

ICMA Student Chapter at Portland State University: 2015-16 Annual Report

This year of the ICMA Student Chapter at PSU has been a success, as we have accomplished our mission driven goals by furthering the development of emerging public sector professionals. We have hosted a wide array of activities to connect students with resources in Oregon local government throughout the year. We have connected with faculty and staff at PSU to help us promote our group and goals, and as the next year lies ahead, we are transitioning to new chapter leadership, and hope to accomplish even more in the future.

Goals of ICMA PSU Chapter: Our Chapter seeks to connect PSU students with government professionals so we may build up our networks, ask questions, and hear first-hand about what's currently happening in Oregon local government. Through different activities and events, we hope to bring students closer to the highly supportive network of professionals here in Oregon, allowing us to utilize them as a rich source of knowledge and experience that can teach us about many aspects of local government. In our group, nearly every member has a unique interest within the public sector. Each of us is looking to get something different out of our participation. That is the great thing about the ICMA PSU Chapter, it serves many purposes to many people, and has given everyone a unique benefit.

Chapter Activities: Our Chapter has hosted several events this year, each with a different theme or purpose. We have also teamed up with other groups to host events, to further promote networking and development for our members. In the fall, we hosted a talk with ELGL founder Kirsten Wyatt, who told us about her local government story and lessons she has learned. We hosted a movie night (with snacks!), showing the ICMA film "The Medici Effect: How Diversity Drives Innovation in Local Government". To promote networking for our members, we have co-hosted and attended several happy hours with alumni, students, and professionals at different locations in Portland. This winter, we took a road trip, heading to a small town that invited us to participate in their Town Hall Strategic Planning Meeting. We hosted a Women in Local Government panel to spotlight female leaders in our area, allowing them to discuss the challenges they have faced, and lend advice to our members. This spring, we co-hosted a Human Resources event geared at writing effective cover letters and fine tuning resumes so they stand out among the rest. Currently, we are planning our major summer event, which is attending the Oregon City/County Manager Association's conference in July. This is probably the most exciting event of the year, as it is a three-day event with managers from around the state and some very informative workshops.

Overall, we have received positive feedback from students about our events, and this year has been a success. We would like to continue to build our chapter and integrate it further with student life here at Portland State, by continuing to host events, promote professional development, and build a strong network between students and government professionals in our area.

Chapter Transitions: As this school year comes to an end, the current leadership group is transitioning, as several current board members are graduating. We are very excited that two new leaders are taking over the chapter this summer. They will surely leave their mark and make the chapter even better than it is now.