

The ICMA Student Chapter at Virginia Tech had an active and productive year. Master of Public Administration students and Certificate in Local Government Management students were key targets for inclusion in the Virginia Tech Student Chapter. The chapter is strong with over half of our student population joining the chapter.



Virginia Tech

Student Chapter

"To create excellence in local governance by developing and fostering professional local government management."

The Chapter selected and appointed the following officers: Christian Youngblood, President and three Vice-Presidents including Audry Okyere, Daniel Crites, and Jason Towery.

The Co-Vice Presidents were selected at each location offering the Virginia Tech MPA including Alexandria, VA, Richmond, VA and Blacksburg, VA. By appointing representatives from the different locations, the chapter had onsite connection with leadership to the Chapter. The first task of the Chapter was the development of a Chapter logo, displayed above.

Students attend courses through various sites within the Commonwealth of Virginia that allowed the Chapter to utilize technology to connect for Chapter Activities. Webex was used to hold monthly webinars. The Chapter did organize an in-person event at the Virginia Local Government Manager's Winter Conference. In addition, the Virginia Local Government Manager's Association provided reduced student conference registration for members of the Student Chapter. Several students were able to attend and many met in-person for the first time. Other programs hosted by the Certificate Program, such as professional development workshops in Abingdon and Stafford, VA, were offered to Chapter members. Finally, social media has been engaged to continue the student conversations with groups being created on LinkedIn and Facebook.

Monthly webinars have been used to facilitate professional development and networking. The first session was held on November 11 and featured the Director of Governmental Relations with the Virginia Association of Counties. The presentation showcased the Virginia Association of Counties and the importance of associations to public sector leaders. Additional speakers have provided our students with knowledge from a wide-array of topics, including a presentation by the Alliance for Innovation, which highlighted the available resources that have been made available to our members through Virginia Tech's University Affiliation with the Alliance. A Leadership and Management webinar was held that focused on understanding the concepts of motivation and engagement. A recent graduate of the Certificate Program and newly appointed Town Manager hosted a webinar to discuss the challenges of a first-time Manager and a current City Manager conducted a webinar on applying for local government positions, critiqued student resumes, and provided feedback for improvement on individual student resumes.

The Student Chapter has grown to 37-members representing over 50% of our current enrollment and the Chapter expects substantial growth as we continue hosting great events with exceptional speakers. Future chapter events will include student conference participation at the Professional Development in Local Government conference in Roanoke, VA and more lunchtime WebEx sessions.

On behalf of the Virginia Tech Tech ICMA Student Chapter, we look forward to continued success of the organization.

Christian Youngblood, President Virginia Tech ICMA Student Chapter

Audry Okyere, Vice President

Jason Towery, Vice President

Stephanie Davis, Faculty Advisor