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During the academic year 2014-2015, our student chapter was able to add 5 new members to our roster.

During the course of the academic year we co-sponsored an alumni round table event with Grand Valley State University’s School of Public, Nonprofit, and Health Administration (SPNHA). The event featured SPNHA alumni, which includes the MPA program at GVSU, with personal and professional experience in the areas of social justice, fund development, communications, and city management. Our student chapter was excited about co-sponsoring this event as it was a great opportunity not only for our members, but also for other Grand Valley State students, to make connections within the field and also to provide a forum for questions about post-grad life.

Our student chapter enjoys a great connection with many West Michigan municipal leaders and managers. The ICMA student chapter at Grand Valley has been able to take advantage of monthly luncheon hosted by the West Michigan Local Government Management Association. This has been an excellent opportunity for our members to meet with local manager and administrators to network and discuss local news and events.

The Grand Valley Student chapter of ICMA had a leadership turnover at the end of the academic year. Our president, Nathan Mehmmed, graduated and was succeeded by Shay Gallagher, a second year MPA student. We also had our Vice President and Financial Officer, Simeon Switzer graduate and was succeeded Lindsay Viviano, a second year MPA student. Finally, our Secretary was replaced by Andrew Kumar. Andrew is a second year MPA student, and a new member to the ICMA student Chapter.

In the fall of 2014 Nathan Mehmmed, Simeon Switzer, and Shay Gallagher attended the ICMA Annual Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. Our Chapter felt that it was important that a mixture of first and second year MPA students to attend the conference. The ICMA Annual Conference is an excellent opportunity to not only learn and understand new or complex issues facing managers and administrators, but it also serves as a networking event for future local government leaders. While at the annual conference, our delegation also attended the Emerging Local Government Leaders (ELGL) social mixer. This was an opportunity for students and new local leaders to meet other managers and administrators in a relaxed and fun environment.

In addition to the ICMA Annual Conference, Nathan Mehmmed and Shay Gallagher attended the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students (NAGPS) regional conference hosted at Western Michigan University. This conference served to not only bring our ICMA student chapter closer to our NAGPS chapter, but it also highlighted the need for increased cooperation between graduate and professional student organizations. Of the conference’s many topics, our ICMA chapter found the Grads Have Debt 2 movement created by NAGPS as an issue we could easily discuss and pass on to other graduate students at our University. This movement seeks to better educate graduate and professional students about student loan inequalities and attempts to stimulate their civic engagement in the matter.