2020 Outstanding Chapter Professional Development

The Arizona State Capitol Chapter of NIGP (AZNIGP) is dedicated to the professional development of our membership and one of our main goals is to provide educational opportunities to our members. It is our mission to provide opportunities to network with other procurement professionals from around the state of Arizona, and the country and promote excellence, enhancing effectiveness and increasing public trust. We take pride in providing opportunities to help members excel in their jobs more effectively and efficiently and raise the level of professionalism and education among our members.

Professional Development

Each year we survey our members to ask them what classes and seminars they would like to see in the upcoming year and what is most important to them as a member. Networking and Professional Education are their top priorities. The Executive Board and Committee Chairs work together to develop an educational curriculum for each calendar year and we take great pride in offering an assortment of valuable and meaningful educational opportunities. However, where, when, and how educational opportunities were scheduled took a different turn in 2020. The year was just getting started when the COVID pandemic hit and we were sent home to virtual reality. The AZNIGP Executive Board and Education and Professional Development Committee had to pivot and rethink how we were going to provide educational opportunities. Thankfully we were still able to offer all events that we had planned for 2020 they just had to be modified to a virtual environment but we were able to pull it off. See page 2 for a list of events provided to our members in 2020.

Scholarships & Awards Program

The Scholarship Committee in 2020 awarded $15,000 in scholarship money to a total of 75 different members and recognized several members with chapter awards. The chapter had originally budgeted $66,000 for scholarships and forum attendance but with all events going virtual and fees reduced we were able to save that money. Below is a summary of the awards and scholarships provided.

- Manager of the Year—Kristy Garcia, NIGP-CPP, CPPO, CPPB
- Volunteer of the Year—Maria Cerda, NIGP-CPP, CPPB
- RJD Mentoring Award Recipient—Bill Munch, NIGP-CPP, CPPO, CPPB
- Regular Scholarships—6, Forum Scholarships—69.
AZNIGP is dedicated to providing scholarships to active and participating members for their continuing education and professional development efforts.

Our scholarship program includes awards for seminar registrations, tuition reimbursement, certification, miscellaneous educational materials, travel, and per diem.

The three different types of Scholarships our Chapter offers are:

- **Regular Scholarship** (professional development, etc.)
- **Forum Scholarship** (NIGP National Forum)
- **Manager of the Year**
- **Buyer of the Year**

One of the best programs the Arizona State Capitol Chapter has to offer our members is our Scholarship Program.

### Mentoring Program

AZNIGP has a formal Mentoring program. Our website features a section just for mentoring and all the documents used to recruit mentors and mentees. This information is also provided to new members in their new member welcome packet. The “new member welcome letter” highlights the Mentoring program to encourage new members to get involved and seek help with learning about the Chapter, NIGP, and the Public Procurement profession. This program not only helps mentees with career development and advancement but also provides a valuable resource to our membership in general.

- [New Member Welcome Letter](#)
- [Mentoring Program Guide](#)
- [Mentoring Program Letter](#)
- [Mentorship Application](#)
- [Subject Matter Expert List](#)
Regional Conference & Vendor Expo

The Arizona State Capitol Chapter of NIGP’s Regional Conference & Vendor Expo is THE premier event in Arizona for vendors of government procurement contracts. The conference is open to all customers/employees and using department representatives of these purchasing agencies and their attendance is free to attend just the vendor expo.

Members pay just $40 per person to attend the all-day conference which includes 12 different break out classes, professional speakers, breakfast, lunch, afternoon snack, a closing/grand prize raffle and sometimes an after event social hour.

We have tremendous support from our vendor community with always selling all our vendor booths (100+) and obtaining $25,000 in sponsorship money alone.

Members and Vendors find the day very beneficial and look forward to the experience every year.

However, in 2020 because of the COVID pandemic we were unable to hold an in person event so we converted our Regional Conference to a virtual opportunity but had to eliminate the vendor expo. We still had great attendance of 143 members and was able to host an event that was educational to our members and at no cost.
Certification Support

AZNIGP held two CPPB/CPPO Review Study Courses to correspond to UPPCC testing. We held classes in the Spring (Mar/Apr) and Fall (Sept/Oct) of 2020 at No Cost! New this year we added a review study session for the NIGP-CPP certification.

Volunteer members who already hold their certifications graciously volunteer their time to host these study groups and help other members review and study the testing materials. We customized a PowerPoint presentation to match the prep guides and send “Questions of the Day” to attending members.

Through the AZNIGP Resource library, the chapter invests in the most current books and training materials offered by National and allows our members to “check-out” books and study guides to help them prepare for their exam and/or doing research or seeking to enhance their knowledge of the procurement profession.

Once members become certified and receive either their CPPB, CPPO, or NIGP-CPP designation we recognize them at a meeting. We provide them with a frame for their certificate and they are also recognized in one of our bi-monthly newsletters.