

ICMA STUDENT
CHAPTER

Villanova University

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To: Christa P. Rainwater, Assistant Program Manager, Membership

From: Craig Wheeland, Ph.D.
Chapter Advisor, ICMA Student Chapter

Subject: Annual Report 2015-2016

During Academic Year 2015-2016, we enrolled 15 MPA students as members our chapter.

Brandon Ford, MPA student, served as Chapter President.

Bruce Clark, Township Manager, Middletown, PA continued as the Chapter Mentor

In the Fall Semester 2015 the chapter members were invited to attend the one-day regional workshop held by the Association for Pennsylvania Municipal Management on October 30. Villanova's Department of Public Administration paid the workshop fee for each student. The workshop included a luncheon. We had six chapter members participate. There were about 65 municipal managers from around southeastern PA attending the workshop as well.

In Spring Semester 2016 we had two initiatives.

First, the Department of Public Administration paid the workshop fees for chapter members to attend an Emerging Leaders Training called Police Negotiations 101. Two members attended the training.

Second, the chapter hosted a panel on "Why Choose a Career in Local Government?" The event was open to all students, faculty and the public. The members of the panel were:

Gloria Wolek, a long serving member of Lower Merion Township Board of Commissioners. Gloria talked about her experiences as a volunteer in community organizations and also her many years of exemplary service as an elected township commissioner.

J. Drew Sharkey who is a current elected township commissioner in Cheltenham Township, PA, the current President of Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors and a Villanova MPA alum.

Gloria and Drew spoke to the rewards and challenges of serving as elected officials who work with professional managers.

Sandra Zadel is Borough Manager in the Borough of Chalfont, PA and a Villanova MPA alum.

Chris Hoffman is Township Manager in Lower Moreland Township, PA and a Villanova MPA alum.

Sandra and Chris are serving in their first appointments as local government managers so they talked about how they started in their careers, how the MPA degree helped them, how internships helped them and generally provide their perspective on how professional managers contribute to good government.

Finally, Brandon Ford served as moderator because he is currently working in local government while earning his MPA and also served as President of Villanova's ICMA Student Chapter. Brandon also worked with the panelists to create the list of questions he used to guide the discussion and on their introductions. I

In short, the panel informed and hopefully inspired students to pursue public service in local government - as volunteers or as elected officials or as professional managers.

Here is a link to the video of the event:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5uZpja-1WU>