

The University of North Texas ICMA Student Chapter has continued to provide networking and professional opportunities to our MPA students in the 2016-2017 academic year. The main goals for our chapter include connecting students with local government professionals, providing opportunities to students to learn more about government management, and coordinating community service events in our area. Our student chapter maintains over 60 student members annually. A major key to our success is the strong support from our alumni in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. In addition to collaborating with our Public Administration Alumni Board, we also partnered with the Urban Management Assistants of North Texas (UMANT) and several nonprofit organizations to provide unique opportunities for our students' professional development. Our 2016-2017 calendar of events can be seen in the following:

**August:** We began the school year with a **Welcome Back Event** at Rock & Brews in The Colony to connect new MPA students with current students, alumni, and local government professionals in the DFW area. The event was a success and we were able raise money for our organization to provide more events in the school year.

**September:** We hosted a **City Managers Seminar** on campus with guest speakers: Leonard Martin (former City Manager of Carrollton, TX), Troy Powell (City Manager of The Colony, TX), and Matt Mueller (City Manager of Little Elm, TX). This was an incredible opportunity to listen to the city managers' professional development and offer mentorship.

Our student chapter was also represented at the **Annual ICMA Conference in Kansas City** alongside our alumni. It was a rewarding experience to connect with local government professionals across the nation, as well as learn about current issues and innovations within local government. We look forward to attending the next annual conference in San Antonio.

**November:** We provided a **Local Government Finance Seminar** with guest speakers: Kent Pfeil (Chief Financial Officer for Richardson, TX), Chuck Springer (Director of Finance for Denton, TX), and Kim Collins (Director of Finance for Argyle, TX). Our guest speakers spoke to our students on the necessity of understanding budgeting and finance within local government. It is an important area that our students should be fully capable of managing in their future careers.

**December:** Our chapter also hosted our **Annual Holiday Party**, a social event where we connect our students and alumni during the holiday season. The event was a major success where we acquired sponsorships from our very own alumni, the Town of Addison, and DFW restaurants. During the event, we featured guest speakers: Dr. Abraham Benavides (Chair of our Department of Public Administration), Ben Thatcher (Chair of our Public Administration Alumni Board and Assistant City Manager of Southlake, TX), and Ron Whitehead (former City Manager of Addison, TX). Our holiday event is a tradition we will continue carrying on in the future.

**January:** We partnered with the Urban Management Assistants of North Texas (UMANT) to provide a **Brunch Networking Event** at Mattito's Restaurant in Dallas. This successful partnered event allowed students to network with local government professionals who are on their ways to becoming leaders in their cities and towns. UMANT also provided free membership

opportunities to our students for which they can be connected with other professionals in the field, as well as attend their events.

In addition to this networking event, we worked alongside UNT and our Department of Public Administration to host a **Welcome Reception for T.C. Broadnax (City Manager of Dallas)**. Mr. Broadnax is an alumni of program and is now leading one of the biggest cities in the country. This event inspired the students who attended that our dreams of leading local governments can come true, along with motivation to succeed in our academics and professional growth. The event saw support across the University of North Texas, alumni, students, and our ICMA student chapter.

**February:** Our chapter also reached out to local nonprofit organizations in the area to host a **Nonprofit Seminar** with Jeremy Adams (President & CEO of Denton Freedom House) and Charlie Wendell (Founder & Executive Director of Melody of Hope). Denton Freedom House is a local nonprofit organization that provide homes and opportunities to men who suffered from addiction, incarceration, etc. Melody of Hope is a nonprofit that works with other organization's to put on concerts and events in order to fundraise for their nonprofit causes and partners. This was also a unique opportunity for our students to learn about other public sector areas in regards to organizational management.

**March:** Our final guest speaker series was a **Human Resources Seminar** with guest speakers: Janet Melancon (Executive Coach & Consultant for Janet Melancon Associates) and Passion Hayes (Director of Human Resources for the Town of Addison, TX). Our speakers provided insight to managing personnel and offered advice on professional development in future careers. It was a very information seminar where our students gained information in the subject of human resources in local government, as well as tips on how to apply for jobs in the public sector.

**April:** For our final event in the school year, we worked alongside the Public Administration Alumni Board to host our **55<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni-Student Conference & Luncheon**. The event surpassed the target goal of 150 attendees. The conference and luncheon allowed students to connect with alumni, local government professionals, and become informed on the latest decision-making trends using smarter data and technology. This is also an annual tradition that the chapter will continue with our alumni board in the future to encourage students to become involved in North Texas local government.

Overall, the UNT-ICMA Student Chapter had a phenomenal year in our events. We followed our goals in connecting students with local government professionals, educating them on current practices, and becoming involved with community services. We will continue to surpass our success in the future and strengthen our MPA program. We are proud to be the UNT-ICMA Student Chapter and will follow in the footsteps of our alumni who are leaders in North Texas.