2019 Outstanding Chapter Professional Development Award

Application & Submittal
At RMGPA, we appreciate the importance of providing educational resources and other professional development opportunities to our members. Not only do these keep our members current on what’s happening in public procurement, they also provide confidence and credibility, the ability to lead and influence, achieve career goals and network.

To gauge the interest in what types of educational sessions RMGPA members were looking for, we sent a survey out in the beginning of the year. We were surprised by the number of requests for “soft skills” sessions since much of what we have scheduled before were technical classes. This provided us the opportunity to develop our quarterly conferences and future class schedule to what our members wanted.

Where, when and how educational opportunities were scheduled took a different turn in 2019.

- In order to provide in person courses to all members, classes were scheduled throughout the state.
- Our Pro-D Committee arranged back-to-back courses so they could maximize the resources of both the instructor and the host agency.
- In conjunction with our Summer Conference, RMGPA offered it’s first ever free NIGP class which “sold” out! This served two purposes. First we brought additional education to the more remote parts of Colorado and second, it encouraged attendance at the conference.

An investment in knowledge pays the best interest. —Benjamin Franklin
To provide greater career development, we extended educational offerings outside of NIGP courses. We partnered with the Denver Regional Council of Governments offering their workshop on Grants Management at a discounted rate to RMGPA members. Taming the Amazon Jungle was a webinar put on by NAPCP and opened to RMGPA members. This workshop was presented by RMGPA member Sally Helms.

Since there is a lot of crossover in what we do and to provide another opportunity for networking, membership in the National Contract Management Association was promoted to RMGPA members. Our partnerships to help members further increase their networking options came through a collaboration with Advance Colorado Procurement Expo. RMGPA manned a booth at the Expo and members connected with sellers and other agencies from across the state. Educational workshops were also available for additional training as were one-on-one sessions.

RMGPA understands the need for certification so when NIGP rolled out Pathways, we immediately took the lead in promoting the program to members via emails, social media and our newsletter. We had Rick Grimm teleconference into our Summer Conference and Molly McLoughlin spoke of the programs merits at our Fall and Winter Conferences.

Click on images or red text for detail

Don’t follow the crowd, let the crowd follow you. — Margaret Thatcher
Because of a very successful Reverse Vendor Trade Show, Trade Show and Corporate Sponsorship Program, we were able to allocate nearly $16k to RMGPA’s Scholarship Program. Included in the six different scholarship offered in 2019 was the debut of our New Member NIGP Forum Scholarship. Three new members were able to join us in Austin this year because of this opportunity as well as two other scholarship recipients.

When the call was put out to NIGP leaders to help replenish the depleted scholarship fund, RMGPA quickly donated $1,000. Our Chapter knows the importance of paying it forward.

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### RMGPA Scholarship Program

RMGPA’s Scholarship Program provides tuition funds for education and professional development opportunities and NIGP certification assistance for RMGPA members. The number of scholarships awarded will be based on budgeted funds. RMGPA reserves the right to limit the number of scholarships awarded per person per year.

The scholarship award must be used within one calendar year of the date of the award. Unless a prescribed NIGP seminar or other function has been cancelled, failure to use the awarded scholarship shall forfeit the individual’s rights to said funds, and the funds shall be returned to the RMGPA Scholarship Program for future applicants.

Participation in funding is by employer recommended.

#### Requirements

1. Eligibility shall be limited to regular members of RMGPA as of the date of the application. Individual, not Agency membership, must be current.

2. The scholarship recipient is required to write an article for the RMGPA Newsletter and/or RMGPA website. Depending on the scholarship awarded, the article should detail what was learned in the course, experience and benefits derived by attending a conference or forum, or the benefits of having certification. Submissions will be coordinated with the Newsletter and/or Communication Chair within 30 days of completing the exam or application.

3. Only one RMGPA sponsored scholarship shall be awarded to a member in a calendar year. No more than four scholarships shall be awarded to members of the same agency in a calendar year. Subsequent requests from members within the same agency in the same calendar year will not be considered. Agencies are responsible for determining which of their staff would be best served by scholarship assistance.

4. Recipient will not be eligible for RMGPA scholarships for two years from the date of the event if they do not comply with these requirements or if the conference, class, exam or recertification is not successfully completed. Recipient may not apply to reimburse RMGPA for 100% of the awarded funds.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarship Type</th>
<th>Number Awarded</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NIGP Forum</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$4,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Member NIGP Forum</td>
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<td>CPPB/CPPO Certification</td>
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<td>RMGPA Rewards</td>
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<td>$1,400</td>
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Leadership and learning are indispensible to each other. - John F. Kennedy
All of us can look back to someone in our lives who impacted who we are today; someone who encouraged or supported us and sometimes pushed us beyond what we thought our capabilities were. This is why RMGPA developed its **Mentoring Program**. Mentoring programs contribute to the development of a better trained and engaged workforce. Mentors help mentees learn the industry, develop relationships and identify skills that can be developed or improved on. There is no greater professional development than a mentor-mentee relationship.

Since mentoring is new for most of our members, developing **Best Practices** guides was the first step in the creating RMGPA’s Mentor Program. We provided information on roles, techniques for mentoring, planning, and how to get the most out of the relationship.

During our initial marketing campaign for the Mentor Program, we received applications from seven mentees and one mentor. We followed this up with direct asks and received another six mentor volunteers. We found that it was important to address the time commitment right away and let people know how the program would benefit them.

A mentor program is the ultimate professional development tool providing an opportunity for members to:

- Impart knowledge
- Share ideas
- Pass on resources
- Develop leadership skills

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