

The Pepperdine University School of Public Policy student ICMA chapter just completed its second full academic year as a student organization. The second California student ICMA chapter is getting its feet on the ground under great student leadership.

Last year, members adopted a charter, which set forth policies to elect a board composed of a president, vice president, and secretary. With only a two-year degree program, it can be challenging to build momentum and continuity, but the student chapter overcame these obstacles last year by electing a president from among the second-year students and a vice-president from among the first-year students, with the understanding that upon the president's graduation, the vice-president would become president. This was written into the charter, which calls for elections each fall to select a vice-president from among the incoming class and a secretary who may come from either class and will hold office for that school year.

2014-2015 was the first year that this model was fully in place, with very positive results. Because the president had already served one year on the board, she was able to continue facilitating relationships begun the previous year, resulting in a number of excellent events sponsored by the chapter.

The chapter's first hosted lunchtime conversation of the school year was with former chapter President George Gabriel who now works for the City of Malibu and shared with students about his own experience as a student and a job-seeker and the opportunities that his affiliation with ICMA provided.

Other lunch-time events featured more senior city leaders who shared very diverse experiences in terms of both their own career paths and governance experiences. In November, the chapter welcomed Agoura Hills city manager Greg Ramirez, who shared stories from his own career and offered advice to students thinking of following a similar path. The chapter's January speaker, Artie Fields, city manager of Inglewood, CA shared stories from his own career and community, offering both

practical hints for students interested in pursuing a career in City Management and some of the challenges and opportunities he has faced in his city. His experience contrasted greatly with February's speaker, Cherie Friedling, deputy city manager for the City of Beverly Hills, who shared some of the very unique tasks and experiences of working with what she termed a "concierge government" in the nation's most famous zip code.

Student ICMA chapter members helped promote and support the school's fifth annual ICMA City-Manager-In-Residence, Palmdale city manager David Childs (now retired). The City Manager in Residence program benefits all interested students, whether or not they are members of the student ICMA chapter, but chapter members had the opportunity to participate in a private dinner with Mr. Childs, benefitting from his experience in local and county government. The ICMA student chapter also provided a launching point for spreading the word about the Davenport Institute for Public Engagement and Civic Leadership's lunchtime *Davenport Discussion* series throughout the year, ensuring these events were well attended and providing insightful discussion with visiting speakers.

This year, the student chapter bid adieu to its founding City Manager Mentor, Santa Monica city manager Rod Gould who retired this spring. Rod has provided invaluable group and individual mentoring over the past three semesters and will be greatly missed as he starts the next chapter of his life. The chapter has asked Artie Fields to serve as our next mentor and we look forward to building that relationship as we head into the 2015-2016 academic year.

Looking to the coming academic year, the chapter is seeking ways to build closer connections with the California chapter of the ICMA and other municipal organizations. We're looking at various ways to help student members with travel to the ICMA annual convention and other events. While registration fees are waived for members, some graduate students have found travel expenses a barrier to

participation, and the chapter is looking for ways to increase ICMA participation through attending these national and regional events.