

Indiana University - School of Public and Environmental Affairs Local Government Management Association / ICMA Chapter

The Local Government Management Association at Indiana University is student chapter of the International City/County Management Association. Association membership comes from Masters Candidates and Undergraduates in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA). The purpose of our association is to foster the understanding, education, and involvement in the local government profession through coordination of exploration trips, informational panels, and educational discussions. The chapter advisor for the 2015-16 school year was Professor Frank Nierzwicki. The club sought mentorship from Professor Mark Levin, the Local Government Management concentration advisor at SPEA. Chapter officers were: President, Noor Shaikh (MPA); Vice President, Allison Eichele (MPA/MSES), Treasurer, Anthony Christian (MPA); Social Media Director, Connor Reed (B.S Economic Consulting). Officers met twice a month to discuss outreach and to plan events.

FALL 2015



LGMA started the school year by hosting a table at the SPEA involvement fair. We used this opportunity to recruit new members and publicize events the officers had planned for the year. We created a slide show detailing past club events, highlighted officer achievements, and handed out the semester calendar (which can be seen below).

Connor Reed (left) and Anthony Christian (right) at the Involvement Fair

The club had its first meeting for new and returning members on September 17, where we discussed the club's Fall semester schedule and sought feedback from members. Alongside planning programming for the semester, the officers worked on fundraising to help mitigate costs for attending the 101st ICMA Annual Conference later that month. We set up a GoFundMe campaign and found an overwhelming amount of encouragement from SPEA faculty and alumni, friends, and our families. Through this campaign, a generous amount donated by the Indiana Municipal Managers Association (IMMA), and funding provided by SPEA, our entire leadership team was able to attend the ICMA Conference in Seattle. In connection with the conference, we were given opportunities with network with field professionals from Indiana, and SPEA alumni at a reception hosted by our School.



Members of IMMA and the 2015-16 LGMA/ICMA Chapter Leadership

**Local Government Management Association
Fall 2015 Semester Schedule**

Meetings:

- 17th September, 2015 (Location: SPEA Room 273)
Informational
- 1st October, 2015 (Location: *TBD*)
Why Go Local? Pt. 1
- 15th October, 2015 (Location: *TBD*)
Why Go Local? Pt. 2
- 29th October, 2015 (Location: *TBD*)
Public Private Partnerships, Pt. 1
- 12th November, 2015 (Location: *TBD*)
Public Private Partnerships, Pt. 2
- 3rd December, 2015 (Location: *TBD*)
Last meeting of the semester

Events:

- City Council Meetings
 - o October 7th (Special Session - 2nd Reading & Adoption Hearing on Budget-Related Ordinances)
 - o November 4th (Regular Session)
- Gift Exchange/Secret Santa (December 5th)

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Shortly after our return from Seattle, the officers got to work. We organized a panel with the theme: Why Go Local? We wanted the conversation to revolve around the importance of government and other organizations working at the local level. Panelists included board members of the Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS), Bloomington City Council member Susan Sandberg, former Mayor of Fort Wayne, Indiana, Bloomington's Assistant City Attorney, the Director of the Office of Sustainability at Indiana University, and the Director of the Community and Family Resources Department at the City of Bloomington. The panelists shared their perspective on why local governments matter and spoke about their career. We then opened the floor for questions from students. The panel was a success and set the tone for club events for the rest of the year.



Panelists at “Why Go Local?” panel event hosted by LGMA/ICMA Chapter



Panelists at “Why Go Local?” panel event hosted by LGMA/ICMA Chapter

The second panel we hosted focused on Public Private Partnerships. The officers were able to connect with and have the then-Deputy Mayor of the City of Bloomington, lecturers from SPEA with years of experience working in the public sector, and a management consultant from Indianapolis join our panel discussion. The Public Finance Association at SPEA teamed up with us to organize this panel. These professionals discussed their experiences and how the public and private sector interactions affect community and economic development. We then opened the floor to attendees and students were able to have a candid conversation with the panelists.

Aside from these panels, LGMA attended two City of Bloomington council meetings. The officers wanted to provide students with a chance to observe council meetings in person and

understand the impact they could make as residents of their community, and the role they can someday play if they choose to seek elected office.

SPRING 2016

While the Fall semester focused on hosting panels to provide opportunities for members to network and learn, we focused on taking field trips during the Spring semester. We started the Spring semester by hosting a call out meeting at a local bar, the Atlas Ballroom. Our first trip was to Muncie, Indiana to attend the Indiana Chapter of the American Planning Association's Spring Professional Development Conference. The club, because of our fundraising efforts during the Fall semester, was able to provide transportation and cover registration for all attendees. Members found the event engaging and were able to attend talks focused on Economic Development and Planning. We were able to connect with professionals in planning departments around Indiana.



LGMA at the Lincoln, Illinois City Hall

In March, the officers organized a trip to Lincoln, Illinois to spend the day with Clay Johnson, the City Administrator and a SPEA alum. Mr. Johnson started the day by giving a presentation on Lincoln, its history, current state, the challenges the city faced going forward, and his role in serving Lincoln. We toured the downtown area and a newly opened local theater and met with the owner and developer, David Lanterman. Mr. Lanterman took questions from students as he gave a tour of the theater. We then visited and toured the City's Waste Water treatment plant.

In April, the club hosted its last panel for the school year. We had Greg Belawski, an ICMA Sr. Advisor Program Coordinator, and John Perry, author of *Blueprint for Building Community: Leadership Insights for Good Government*, give a short talk about their careers in local government. Both took questions from students and spent time after the event to talk to interested students one on one.

We ended the semester by hosting a last social event where interested members could run for board positions for the 2016-17 school year and the current board could help make this transition easier by answering any questions. The outgoing board decided that Prof. Nierzwicki will continue to serve as the club's advisor for the upcoming school year.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

I was honored to serve as the LGMA/ICMA Chapter President, and fortunate to have a leadership team so willing to provide our members with engaging events and opportunities. I was able to find mentors and friends in SPEA alumni and ICMA members who took the time to reach out and help make all of our events successful. I look forward to seeing how each one of us will go on to make an impact in the profession for the better. I am also excited about what the chapter will accomplish next year. The incoming board is comprised of an exceptional group of leaders and I expect them to continue making this Chapter bigger and better.