

ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOVERNMENTAL PURCHASING ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

FALL 2021



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UPCOMING:

Board of Directors Meeting	October 27, 2021 1:00pm – 4:00pm
RMGPA 2021 Award Nominations	Due before October 29, 2021
Winter Newsletter Articles	Due on or before November 30, 2021
2021 Winter Conference	December 2, 2021 and December 3, 2021



Submit articles, pictures, recipes, etc. to:

newsletter@rmgpa.org

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Diana Cantu,
RMGPA President

Fall is here and as we see the colors of the leaves changing along with cooler temperatures, it reminds us of the changes we have made for ourselves, RMGPA, and our agencies. Along with changing our processes, including many of us accepting bids electronically, we continue to learn how to navigate various online platforms for our meetings, and be more flexible with our many work environments. Our adaptability deserves recognition and celebration! At our upcoming winter conference, we will be recognizing our members and their efforts. I would like to kick off the celebration by announcing that RMGPA has been awarded a NIGP scholarship. With this scholarship, we will continue to provide members with meaningful and relevant educational opportunities for everyone. As we prepare for our upcoming conference, we encourage members to celebrate professional accomplishments and RMGPA's successes as well.



SPOTLIGHT: TINA GARCIA



Tell us about your background. After high school graduation I began working at the Pueblo Chieftain newspaper in the billing department. While working I attended college at night and weekends to obtain an associate degree in accounting and a bachelors degree in business management. During this time, a fellow classmate approached me about a job opening working with her at the Board of Water Works – the city’s water utility. I figured I had nothing to lose, applied, interviewed, and was offered the job. Twenty-two years later I am working as a Procurement Specialist at the Board of Water Works of Pueblo, CO (Pueblo Water).

Did you work in other professions prior to procurement and if so, where and for how long? I worked at the Pueblo Chieftain Newspaper for seven years in the billing office. When I was hired at Pueblo Water, I started in the customer service department and after five years I was promoted to work in the Human Resources Department, I worked in HR for 10 years as an HR Assistant and HR Specialist. In 2015 I was promoted to Purchasing Agent and continue to work as the sole person in procurement.

What organization do you currently work for and how long have you been there? I began working for Pueblo Water in 1999 and will celebrate 22 years in November.

How did you get into the procurement field? There was an internal job opening/promotional opportunity for a Purchasing Agent. I was familiar with some of the duties of the Purchasing Agent and felt this would be a good fit for my skill set.

What is the most interesting purchase/project you have been involved in and what was your role? One of the most interesting purchases to date has been acquiring two hydro-electric turbines for a new hydro-electric plant that will be built at our water treatment plant. Hydro-electric turbines are not your everyday commodity. LOL. As the Procurement Specialist, I worked closely with our engineering team, and we successfully awarded the turbines in 2020.

SPOTLIGHT: TINA GARCIA (CON'T)

When did you join RMGPA and what have you enjoyed most about being a member of our organization? I joined RMGPA in 2015 when I was promoted to the Purchasing Agent at Pueblo Water. At that time, I was new to the procurement world and felt intimidated and overwhelmed. That feeling didn't last long! At the first RMGPA Summer Conference I attended I met some amazing people who guided and helped me navigate this new career path. I feel the greatest attribute of being an RMGPA member is the networking. From my experience, RMGPA members share a special bond. We can ask questions, give advice and share ideas because we want to help one another.

Are there any professional and/or personal accomplishments you're proud of? I am proud to have made contributions in my HR role and Procurement Specialist position by reducing costs, improving efficiencies, and developing and implementing new processes. Earning employee of the year in 2013 was testament of my hard work and I am appreciative of the honor.

Tell us about your interests/hobbies outside of work. Outside of work, I enjoy being active, exercising, baking, home improvement projects, traveling and eating.



RMGPA's Newest NIGP-CPP Certified Members

Vera Braeckman-Kennedy, NIGP-CPP, CPPB
Jefferson County Public Schools

Leslie Brown, NIGP-CPP, CPPB
Larimer County

Connie Fox Lataille, NIGP-CPP, CPPB
Aims Community College

Brenda Hannu, NIGP-CPP, CPPB
City and County of Denver

Heather MacMillan, NIGP-CPP, CPPB
Larimer County

Whitney Mugford-Smith, NIGP-CPP, CPPB
City of Wheat Ridge

Trudi Peepgrass, NIGP-CPP
Arapahoe County

Deborah Rivera, NIGP-CPP
City of Pueblo

Cindy Stahmer, NIGP-CPP, CPPO
Jefferson County

Stacy Tino, NIGP-CPP, CPPB
Auraria Higher Education Center



Congratulations

RMGPA AWARDED THE GOLD PERFORMANCE STANDARD SEAL

NIGP has developed a 'standard' in which chapters can strive to follow and advance the opportunities offered to their members. Participating chapters receive a score which records their progress in achieving excellence. The four tiers are:

- Platinum Chapter
- Gold Chapter
- Silver Chapter
- Bronze Chapter

During the virtual NIGP Forum 2021, NIGP announced that RMGPA has received the Gold Performance Standard Seal. Congratulations!



2021 WINTER CONFERENCE - VENDOR NETWORKING TRADE SHOW 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

Dec 2 - 3, 2021

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Westin at Westminster

10600 Westminster Blvd

Westminster, Colorado 80020

CELEBRATE! EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

We got your back!

CONFERENCE RATES:

Member Early Registration: \$149 Through Nov. 8th | Late Registration: \$169 Effective Nov. 9th

Virtual Registration: \$79 Through Dec. 1st *Limited Program Provided*

Lifetime Member: FREE

Non-Member Early Registration: \$169 Through Nov. 8th | Late Registration: \$179 Effective Nov. 9th

MEMBER APPRECIATION DINNER RATES:

Registered Conference Attendee: Included in Registration Fee

Appreciation Dinner Guest: \$35 per person

WESTIN HOTEL ROOM RATE:

\$129.00 Single/Double Standard Room

Reservation deadline Nov. 17th

[Register Here](#)

**Everyone who registers will receive a 40th
anniversary celebration RMGPA t-shirt!**



STATE PRICE AGREEMENT WEEK

During the week of October 25th-29th, we will be holding free 90-minute webinars each day. Each one will focus on different price agreement categories and will feature price agreement vendors. There will also be plenty of time for Q&As so if you've been curious about price agreements or want to speak directly with a vendor, this is your chance. **Oh, and we'll also be raffling off a swag bag of Colorado-themed goodies each day!**

Who are these webinars for? They are for you! If you work in procurement for the state, an institution of higher education, a certified nonprofit, or a local government and want to learn more about price agreements, especially about a specific category, these webinars are a great chance to learn and ask questions. If you are program staff, this is a great way to learn more about the contracts and vendors available to you through price agreements.

How do I register? [You can register here](#) for one day or all five. It's free no matter how many sessions you attend, and since they're only 90 minutes long (and online!) we hope to see you at more than one. Once you register, you'll receive a confirmation email from Zoom with all of the login information.

Where can I learn more? [Visit the event website](#) for a full list of categories and vendors to be highlighted each day.

DATE/TIME	CATEGORIES	VENDORS
Tuesday, October 26 10:00am – 11:30am	Advertising, Temporary Personnel Services	Grainger, and Western Paper
Wednesday, October 27 10:00am – 11:30am	Translation Services, Equipment Rental, Fleet Vehicles	Corporate Translation Services dba Language Link, Voiance, and MasterWord
Thursday, October 28 10:00am – 11:30am	Copiers & Managed Print Services, Small Package Delivery Services	Enterprise Car Rental, Dooley Enterprises, and Salt Lake Wholesale Sports
Friday, October 29 10:00am – 11:30am	Training, Assessment & Development Programs, Procurement Acquisition Support Services, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (Drone) Services	Colorado Center for Organizational Excellence, Public Knowledge, and Gartner

UPCOMING FROM NIGP

OCT
14

Webinar - A Case for Change: Aligning Strategy with Action for Procurement Transformation

 Webinar

OCT
26

Webinar - NIGP Certified Procurement Professional: A Proven Pathway That Invests in Your Long-Term Career Growth

 Webinar

NOV
3

Webinar - Strategies for Delivering Successful Procurements and Projects

 Webinar

NOV
17

Webinar - The Game Changer

 Webinar

DEC
8

Webinar - Stakeholder Relationships and Setting Expectations

 Webinar

OCT
19

Webinar - Asking the Tough Questions with Cooperative Purchasing

 Webinar

OCT
28

Webinar - 2021 State of Public Sourcing: Back to Business, Fast and Focused

 Webinar

NOV
10

Webinar - Strategies On How to Do Outreach as a Procurement Professional

 Webinar

NOV
30

Webinar - NIGP Certified Procurement Professional: A Proven Pathway That Invests in Your Long-Term Career Growth

 Webinar

JAN
11

Webinar - Reverse Auctions: A Powerful Negotiation Tool for Your Toolbox

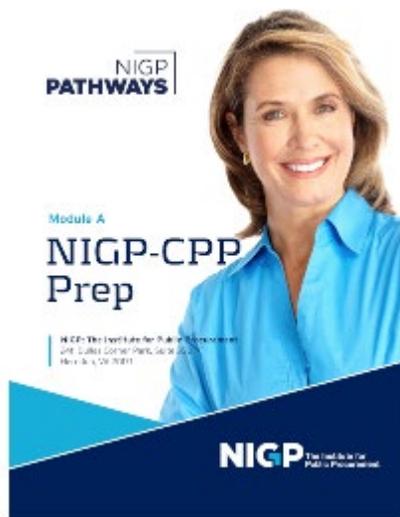
 Webinar

<https://www.nigp.org/learning/all-courses/webinars>

Preparing for NIGP-CPP CERTIFICATION?

Purchase your prep guides today!

This NIGP-CPP Module A and Module B Certification Preparation Guides are designed to help prepare you for the NIGP-CPP examination. Both guides are based on the focus areas of the Public Procurement Competency Framework (PPCF).



NIGP-CPP Prep - Module A

For the [NIGP-CPP Comprehensive Exam](#)

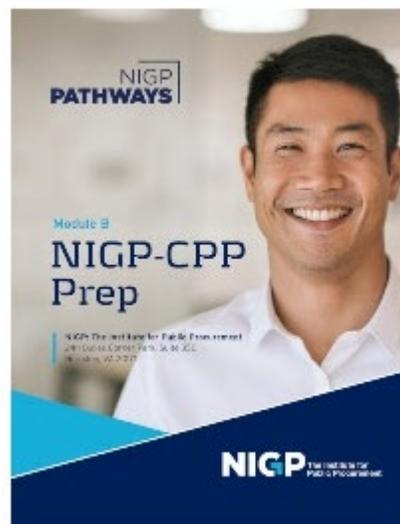
The NIGP-CPP Module A Prep Guide provides the learner with a thorough review of foundational topics such as Policy & Legislation, Planning & Analysis, and Sourcing & Contracting.

NIGP-CPP Prep - Module B

For the

- [NIGP-CPP Comprehensive Exam](#)
- [NIGP-CPP Module B Exam Only](#)
(current CPPO and CPPB certificants)

The NIGP-CPP Module B Prep Guide focuses on Strategy, Transformation & Vision, Social Responsibility, Business Principles and Leadership.



[PURCHASE TODAY](#)

The purpose of these guides is to provide certification candidates with resources to help confirm their knowledge, skills and abilities across the competencies in the PPCF. These guides can be as a standalone resource or a compliment to the NIGP-CPP Prep Course, which is offered virtual and in-person.

RFP Learning Lab Series

Based on the recently revised Global Best Practice - *Request for Proposals*.

Join presenters Stephanie Dion, Manitoba Hydro, Victor Leamer, Spokane County, WA and Michael Thornton, City of Leesburg, FL for an interactive learning adventure.

Hurry and register, last week's Learning Labs were sold out. Seating is limited.

YOUR RFP IS A TREASURE MAP

Discover what information is essential to correctly portray intent in your RFP. Get guidance on the critical information required for suppliers to have a clear understanding of your needs so you can provide the best proposal possible.

[NOVEMBER 2](#) / 12:30PM – 2:30PM (ET)

SCOPE OF WORK WRITING

Get ready to write specifications for actual procurements. Sharpen your specification writing skills and receive helpful tips and advice during this interactive session.

[NOVEMBER 2](#) / 3PM – 5PM (ET)

\$79/Lab MEMBERS

\$179/Lab NON-MEMBERS

CONTACT HOURS: 2.0 | CEUs: .2

NIGP The Institute for
Public Procurement



Betty Crocker Gluten Free Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Cookies

Submitted by: Chelsey Axtell

Years ago, my co-worker discovered that she has a severe allergy to gluten. After watching her attend several work potlucks where she was limited to eating only from the fruit trays, I decided to surf the internet in search of gluten free desserts (her favorite!) I found this recipe on the Betty Crocker website and it became an instant hit. The first time I made these, I tested them on my two teenage sons and had to make a run to the store for more ingredients as they ate them all—they had no idea they were gluten free. I have since changed the recipe up a bit by adding walnuts or pecans in place of the raisins and sometimes I drizzle the cooled cookies with cream cheese frosting. SO good!! Enjoy!

<https://www.bettycrocker.com/recipes/gluten-free-pumpkin-chocolate-chip-cookies/595356e1-0892-4e9e-944d-f6f3df25cd61>



¾ cup canned pumpkin (not pumpkin pie mix)

¼ cup butter, softened (not melted)

1 teaspoon vanilla

1 egg

19 oz Betty Crocker gluten free chocolate chip cookie mix

½ cup raisins, if desired

¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon

Powdered sugar, if desired

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Grease cookie sheets with shortening.
2. In large bowl, stir pumpkin, butter, vanilla and egg until blended. Stir in cookie mix, raisins and cinnamon until soft dough forms. Drop dough by rounded teaspoonfuls 2 inches apart on cookie sheets.
3. Bake 10 to 12 minutes or until almost no indentation remains when lightly touched in center and edges are golden brown. Immediately remove from cookie sheet to cooking rack. Cool completely, about 15 minutes. Sprinkle with powdered sugar or drizzle with cream cheese frosting.

2021 RMGPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

POSITION	OFFICER NAME	E-MAIL	PHONE
President	Diana Cantu, CPPB	president@rmgpa.org	303-702-7715
Vice President	Jon Babcock	vicepresident@rmgpa.org	970-490-3545
Secretary	Jamaica Watts	secretary@rmgpa.org	
Treasurer	Marisa Donegon, CPPB	treasurer@rmgpa.org	719-641-0402
Past President	Traci Gorman, CPPO, CPPB	pastpres@rmgpa.org	

2021 STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

POSITION	OFFICER NAME	E-MAIL	PHONE
Awards	Amanda Zila	awards@rmgpa.org	303-866-4005
Chapter Enhancement/ Vendor Liaison	VACANT	vendorevents@rmgpa.org	
Communications	David Musgrave	info@rmgpa.org	303-757-9861
Education/Professional Development	VACANT	prod@rmgpa.org	
Elections	Skyler Thimens	elections@rmgpa.org	970-443-4780
Historian	Pat Johnson	historian@rmgpa.org	970-221-6816
Legislative	Nancy Allen	legislative@rmgpa.org	720-898-7093
Marketing	Brenda Hannu	marketing@rmgpa.org	720-913-8118
Membership	Doug Clapp	membership@rmgpa.org	970-590-9792
Newsletter	Chelsey Axtell	newsletter@rmgpa.org	303-702-7769
Programs	Cheryl Gray	programs@rmgpa.org	970-208-9526

2021 STANDING COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

POSITION	OFFICER NAME	E-MAIL	PHONE
Awards	Curt Decapite, CPPB	awards@rmgpa.org	
Chapter Enhancement/ Vendor Liaison	Christine Weber, C.P.M., CPPB	vendorevents@rmgpa.org	303-828-6094
Communications	Molly McLoughlin, NIGP-CPP, CPPO, CPPB	info@rmgpa.org	720-561-5045
Education/Professional Development	Tina Garcia	prod@rmgpa.org	719-584-0201
Elections	Tim Wellmann, NIGP-CPP, CPPB	elections@rmgpa.org	303-702-7734
Legislative	Farrah Bustamante, CPPB, MBA	legislative@rmgpa.org	970-949-1199
Marketing	Nicol Suddreth	marketing@rmgpa.org	720-865-7508
Membership	Jim Walker, CPPO, CPPB	membership@rmgpa.org	720-442-0708
Newsletter	Kelly Wooden, CPPO, CPPB	newsletter@rmgpa.org	307-766-5546
Programs	Traci Burtnett	programs@rmgpa.org	303-682-7309

