

This year, the UNT ICMA Student Chapter started the year strong! Our organization has grown to over 25 student members, and we are committed to building an organizational framework driven by student interests and opportunities for leadership and professional development. The UNT ICMA Chapter began its second year during the 2014 fall semester with Aja Alvarez serving as the chapter's President and Michael Cotton serving as Vice President. Chapter leaders continued previous efforts to recruit new student members during the new student orientation held in August before the start of the 2014 academic year. Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager with the City of Denton, TX was chosen as our ICMA liaison to help serve in the role of Mark McDaniel as chapter mentor, as well as Dr. Abraham Benavides, serving as faculty mentor. A survey was conducted to determine the best days and times for the chapter meetings to be held, and to solicit ideas for activities and topics to be discussed at membership meetings and events. In the results of the survey, the majority of the membership requested ICMA-UNT events to feature panel discussions or guest speakers from the profession, as well as to provide opportunities for networking.

Our first chapter event was held during the fall semester on October 24, 2014. The panel discussion theme was "Women in Public Administration" and consisted of various female city managers and practitioners in local government discussing professional development, women in the workplace, and

providing practical advice and tips for future career prospects. The panel consisted of Lea Dunn, City Manager of the Town of Addison, TX; Donna Barron, City Manager of Lewisville, TX; Rona Stringfellow, Assistant City Manager of Lancaster, TX; and Alora Wacholz, Economic Development Specialist from the Town of Flower Mound, TX. Our second chapter event was held on December 12, 2014 and featured guest speakers from the nonprofit sectors: Troy Manning from Denton County MHMR; Barbara Ross, City of Denton Fair Housing Administration; and Sherri Gideon, Executive Director of CASA of Denton County. Each guest panelist explained their job roles and provided professional development advice for those students interested in the nonprofit sector as well as opportunities for networking.

### Upcoming Year

Andrew Fortune, a graduate student in the UNT MPA program was selected by UNT's Public Administration Student Association (PASA) to serve as the next UNT ICMA Student Chapter President for the 2015-2016 academic school year. He will work with Jon Fortune and the UNT MPA faculty to build on the chapter's successes from the previous year.