers in city management and public service, and to also network with the various ETSU alumni and city managers. Our chapter president also presented work at this conference that he had done over the summer with the City of Johnson City concerning annexation marketing.

Spring Semester

Within the spring semester, we held three meetings, hosted an event speaker, and attended the TCMA spring conference. The spring semester meetings followed the same type of set up for discussion as the fall semester, however, these tended to focus on the sustainability of the group going into the 17-18 academic year. The speaker event we hosted was with the Executive Director of Engaging Local Government Leaders (ELGL) Kirsten Wyatt. Kirsten Wyatt is also a member of ICMA and the former Assistant City Manager of West Linn, Oregon. The speaker session was created around certain questions our members had that centered around careers in city management, public service, etc. She also discussed her organization, ELGL. Seeing as the next TCMA event was also around the corner, we invited the opportunity for advice from her concerning networking, etiquette, and overall guidance on how to conduct oneself at city management association conferences and other professional conferences. We also attended the Spring TCMA conference in Franklin, Tennessee, which was a great opportunity to network with Middle and West Tennessee city management professionals that are not always able to make it to the fall conferences, which are typically hosted in East Tennessee.

An Eye Towards the Future

The student chapter has already identified opportunities and arranged speakers for the 17-18 academic year. The speakers will be a joint panel with Angie Carrier, the student chapter's mentor in the profession, and Charlie Stahl, the Assistant City Manager for the City of Johnson City. We have also identified possibilities for volunteer service along with the organizations of a possible alumni reunion, and we also plan to continue our strong attendance record at the various TCMA conferences and events.