

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 increased student enrollment.



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: Jason Towery, President and two Vice-Presidents including Marcus White, and Brian Sprouse. The Co-Vice Presidents were selected at each location offering the Virginia Tech CPAP Graduate Certificate including Charlottesville, VA and Lynchburg, VA. By appointing representatives from the different locations, the chapter had onsite connection with leadership to the Chapter.

Students attended courses through various sites within the Commonwealth of Virginia that allowed the Chapter to utilize technology to connect for Chapter Activities. Web-ex was used to hold monthly webinars. The chapter continued to host regular webinars throughout the academic year. These webinars included leaders in local government and other guest speakers that provided a wealth of information on various topics in local government. Students were encouraged to attend the Virginia Local Government Management Associate annual Winter Conference. This provided chapter members from all locations to meet in person. The VLGMA covered the registration and meals for all attending students. 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 October 13th and featured Chris Lawrence the Town Manager of Blacksburg, VA. The presentation from Gerald Young, ICMA Senior Management Associate was held on November 17th and showcased Performance Management and the importance of transparency and collaboration. Additional speakers have provided our students with knowledge from a wide-array of topics, including a presentation by Bonnie Svrcek, City of Lynchburg, which highlighted succession planning in Local Government. On February 21st, students had a discussion on economic development efforts with Matt Hankins, Rocky Mount Assistant Town Manager and Adam Eckerd, Assistant Professor at Virginia Tech. In April, Doug Barnes, former Spotsylvania County Administrator and Stafford County Interim Administrator shared his experiences on transitions that occurred in Stafford County and how he guided the county through significant changes. In May, Tom Foley, Stafford County Administrator shared with students his experiences coming into an organization in the midst of change.

Under the guidance of Stephanie Davis, the Virginia Tech chapter actively recruited new students enrolled in the Certificate in Local Government Management and Master of Public Administration programs. The chapter membership increased from 37 members to 50, which represents 42% of the CPAP student enrollment. The chapter held regular Lunch and Learn webinars throughout the academic year. The ICMA Student Chapter continued to offer free ICMA student membership to students. This provided access to valuable resources and learning and networking opportunities. In addition, members

were encouraged to register with the Alliance for Innovation. As a student at Virginia Tech, students were provided a free Alliance for Innovation membership with resources including best practices and topic specific webinars.

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

Jason Towery, President Virginia Tech ICMA Student Chapter

Marcus White, Vice President

Brian Sprouse, Vice President

Stephanie Davis, Faculty Advisor