

SOUTHEAST TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC PURCHASING

THE PUBLIC PURCHASER NEWSLETTER

Fall 2025



NIGP Official
Chapter



2025 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

President: Christopher Kaminski

Vice-President: Cassie Leal

Secretary: Sandra Melancon

Treasurer: Jared Abbey

Immediate Past President:

Jedediah Greenfield

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The Southeast Texas Association of Public Purchasing (SETAPP) is dedicated to enhancing public purchasing practices, high ethical values and the advancement of the public procurement profession. Founded in 1993, SETAPP serves public procurement professionals in state and local governments, educational institutions and other public entities throughout the greater Houston area.

The organization is a chapter of NIGP, the Institute for Public Procurement, and offers chapter members networking events and continuing education opportunities that encourage and support professional development and certification. SETAPP is committed to NIGP's Values and Guiding Principles and encourages members to live by them when carrying out their day-to-day responsibilities. The organization promotes integrity, transparency and accountability to maintain excellence in public procurement and protect the public trust.



Announcements

THE VOTES ARE IN!

SETAPP 2026

Executive Board of Directors :

President = Chris Kaminski

VP = Sandra Melancon

Secretary = Juan Diaz

Treasurer = Tina Vega

AND ALSO

Don't Forget,

It is Membership Renewal Time.

Our membership year runs January through December.

Please log in to SETAPP website and pay dues.

**New and renewal memberships may be
processed by clicking the Join Online or Renew
Online links next to the applicable fees.**

Educational Opportunities



**Test for the
NIGP-CPP ON US.**

**Apply and sit for the new NIGP-CPP
Modules C & D Exam in February 2026**

Get Your Testing Fee Reimbursed

when you complete either or both new Exam Modules during the February 2026 window.

Reimbursements will be sent to all candidates who sit for and complete the new Exam Modules only.

This special program is presented by 1GPA to support procurement leaders as they advance in the profession.



COMMITTEES

Here at SETAPP,
there are lots of opportunities for volunteerism!
You can join a committee or even Chair one!
Reach out to our new VP, Sandra Melancon to learn more.
Email: sandra.melancon@pur.hctx.net

Public Relations Committee

Help us maintain our online presence.

Education Committee

Help organize annual education events.

Membership Committee

Help build and maintain a healthy
membership.

Program/Facilities Committee

Help identify local sites for our meetings.
Work with the President to plan, develop and
coordinate info/educational programs.

Legislative Committee

Help keep membership informed of
legislative changes.

EVENT SPOTLIGHT- FORUM

Here we are **REPRESENTING** at FORUM 2025



The 2025 NIGP Forum in Denver was a success! SETAPP was awarded the Gold Chapter performance seal!!!! Since the the seal program started in 2020 we've received Silver 3 times and Bronze twice but this year we won GOLD!!!! We also had several members in attendance this year and the social event had an 80's theme which was fun!!

EVENT SPOTLIGHT- FORUM

BRINGING HOME THE GOLD



There is a lot that goes into NIGP's Performance Standards Seal Program. Category Areas include:

- Chapter Operations
- Membership
- Advocacy & Outreach
- Professional Development

In total, there are 63 criteria we are measured on.



SOUTHEAST TEXAS
ASSOCIATION of
PUBLIC PURCHASING



NIGP Official Chapter

EVENT SPOTLIGHT-PRO DAY



Thank you to everyone who made this event such a success.

Pro D Day Agenda

- 8:00 am – 8:20 am: Breakfast/Introductions/Mix, Mingle, and Networking**
- 8:25 am – 9:00 am: The Real MVP (Most Valuable Professional) Self – Assessment**
- 9:00 am – 9:45 am: (Goals to Greatness) Professional Vision Boards**
- 10:00 am – 11:00 am: SourceSense AI (AI in Procurement)**
- 11:00 am – 12:00 pm: Lunch & Headshots in the Park**
- 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm: Art of Negotiating**
- 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm: Personal well-being (Vibe Check-out)**



Location:

**Deputy Darren Almendarez Community Center/James Driver All-Inclusive Park
10918 Bentley Street
Houston 77093**

EVENT SPOTLIGHT- VENDOR EXPO



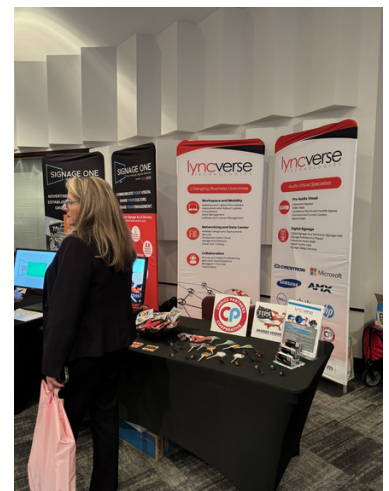
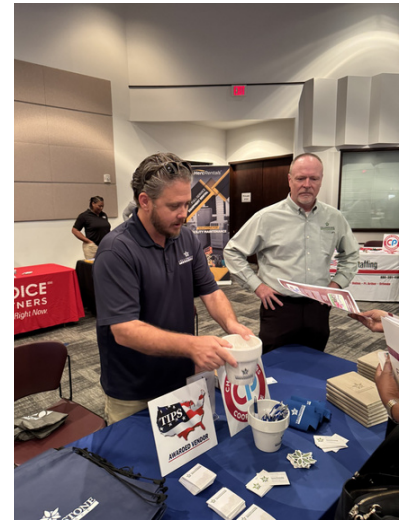
Our vendor expo at HCC was a success. We had a great group of vendor sponsors come out to support the event which is our big annual fundraiser. These funds go towards our scholarships and Q4 Year End Event. **Many thanks to all the hard work that went into this event.**



EVENT SPOTLIGHT- VENDOR EXPO



EVENT SPOTLIGHT- VENDOR EXPO



EVENT SPOTLIGHT- 3RD QUARTER MEETING



AT OUR Q3 MEETING, WE ENJOYED AN INFORMATIVE SESSION ABOUT CONTRACT MANAGEMENT AND P-CARD ADMINISTRATION.

THANK YOU SO MUCH TO OUR GUEST SPEAKERS:

FROM HARRIS COUNTY:

GISSELLE ZAPATA
CHRIS KAMINSKI

&

FROM CITY OF HOUSTON:

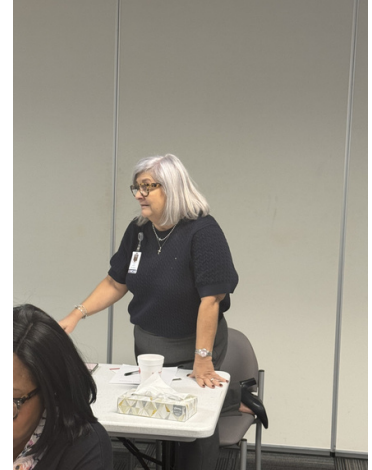
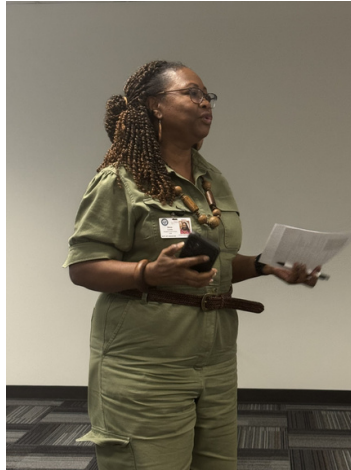
CYNTHIA SALDANA
JED GREENFIELD



EMBRACING CHANGE AND TECHNOLOGY.

We talked about different contract management systems: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly being used amongst us. Guest speakers shared challenges they have faced in the past and the improvements that new technologies are bringing to their processes.

EVENT SPOTLIGHT- 3RD QUARTER MEETING



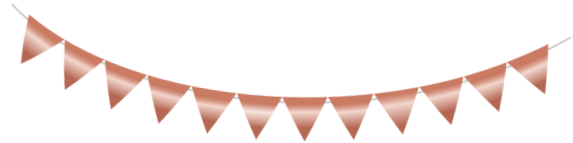
We also collected
canned goods for our
annual food drive.
Thank your for support
on this effort.



UPCOMING EVENTS

A look at what's on the Horizon...

4th Quarter Meeting
December 4, 2025



Our 4th Quarter meeting will be on Thursday, December 4th at Dave and Buster's at 7620 Katy Freeway in Houston. The event starts at 12:30PM with delicious lunch of smoked pork ribs, grilled BBQ chicken, jalapeno cheddar sausage, baked mac and cheese, baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw and a dessert bar!!



After lunch we will conduct the induction of 2026 Executive Board of Directors, present year end awards, and play Christmas games for prizes.



At 2:00 we can begin playing D&B games and compete on the bowling lanes. We have 6 lanes with a maximum of 8 per lane. The lanes are available until 4:00.



As in years past, we will be collecting donations for **Toys-for-Tots** so please bring a new, unwrapped toy. This event is free to members that attended at least one (1) quarterly meeting in 2025 (in-person or virtually).



Please check your profile on the website for attendance records. The meeting portion will be available virtually but you'll miss out on all the fun!!!! Registration will close at 5PM on November 27th, no exceptions so register early.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Leadership Summit

In Person February 19 - 21, 2026

Tucson, Arizona

Recharge Your Leadership. Reignite Your Purpose.

Leadership doesn't happen in isolation—and it doesn't grow in routine environments. NIGP Leadership Summit 2026 is more than an event. It's a carefully curated, high-impact experience where learning, connection, and inspiration come together under the wide-open skies of the Sonoran Desert.

This year, we're gathering at El Conquistador, a stunning Hilton resort nestled in the heart of Tucson, Arizona, where natural beauty meets authentic leadership. It's the perfect backdrop to recharge, reconnect, and reignite your purpose as a leader—an experience that melds groundbreaking leadership insights, fresh perspectives, and the unique spark that comes from human connection that taps into the power of people and place.

It's not just about developing your leadership. It's about renewing your perspective, recharging your source of energy, and reconnecting with purpose—while surrounded by the awe-inspiring landscapes of the Southwest.

Questions

Contact Todd Slater, Chief Content Officer at tslater@nigp.org

Three programs—one destination for growth.

Whether you're stepping into your first leadership role, leading teams across your organization, or guiding your chapter community, Leadership Summit meets you where you are and takes you further.



EDGE For Emerging Leaders

Step confidently into leadership.
Step confidently into leadership. EDGE helps you make the transition from individual contributor to leader of others—developing essential skills in communication, coaching, delegation, and team dynamics. Perfect for those ready to lead their first team or project.



IMPACT For Experienced Leaders

Elevate your leadership impact.
Designed for established leaders in procurement and adjacent functions, IMPACT challenges you to think strategically, inspire innovation, and strengthen your ability to influence organizational culture and results.



ACADEMY For Newly Elected Chapter Leaders

Lead your chapter with purpose and clarity.
ACADEMY brings together newly elected chapter boards for a collaborative learning experience focused on effective governance, board roles, strategic planning, and member engagement—everything you need to start your term strong.

CHAPTER CONTACTS

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