



**NIGP**  
Official Chapter



# Newsletter

STRIVES TO MAINTAIN THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF  
ETHICS, INTEGRITY, PUBLIC TRUST AND AWARENESS  
IN THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PROFESSION.

*cfcnigp.org*



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<b>VISION</b>	To be the leading Chapter of NIGP: The Institute for Public Procurement by promoting the development of public procurement professionals throughout Central Florida.
<b>MISSION</b>	Provide our chapter members with opportunities for professional development and the exchange of best practices.
<b>CORE VALUES</b>	<p>The Central Florida Chapter of NIGP shall adhere to the following core values:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ethics</li> <li>2. Integrity</li> <li>3. Professionalism</li> <li>4. Diversity</li> <li>5. Education and Professional Growth</li> <li>6. Service to Stakeholders</li> </ol>



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Hello Chapter Members,

September Membership Meeting. Please join us on Friday, September 19, 2025, for our Chapter Membership Meeting to vote in the 2026-2027 Slate of Officers, and our Fall Workshop (9:00 AM to 3:00 PM). Joshua Higgins and Renee Lindler with NIGP Business Council member United Rentals present in the morning Beyond the Bid - The Hidden Value of Your Suppliers and Rent vs. Buy - A Review of Total Cost of Equipment Ownership and Ted Phillips with Osceola County presents Federal Compliance sessions in the afternoon. Price is \$20 for four (4) contact hours. The Chapter Membership Meeting is at 9:00 AM and the Fall Workshop begins at 10:00 AM with Lunch at 12:00 PM. Register at July 11, 2025 Membership Meeting and Presentation - Events - Central Florida Chapter of NIGP. NOTE: For in-person attendance, the facility is undergoing construction maintenance so the room doors that open directly to the outside patio may be blocked at the time of our meeting.

### NEW Board of Director Positions.

On May 23, 2025 Membership approved Bylaws revisions which included the creation of three new Council Chair positions for the 2026–2027 term. They are as follows:

Member Council Chair (NEW)	Membership Representation	Focused on member satisfaction, provides representation to the membership, and oversees the Welcome Committee,
Talent Council Chair	Recruitment and Retention	Human Resources branch for volunteer recruitment,
Fundraising Council Chair (NEW)	Fundraising Event Management	Oversees the Reverse Trade Show, identifies new fundraising opportunities, and manages RTS committees, fundraising efforts, and community service.

If you're passionate about making a difference and ready to lead, we encourage you to apply. Connect with current or past Board members to learn more about their experiences and the impact of their service.

### Council Chair Nomination Timeline:

- September 19, 2025 – Applications due
- September 22, 2025 – Committee review & interview scheduling
- September 24, 2025 (8:00 AM – 11:00 AM) – Candidate interviews
- November 4, 2025 – Board considers and appoints recommended slate
- December 5, 2025 – Board appointed slate presented to membership for confirmation vote



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

If you are interested in the new Board positions available for the 2026-2027 term please contact Kristine Rodriguez at [kristine.rodriguez@osceolaschools.net](mailto:kristine.rodriguez@osceolaschools.net).

**Chapter Check In:** Join us virtually on **Wednesday, October 15, 2025, at 12 PM for a Points to Progress Turning Engagement into Scholarships presentation and discussion!** We will explore the Chapter's Professional Development (Pro-D) and scholarship program and how you and your agency can benefit from Chapter involvement. Register on our website for this event! [CFC NIGP Scholarship Program - Points to Progress - Events - Central Florida Chapter of NIGP](#)

**Reverse Trade Show.** *Join us on Friday, November 7, 2025 at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Orlando at SeaWorld!!!*

- ♦ **Event Registration:** Registrations for vendors, agencies, and the room raffle survey are located at [Home- Central Florida Chapter of NIGP](#) on the home page.
- ♦ **Volunteer Opportunities:** Contact me if you would like to volunteer for RTS! There are virtual opportunities before the event and in-person opportunities on the day of the event.
- ♦ **Hotel Rooms:** [RTS 2025 Room Reservation \(book by 10/7/25\)](#) Scholarship points can be used for hotel rooms the day before and night of the event! The room raffle is closed. Winners will be confirmed and announced in the future.

**2025 NIGP Chapter Awards.** I am ecstatic to inform you that the Central Florida Chapter of NIGP was presented with multiple awards and certificates at the 2025 NIGP FORUM in Denver, CO.

- ♦ The coveted **2025 Outstanding Chapter of the Year Award for Membership** for our Committee Bootcamp. This is the 3rd year in a row the Chapter has won an Outstanding Chapter of the Year Award!
- ♦ The highest Performance Standard Seal offered by NIGP, the **Platinum Seal Award**. We are one (1) of fifteen (15) Chapters that have achieved this level of standard! This is the 6th year in a row the Chapter has earned the Platinum Seal Award!
- ♦ A **Certificate of Achievement for Highest Percentage of NIGP Members Award**. Eighty-nine percent (89%) of our Chapter members also hold a NIGP (national) membership.

I am honored to serve as the Chapter's President alongside Vice President Luis Aviles, Treasurer Sean Hynes, Secretary Nick Canjar, and Presidential Advisor Damaris Nazario! Thank you to our fantastic leadership team and Chapter members for your dedication and commitment to our procurement profession!

**🦋 2025 Young Professionals (Under 40) Fall Workshop Raffle 🦋** Congratulations to our young professional winners receiving **FREE IN-PERSON attendance to our September 19, 2025 Membership Meeting & Fall Workshop — valued at \$20 and offering 4 contact hours!** This opportunity is separate from the Pro-D Opportunities Scholarships program.

**2025 Scholarship Deferment Survey.** Do you have scholarship funds? The Chapter's 2025 Scholarship Deferment Survey is open on our website! The five (5) question survey allows you to defer unused scholarship fund to the following year. ***The survey closes on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025.*** **NOTE: This is the last day to register for the survey.** Log in on the website. Go to Member Resources, select Surveys, select the 2025 Scholarship Deferment Survey. Complete the survey and submit response.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

### Pro-D Opportunities Scholarships. Congratulations to our awardees!

- ♦ **Name: Leadership Summit - Edge / Impact (up to \$1,500 value). Courses may begin in the Fall of 2025.** Dates: Wednesday, Feb 18, 2026 to Friday, Feb 20, 2026 (3 days). Format: Virtual and In-Person, El Conquistador, A Hilton Resort, Tuscon, Arizona
  - ♦ **Jessica Waldron, School Board of Brevard County**
- ♦ **Name: Specialization Certificate: Technology Procurement Virtual Class (\$520 value, 28 contact hours).** Dates: Monday, December 8, 2025 to Wednesday, December 10, 2025 (3 days). Format: Virtual
  - ♦ **Alvin Borges, Orange County Government**
  - ♦ **Lindsey Hladik, City of Orlando**
  - ♦ **Andrew Kokitus, County of Volusia**
  - ♦ **Chuvala McFarlane, Orlando Utilities Commission**
  - ♦ **Alfonso Segura, Orlando Utilities Commission**

**David Wheeler.** We are deeply saddened to inform you that David Wheeler, *Orange County Public Schools Senior Director of Procurement Services*, passed away unexpectedly. David was highly engaged in the procurement profession contributing to his entity, CFC NIGP, NIGP, and FAPPO with events and on multiple committees. David touched the lives of many with his kindness, humor, caring, professionalism and unwavering love of family.

**Engagement.** I want to encourage members to evaluate talents and strengths and identify if there are any committees or task forces opportunities that you would be willing to volunteer for in 2025/2026. Committee chair, member, and RTS positions are available. We have a lot of work to do as a chapter this year and we can benefit from having active volunteers. Please do not hesitate to contact me or one of the other board members with any questions you might have. Let's make this year a fantastic year for your Chapter!

Thank you!

*Tabatha Freedman*, MBA, NIGP-CPP, CPPO, CPPB

2024-2025 President  
president@cfcnigp.org





# OFFICER MESSAGES

## Vice President Update

Hello CFCNIGP Family!

It was great attending NIGP Forum with many of our colleagues! Forum never disappoints, the sessions were informative and engaging, and I know each of us walked away with new ideas and tools to bring back to our agencies.

Not only are we taking new ideas and tools back home but we also won the 2025 Outstanding Chapter of the Year Award for Membership for our Committee Bootcamp AND the Platinum Seal Award!! Woohoo to our Chapter!!

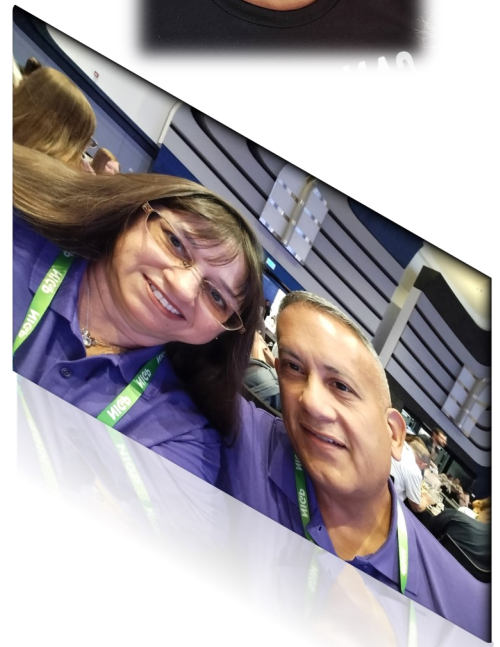
We also had the privilege of hearing Rick Grimm's heartfelt farewell speech. His leadership will be greatly missed, and we wish him the very best as he begins this next chapter of his life.

Outside the sessions, we had some fun exploring everything Denver had to offer. Eighties Night at the Aquarium was definitely a highlight — a wonderful mix of networking and laughter. In short, it was a fantastic time to learn, connect, and enjoy being together as a community.

Thank you to all our members who continue to make time to participate. Your involvement is what keeps this Chapter strong, and we're committed to providing valuable and engaging programming throughout the year. Speaking of which — don't forget our Fall Workshop on September 19th! We've lined up a great agenda that you won't want to miss. Also, a quick reminder that the updated Scholarship Log has been posted. Scholarship funds may be used for education events, and associated travel costs. The Scholarship Redemption Form can be found on our website under Documents and Files > Scholarships.

I look forward to seeing you all on September 19th!

**Luis A Aviles, CPPO, CPPB**  
**CFC NIGP Vice President**



# OFFICER MESSAGES

## Treasurer's Update

I can't believe another great Forum has come and gone. It was awesome to see so many CFC members in Denver. The conference was enriching and exciting with a hint of sadness as it was NIGP Rick Grimm's last one. In addition to enjoying Forum's incredible lineup of sessions and speakers I was fortunate to enjoy a few other things Colorado has to offer. From whitewater rafting to mountain hiking to a Killer Queen concert at Red Rock Amphitheater I experienced adventure, nature, and culture making this a truly unforgettable conference.

I look forward to seeing you at the Fall Workshop on September 19th and the Reverse Trade Show on November 7th. If you have any questions about registration on the website, do not hesitate to reach out to me at [treasurer@cfcnigp.org](mailto:treasurer@cfcnigp.org).

While Forum brought many moments of joy and connection, it was followed by a somber reminder of how precious our time together truly is. Our community recently lost a colleague and friend, David Wheeler. David was more than a procurement professional—he was a mentor, a steady presence, and a respected expert whose sharp wit and knowledge enriched every conversation. His contributions to our chapter and the profession were immeasurable, and his absence will be deeply felt.

**Sean Hynes, CPPO, NIGP-CPP, CPPB**  
**CFC NIGP Treasurer**





# OFFICER MESSAGES

## Secretary's Update

Happy Fall... well almost! It is exciting to believe we are gearing up for my favorite time of the year! If you are Christmas person, like me, you will know that there are approximately 111 days to go (well at least at the time I am writing this article)!

Another favorite event of mine this time of year is the Reverse Trade Show (RTS), which will take place on Friday, November 7, 2025! This is where we get to meet face to face with vendors and establish those much needed relationships. In addition to getting to meet vendors face to face, this event is what helps our scholarship points each year. If your agency has not already, I encourage you to register for the RTS! Don't forget we have those early bird additional scholarship points available for those who register by October 1, 2025! We hope you will join us!

Also coming up we have our Fall Workshop on Friday, September 19th and our final chapter meeting of the year will take place on Friday, December 5, 2025! I hope to see you at one of these upcoming events!

**Nick Canjar, NIGP-CPP, CPPO, CPPB**  
**CFC NIGP Secretary**





## 2025 Dates to Remember

Day and Date	Times	Type	Event	Topic
September 19, 2025	9:00 - 3:00	In-person & virtual	Fall Workshop	<b>Morning Workshop</b> Josh Higgins / Renee Lindler, United Rentals, NIGP Business Council  <b>Afternoon Workshop</b> Ted Phillips Osceola County , FL
October 5 - 8, 2025		In-person	National Procurement Institutes 57th Annual Conference	Rosen Shingle Creek Orlando, FL
November 7, 2025	9:30 - 3:30	In-person	Reverse Trade Show	DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld
December 5, 2025	12:00 - 2:00	In-person & virtual	Holiday Chapter Meeting	State of the Chapter
Fridays	2:00 - 3:00	Virtual	CPPO/CPPB Study Group	



# REMEMBERING DAVID WHEELER

David Randall Wheeler, 40, of Orlando, Florida, passed away August 16, 2025. David was born in Orlando, Florida on December 22, 1984. David had a long career in Public Procurement employed by Orange County Public Schools. Many of us interacted with David at Chapter meetings, our Reverse Trade Shows, FAPPO, and NIGP FORUM.



David graduated from Colonial High School and attained the degree of Master of Business Administration from the University of Central Florida. He served many years in the U.S. Army Reserve, which included three Middle East deployments. His hobbies include various sports, golf, fantasy football and doting upon his young nieces.

David is survived by father, Randy Wheeler; mother, Dena Wheeler; sister, Caitlin McCabe; brother-in-law, Kristopher McCabe; and three nieces, Hazel, Violet and Willow.

Though David's physical presence may no longer grace our lives, his spirit will continue to inspire and uplift us. His gift to us is the memory of how he touched each of our lives that we carry on his legacy of love and compassion in all that we do.



*Remember the good times!*





2026 Slate of Officers and Nominations from the Floor

The Nominating Taskforce received application packages, conducted interviews, and will be presenting the 2026 State of Officers to the membership at the Chapter Meeting on September 19, 2025.

Please note that the Nominating Taskforce is only making one recommendation for each position based on the responses it received. The recommended slate will be given the opportunity to introduce themselves and address the membership. In addition to the Nominating Taskforce Slate, nominations will be accepted from the floor. Those interested in serving who were not selected by the Nominating Taskforce will need to be nominated from the floor. All members nominated from the floor will be given the opportunity to address members with a brief introduction.

The proposed slate is as follows:

For President

Luis A. Aviles, CPPO, CPPB



I'm a Florida transplant who now proudly calls this state home. With over 30 years of procurement experience in both the public and private sectors, I've had the opportunity to serve in various roles with organizations like the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority, Osceola County Board of County Commissioners, the University of Central Florida, and the Orlando Housing Authority.

Working across these agencies has given me a well-rounded view of different procurement processes and helped me learn how to adapt and contribute wherever I go. I hold both CPPO and CPPB certifications from the UPPCC, which reflect my ongoing commitment to professionalism and doing things the right way.

Outside of work, you'll usually find me spending time with my family, growing fruits and veggies in the backyard, or tinkering with cars. I'm passionate about public service and always looking for ways to support the procurement community and help others grow.

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## 2026 SLATE OF OFFICERS



### For Vice President

#### **James (Nick) Canjar, NIGP-CPP, CPPO, CPPB, FCCM**

James (Nick) Canjar has worked for The City of Palm Bay for four and half years. As of August 2023, he is the Procurement Manager. Nick is an enthusiastic team leader providing motivation and sharing his procurement knowledge with his teammates. Prior to working for the City of Palm Bay, he worked for Brevard Public Schools for nine years, four of which were in Procurement. He holds a Bachelor of Applied Science in Organizational Management from Eastern Florida State College. Nick has earned his CPPO, CPPB, NIGP-CPP and FCCM certifications and enjoys the challenges that the Procurement field brings.

Nick excels at creating and instructing Procurement classes for end users to learn the Procurement Process from start to finish. He is best known around the office for his cheerfulness and readiness to lead his colleagues through procurement challenges. Outside of work Nick enjoys painting and anything Christmas related, including his famous village which includes over 130 lighted buildings!

\*\*\*\*\*



### For Treasurer

#### **Ramandeep Mann, MBA, CPPB, NIGP-CPP, FCCM**

Ramandeep comes with a wealth of knowledge and insights in the area of Procurement. While pursuing her MBA, she got the opportunity to pursue a career in the field of 'Public Procurement' in May 2017 as an Intern. Since then, she has been developing herself as a seasoned public procurement professional. Her passion for learning new developments in the field has kept her involved with NIGP and FAPPO. She is a strong advocate of learning by doing and exemplifies this through her efforts. She has obtained CPPB, NIGP-CPP, and FCCM certifications. Currently, she is serving as a 'Senior Buyer' for the Kissimmee Utility Authority.

Ramandeep is a firm believer in what Pat Riley said, "Excellence is the gradual result of always wanting to do better." As a result, she is always looking for opportunities to learn and grow. She believes that learning is a continuous process that leads us to excellence. As the treasurer of CFC-NIGP, she will be committed to furthering the mission of the local chapter.

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**For Secretary**

**Yanique Reddick**

I have over 14 years of Public Procurement experience. Passionate about Procurement and dedicated to helping others plan and develop Procurement career goals through one-on-one coaching and mentoring. I am actively involved in CFC NIGP, NIGP Forum, and Career Concierge committee. In my 14 years of procurement, I have worked with education, state government, and aviation entities covering goods and services, IT, and Construction. I have a special focus on Capital programs, and I enjoy the challenges of working on construction projects. In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my 2 boys, 17 and 6, other family and friends, traveling, and enjoying the Florida beaches.





# FORUM 2025 RECAP – FORUM Chapter Awards

**2025 NIGP Chapter Awards.** I am ecstatic to inform you that the Central Florida Chapter of NIGP was presented with multiple awards and certificates at the 2025 NIGP FORUM in Denver, CO.

- ♦ The coveted **2025 Outstanding Chapter of the Year Award for Membership** for our Committee Bootcamp. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row the Chapter has won an Outstanding Chapter of the Year Award!



- ♦ The highest Performance Standard Seal offered by NIGP, the **Platinum Seal Award**. We are one (1) of fifteen (15) Chapters that have achieved this level of standard! This is the 6<sup>th</sup> year in a row the Chapter has earned the Platinum Seal Award!



## FORUM 2025 RECAP – FORUM Chapter Awards

Established in 1977, NIGP's highest award is named in honor of our founder, Albert H. Hall. Professionals who receive the Albert H. Hall Memorial Award also earn the designation of 'Fellow of NIGP' or FNIGP.

The award embodies contributions in accordance with the Values and Guiding Principles of Public Procurement: **ACCOUNTABILITY, ETHICS, IMPARTIALITY, PROFESSIONALISM, SERVICE & TRANSPARENCY.**

The recipient is selected based on their extraordinary contributions to these 6 Values and Guiding Principles.



*Congratulations*  
*Carrie F. Mathes,*  
*NIGP-CPP, CPPO, C.P.M.,*  
*CPPB, FCCM, MPA,*  
*CFCM, APP*

*Orange County , FL*  
**The 2025 Albert H. Hall  
Memorial Award Winner!**

**Carrie Mathes**  
FNIGP, NIGP-CPP, CPPO,  
C.P.M., CPPB, FCCM, CFCM,  
APP

**2025**  
**Albert H. Hall**  
**Memorial Award**





# FORUM 2025 RECAP – Award Luncheon

***On Monday July 28th the Chapter was honored at the NIGP Awards Luncheon in Denver, CO in which our Chapter's achievements were announced. Our Chapter was awarded an Outstanding Chapter Award for Membership for our Committee Bootcamp program! The competition in the Membership category was fierce and we are so honored to receive this award!***

***Below are the luncheon table photos and your Board of Directors.***

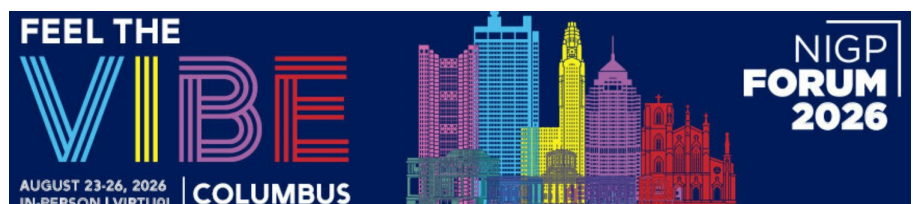
***Thank you to the Chapter leadership and members for your engagement!***



Thank you,

*Tabatha Freedman*

Tabatha Freedman,  
MBA, NIGP-CPP, CPPO, CPPB  
President





# FORUM 2025 RECAP – Chapter Night Out!

*Chapter members, family, and friends met out on Monday July 28th at Henry's Tavern, American Bar & Grill, in Denver, CO. We had over 20 participants join us for a lovely evening of comradery and friendship.*

*It was also a bit of a celebration after the NIGP Awards Luncheon at which our Chapter's achievements were announced!*

*Thank you to those that attended! It was so much fun!*



***Making Memories! Good Times!***

Thank you,

*Tabatha Freedman*

*President*

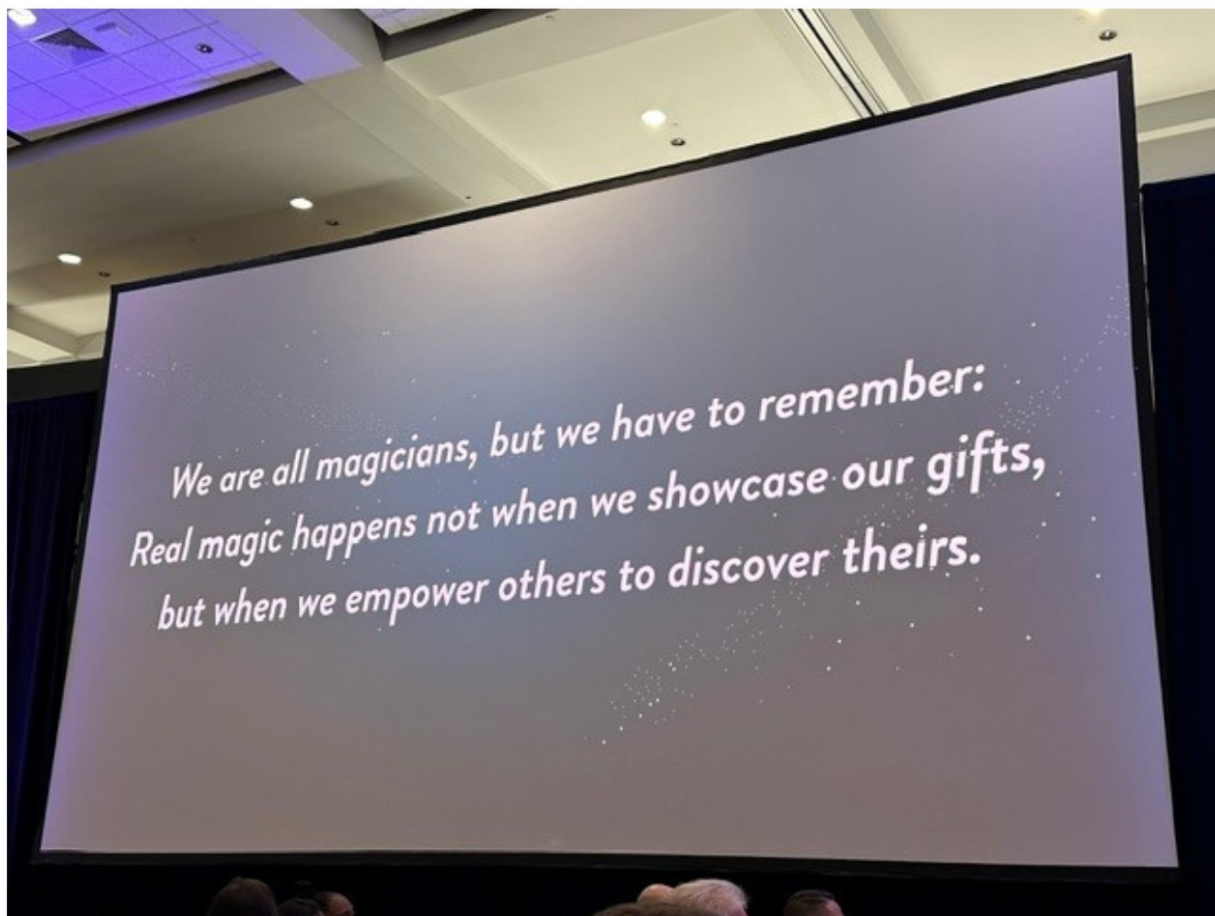
**Save the Date: August 23-26, 2026**



**#NIGPFORUM2026**



# FORUM 2025 RECAP – PHOTOS





## 80S NIGHT





# FORUM 2025 RECAP – PHOTOS



# FORUM 2025 RECAP – PHOTOS





# FORUM 2025 – SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS, IN-PERSON



I am beyond grateful to have received the Chapter's NIGP Forum Scholarship. This incredible opportunity took me to Denver for this year's Forum, a dream destination of mine, and gave me an unforgettable experience filled with learning, networking, and inspiration.

Forum was a perfect blend of professional growth and personal connection. I attended informative sessions, met procurement professionals from across the country, and strengthened bonds with colleagues. The social event at the aquarium was a highlight - sharing laughs with my colleagues and their families while surrounded by stunning marine life was a beautiful reminder of the friendships that

make our profession so special.

I was deeply proud to cheer for my friends during the awards. Watching our Chapter member, Carrie Mathes, receive the prestigious Albert H. Hall Memorial Award was inspiring. I felt emotional when Rick Grimm accepted the inaugural Rick Grimm Legacy Award and teared up when Keith Ashby's wife accepted the Ella Pierce Award for Inclusion and Diversity on his behalf. I was

thrilled to see my friend Ashley Kennedy-Shell win the Young Professional Award. It was also wonderful to celebrate Jill Selby's CPPB achievement and Alina Hernandez Fernandez's NIGP-CPP accomplishment in person.



This Forum was not just a trip; it was a celebration of achievement, community, and passion for our profession.

I encourage all members to get involved in our chapter, volunteer your time, and take advantage of scholarships and professional opportunities. These experiences not only open doors for growth but also create lasting friendships, strengthen our community, and give you the chance to be part of something truly rewarding.

**Damaris Nazario | Toho Water Authority | Procurement Supervisor**

# FORUM 2025 – SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS, IN-PERSON

My experience at the NIGP FORUM 2025 Denver experience was one of the best I've ever had. I was especially impressed when Sebastian (Seb) Terry came out to speak on the first day of the conference. That was the highlight of my week. His strength, courage, and wisdom inspired me throughout the entire event. He evoked emotions I didn't even know I had, and his insight on fulfilling someone else's dream was truly impactful. Seb shared personal experiences that touched our hearts and moved us deeply. His speech was warm, inspiring, and filled with kindness. The way he genuinely cared for people, bringing out their smiles and helping fulfill their dreams, was deeply motivational.



While all the speakers were motivating, informative, exciting, and encouraging, Seb set the tone for the week with passion and energy. I am forever grateful to the Central Florida Chapter of NIGP for sponsoring me to attend.

In addition, the final speech by Rick Grimm was incredibly emotional and uplifting. I was honored to witness the celebration of NIGP's 80th anniversary, along with Rick's retirement — something I hadn't known was happening. His heartfelt farewell showed the dedication and love he has poured into NIGP over the years. Seeing his passion and commitment in person was both inspiring and humbling.

I also thoroughly enjoyed all the training sessions I attended. I received so much valuable information that at times I felt a bit overwhelmed. One of the biggest reasons I enjoy coming to FORUM is the networking — meeting other professional procurement officers and having the opportunity to choose from top-tier classes organized by NIGP. The resources provided were educational, informative, and beneficial. At times, I wished I could take two classes that were scheduled at the same time, but I made my choices and learned a great deal from each session.

The Vendor Fair was another highlight. Having been to many vendor fairs before, I can say that this one was exceptionally well planned, engaging, and exciting. I connected with several vendors and brought back valuable information to share. I was thrilled that the Vendor Fair was extended to two days — although by the end of the first day, my feet were feeling the miles I had walked. A note to fellow procurement officers for next year: "Bring your tennis shoes!" because there was a lot of walking this year.

The speakers, the training courses, and the city of Denver have forever changed the way I see things in life. Thank you, Central Florida Chapter of NIGP, for providing me with such an unforgettable experience. I feel blessed and grateful to have been part of NIGP's 80th anniversary and Rick's retirement celebration. What a spectacular way to close the conference!

On a personal note, Denver is now one of my favorite cities. The mountains and views were breathtaking. I was also able to spend a few hours with my son, who recently moved from Atlanta, GA, to Colorado Springs for his military service. Having that time with him and our family was truly a bonus.

Thank you, Central Florida Chapter of NIGP, for the best experience by far!

With sincere gratitude,

**Marisol Ordoñez | City of Sanford | Purchasing Manager**





## FORUM 2025 – SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS, VIRTUAL

Attending the 2025 Virtual Conferences offered me a wealth of benefits tailored to public procurements at every stage of one's career. They had expert led innovative sessions and interactive workshops covering the latest trends, tools, and best practices in the public procurement field and they were designed to foster collaboration and idea exchange even in the virtual format. It gave me exposure to diverse perspectives and procurement strategies from different people sectors and regions around the states. The presentations from the industry leaders inspired forward thinking and strategic growth for the attendees. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to attend virtually, and I would like to Thank the Chapter for giving me this amazing opportunity.

Gwendolyn McKinney | **Orange County Government | Senior Contract Administrator**

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As a recipient of the CFLNIGP Chapter Virtual Forum Scholarship I had the opportunity to attend the 2025 NIGP Virtual Forum online, and overall, it was a really informative experience. At first, I had a bit of trouble — I couldn't log in right away and missed the beginning of the first session, which was kind of frustrating. But the tech support team helped me pretty quickly, and I was able to join without missing too much. Thankfully, everything was recorded, so I went back and watched what I missed later.

Once I got in, it was actually super interesting. One of the best sessions I attended was called "Driving Innovation in Public Procurement with AI and Automation." The session shared real strategies for using new technology in contract and supplier management. Hearing from other agencies doing similar work helped me think differently about how we're handling our own contract system.

I also got to chat with other people in breakout rooms — some of them worked at colleges or in city offices. It was really interesting to hear how they do things in different places. Even though I was attending virtually, it still felt like I was part of something important.

Despite the login issue at the beginning, the overall experience was smooth and rewarding. The 2025 NIGP Virtual Forum gave me useful tools, new ideas, and a stronger understanding of how public procurement works.

Aríma Santana, FCCM, CPPB, NIGP-CPP | **Seminole State College of Florida | Director of Procurement**

Attending the 2025 NIGP Forum as a scholarship recipient was such a rewarding experience. I was inspired by the stories, expertise, and generosity of the presenters sharing their time and knowledge for the benefit of all attendees. The sessions sparked fresh ideas that I can bring back to my organization. I left feeling recharged about the work I do and with a renewed passion for my work. Thank you CFC-NIGP!

**Inga Fegley, NIGP-CPP, CPPO, CPPB | Volusia County Purchasing & Contracts |  
Senior Procurement Analyst**

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Dear Forum,

After a year apart, I was stunned to realize the power of your hold over me. We spent our days laughing, crying, commiserating, and discovering our truths. You signed off nightly, leaving me filled with dreams of our future together and desperate for just a few more hours. Even though our time together is always short, your memory lives on in the things you teach me. Our discussions bring out the best in me. You teach me to be a better person, a stronger person.

We remember and honor old friends, many of whom I never met, but still feel their impact on both our lives. While it is true that some might describe my favorite hobby as a type of “stalker” behavior, but, yes, I check your online status all the time. I describe it my “stalking” as supportive and educational. I need to stay on top of my game in preparation for our next meeting. If it’s the only way I can feel near you while we’re apart, I will take it. Until we meet again next year.

**Selda Vasquez-McMahan | City of Palm Bay | Procurement Agent II**



# NIGP CEO RICK GRIMM'S RETIREMENT

NIGP CEO Rick Grimm has been a steadfast pillar of NIGP for 27 years. The 2025 NIGP FORUM in Denver, CO marked his last FORUM.

To celebrate his passionate tenure to the Procurement Profession, our Chapter, along with many others, gifted Rick treasures from our perspective areas at the President's Appreciation Luncheon on Sunday, July 27, 2025.

In honor of Rick's retirement, the Chapter presented personalized Disney ornaments for him to remember our Chapter! Rick loves Disney and Christmas and is known to have many trees up during the holiday season!

We wish Rick calm seas and smooth sailing ahead, and that his next chapter be full of adventures and magical places!





# Welcome Debbie Trueblood!

Reston, VA – August 18, 2025 – NIGP: The Institute for Public Procurement has announced the appointment of Debbie Trueblood, MSW, FASAE, IOM, CAE as its next Chief Executive Officer, effective October 20, 2025, following the retirement of Rick Grimm, NIGP-CPP, at the end of the year.

Trueblood brings more than two decades of executive leadership in association management, specializing in growth, governance, ethics, inclusion, strategic planning, and innovation. She has served as Executive Director for six associations since 2002 and most recently served as Lead Consultant at Association Management Center (AMC), where she partnered with association CEOs and boards to drive mission-focused strategies, guide associations through transformative governance alignment, and integrate values-driven leadership. Her leadership experience includes working with numerous associations, including those with budgets exceeding \$100 million.

She has served on the Board of Directors of the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE), and previously chaired ASAE's Ethics Committee and Association Forum's Welcoming Environment Committee. She has served as faculty for ASAE's Exceptional Boards program and is a frequent speaker in the association community. Trueblood holds a master's degree in social work from the University of Illinois–Chicago, is a Certified Association Executive (CAE), a Fellow of ASAE (FASAE), and a graduate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for Organization Management (IOM).

"I am honored to join NIGP and serve an organization that is such a trusted voice for public procurement professionals," said Trueblood. "Together with our talented staff, dedicated volunteers, and passionate members, we will continue to strengthen the profession, elevate our collective voice, and enhance the positive impact of procurement in the communities we serve."

Trueblood succeeds Grimm, who has served as NIGP's CEO since January 1998. Over his 27-year tenure, Grimm and the NIGP team have elevated the profession and expanded the Institute's reach and influence in several critical areas. NIGP's strength is its professional development program which greatly expanded in 2019 with the competency-based Pathways program – a system of micro-learning modules that provides learning for every stage of a practitioner's career. Pathways is supported by the companion Concierge Program that guides professionals on their career aspirations through learning and credentialing options. And it is augmented by the leadership-based NIGP Certified Procurement Professional designation (NIGP-CPP) with over 1,675 certificants to date and the annual Leadership Summit that prepares professionals to take the next promotional steps in executive leadership and management. To ensure that the profession remains relevant, the NIGP Center for the Advancement of Research and Excellence (CARE) was recently established as an incubator and insight hub to discuss public procurement trends and commission research that will intentionally impact content, standards, and best practices for public procurement.

Kate M. Rotella, NIGP-CPP, CPPO, MPA, Chair of the NIGP Governing Board, praised both leaders: "Rick's leadership has set a remarkable foundation for NIGP's success, and we are deeply grateful for his vision and dedication. We are equally excited to welcome Debbie, whose proven track record in governance, strategy, and leadership will guide NIGP into its next chapter."

Rick Grimm, NIGP-CPP, reflected on the transition: "It has been the honor of my career to lead NIGP and serve this incredible profession. Over the years, I had to learn and master the skills of an association executive. In contrast, Debbie begins her tenure with NIGP as a brilliant and accomplished leader within the non-profit association community. This is why I have every confidence that Debbie's leadership, passion, and strategic insight will propel NIGP to new heights."



# FALL WORKSHOP INFORMATION



Professional Development!



## The Central Florida Chapter of NIGP (CFC) Fall Workshop is on Friday, September 19, 2025 and we'd like you to attend!

The Fall Workshop is entitled **"Equipment Ownership / Supplier Value and Federal Compliance / Disaster Mitigation"**.

Join us for Joshua Higgins and Renee Lindler with NIGP Business Council member United Rentals in the morning.



Session One Title: **Beyond the Bid - The Hidden Value of Your Suppliers**

Session Two Title: **Rent vs. Buy - A Review of Total Cost of Equipment Ownership**

Join us for Ted Phillips with Osceola County for Federal Compliance in the afternoon.

Session One Title: **Federal Compliance\***

Session Two Title: **FEMA Disaster Mitigation\***

\*NOTE: Subject to change.

Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions during each portion of the presentation. The Friday, September 19, 2025 Fall Workshop agenda is as follows:

8:45 – 9:00 Registration

9:00 – 9:55 Chapter business meeting

9:55 – 10:00 Break

10:00 – 12:00 NIGP Business Council Member United Rentals

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

1:00 – 3:00 Ted Phillips with Osceola County

Registration is open and available on our website at <https://www.cfcnigp.org/>.

All procurement professionals are welcome to attend.

**Registration fee is \$20.00.**

There are two options available, **in-person and virtual**. If you plan to attend in-person, lunch will be provided as part of the registration fee.

***The Spring Workshop is worth four (4) contact hours.***

Questions? Please contact Luis A Aviles, Vice President at [vicepresident@cfcnigp.org](mailto:vicepresident@cfcnigp.org) or Tabatha Freedman, President at [president@cfcnigp.org](mailto:president@cfcnigp.org) for any needs!



## **2025 YOUNG PROFESSIONALS (UNDER 40) FALL WORKSHOP RAFFLE**

**WIN FREE IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE TO OUR SEPTEMBER 19, 2025 MEMBERSHIP MEETING & FALL WORKSHOP — VALUED AT \$20 AND OFFERING 4 CONTACT HOURS!**

**DATE & TIME:** SEPTEMBER 19, 2025 | 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**LOCATION:** RENAISSANCE SENIOR CENTER, 3800 S.  
ECONLOCKHATCHEE TRAIL, ORLANDO, FL 32829

**ELIGIBILITY:**

**UNDER AGE 40** AS OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

**FULL CHAPTER MEMBER**

MANAGER APPROVAL REQUIRED TO CONFIRM ATTENDANCE

**ONLY 20 SPOTS AVAILABLE**—RAFFLE WINNERS EARN THEIR FREE SEATS!  
AGENCY-WIDE ALLOCATIONS BASED ON OVERALL PARTICIPATION

**NOTE: THIS OPPORTUNITY IS FOR IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE ONLY—VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE IS NOT BEING OFFERED THROUGH THIS RAFFLE.**

**We are excited to present this  
2025 Young Professional  
Opportunity! Our survey ended  
August 29th. Winners will be  
recognized at the September 19,  
2025 Chapter Meeting and Fall  
Workshop.**





## POINTS TO PROGRESS

Turning Engagement  
into Scholarships



Wednesday, October 15, 2025  
12:00 PM ~ Virtual

This Chapter Check-In will provide you valuable information regarding the Chapter's robust Scholarship Program and how being involved in the Chapter can invest in your future!

Register for the check-in on the Chapter's website by clicking [here](#). Note: You must be logged in to register!

Scholarship points are available  
for those that register & attend!



## 2025 REVERSE TRADESHOW

**November 7, 2025 8:30am - 3:30pm**  
**DOUBLE TREE by Hilton Hotel at SeaWorld**  
10100 International Drive  
Orlando, Florida 32821



### Join us!

Be part of the Central Florida Chapter of the NIGP, The Institute for Public Procurement, Annual Reverse Trade Show! As a trusted hub for procurement professionals, this event brings together vendors and government agencies for invaluable networking opportunities and business connections. All pricing shown are early bird rates only, & valid through October 13, 2025. See website for more details.

### Why Attend?



#### Prime Networking

Connect with governmental purchasing professionals who annually spend over one billion dollars on goods and services.



#### Meet Your Market

Engage with representatives from various governmental agencies: municipalities, counties, public utilities, educational entities, and more.



#### Showcase Your Offerings

Exhibit your products and services to decision-makers in one convenient location, all in one day!

### Sponsorships



#### Diamond

**\$2,000**

Until 10/12/25

- Two Full-Day Admissions & **Lunch**
- 8ft Trade Show Table Set Up
- 12-Month Website Banner
- Digital Member Directory
- Full Page Color Ad (Vertical)
- Wireless Internet Add-On Option
- Electrical Power Discount Option
- Coffee/Water & Light Snacks

#### Gold

**\$1,500**

- Two Full-Day Admissions & **Lunch**
- 12-Month Website Banner
- Digital Member Directory
- Full Page Color Ad (Vertical)
- Coffee/Water & Light Snacks

#### Silver

**\$500**

- Two Full-Day Admissions
- Digital Member Directory
- Half Page Color Ad (Horizontal)
- Coffee/Water & Light Snacks

#### Regular Attendance Options

- Vendor AM or PM Session Only \$100
- Vendor Full Day Session \$200

### Contact Us



386-822-5702



[www.CFCNIGP.org](http://www.CFCNIGP.org)  
[www.GovTradeShow.com](http://www.GovTradeShow.com)



## 2025 Reverse Trade Show

**We need your Support**

*Why Attend...*



**Central Florida  
Chapter**

The Central Florida Chapter of NIGP represents over **370 Public Procurement Professionals** from approximately **80 Government Agencies**.

**This is our largest networking event of the year! Funding from this event supports operating our association and our critical Scholarship Fund!**



*Sign up today!*

Friday, November 7, 2025

8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel  
at SeaWorld  
10100 International Drive  
Orlando, FL 32821

**PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE ADDITIONAL  
SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING!**

**Register today!**

**[www.cfcnigp.com](http://www.cfcnigp.com)**

### CFCNIGP 2025 Reverse Trade Show

*What is a Reverse Trade Show?*

At a Reverse Trade Show the tables are turned and **Government Agencies are hosting booths just to meet vendors!**

***The more agencies that participate, the more vendors that attend!***

Vendor registration supports our fundraising and our ability to support professional development.

**YOUR SUPPORT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE!**





## New CPPBs:

- Christina Appleby-Crabtree
- Darrell Belgrave
- Leslie Chabek
- Meghan Chestnut
- Alexandra Colbert
- Justin Espagnol
- Freddy Florial
- Kathryn Fulks
- Melissa Gross
- Leah Grothe
- Robin Harris
- George Hershewe
- Nathan Howell
- David Jones
- Erica Leogue
- Larissa Mendez
- Kimberlie Miller
- Amy Munday
- Sheila Nelson
- Brian O'Connor
- Nancy Ortiz
- Shawna Pateiro
- Alex Patton
- Ernesto Perez
- Tyler Randolph
- Yolaina Ruiz



## New CPPOs:

- Anthony Alonso
- Bryan Gabbard
- Fabio Henao
- Jean Joinville
- Erin Jones
- April Kelly
- Bryan Matus
- Jose Paez III
- Ashley Provenza
- Christine Rodriguez
- Janet Vivian
- Dakota Wilkinson







## **Congratulations to all of the AEP Winners from Florida!**

- Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
- Broward County Purchasing Division
- Broward Sheriff's Office
- City of Clermont
- City of Coral Gables
- City of Fort Myers
- City of Hollywood - Office of the City Manager
- City of Miami
- City of Naples
- City of North Miami Beach Procurement Management Department
- City of Orlando
- City of Palm Bay
- City of Pembroke Pines
- City of Pompano Beach
- City of Port St. Lucie
- City of St. Cloud
- City of St. Petersburg
- City of Tampa
- Columbia County Board of Commissioners
- County of Volusia
- Florida State University
- Hillsborough County Aviation Authority
- Indian River County
- Manatee County Government
- Miami-Dade County
- Orange County Government
- Orange County Public Schools
- Pasco County Board of County Commissioners
- Pinellas County
- Pinellas County Schools
- Seminole County Board of County Commissioners
- Tampa Bay Water
- The School Board of Brevard County
- Town of Davie
- Town of Palm Beach
- University of Florida



## July Membership Meeting Recap

Friday, July 11, 2025

“NIGP Updates”

Presented by: Fatima F. Calkins, CPPO, CPPB

Chapter Ambassador at Large



Fatima presented on NIGP’s website updates which covered key features and improvements, benefits for members, and a live demo! She made it clear that NIGP was listening and trying to better the website based on feedback received by the members!



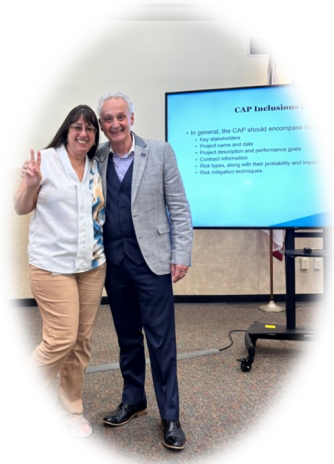
# PRO-D OPPORTUNITY FEEDBACK

REQUEST  
FOR  
PROPOSAL

## Request for Proposal In-Person Class

Through our Pro-D Scholarship Program, our chapter was able to send 8 members to the NIGP RFP Specialization Course that was held in-person in DeLand, Florida, at the Volusia County Historic Courthouse Building, June 11-12, 2025! The class was led by Kirk Buffington, FNIGP, NIGP-CPP, CPPO, C.P.M., MBA, MLS. Fourteen (14) attendees gathered together from Volusia County, Seminole County, Orange County, the city of Sanford and even Washington D.C.!

Our Chapter President, Tabatha Freedman, attended the course and reported "Mr. Buffington did a tremendous job presenting the topic over the course of the 2 days. The discussions and questions were lively from start to finish, and overall, it was an extremely informative and learning focused event. Many thanks to the Chapter and all involved in planning and executing the event."



Here is some additional feedback from our scholarship recipients!

As a recipient of a Professional Development scholarship through CFC-NIGP, who had the opportunity to attend the RFP- Specialization course, I left with a lot of new information. I gained knowledge of the RFP process that clarified and supported knowledge I already have regarding the RFP solicitation process. The course will certainly contribute to my work on future Request for Proposals (RFP) solicitations, from start to finish. I came to the class hoping to gain more insight into the criteria and evaluation processes, and was intrigued with learning some things I did not know.

The course curriculum is filled with key information needed to understand and conduct a successful RFP solicitation. It also helped to outline the role and responsibilities of the Procurement professional. I left the course with a renewed sense of purpose and confidence in the ability to do my job better.

I am especially grateful for some of the connections made in the course with the instructor and fellow attendees and look forward to more networking in the future. The instructor was knowledgeable and kept the class interesting and engaging for the duration of the course.

Thank you, Central Florida Chapter of NIPG.



*Myra M. White*  
*Volusia County Schools*

# PRO-D OPPORTUNITY FEEDBACK

I learned a lot from the in-person NIGP class on RFPs. Talking through the topic with others helped me understand it better. Kirk was great at using real world examples to demonstrate what to and not to do. Thank you for the scholarship—it really helped me be able to attend!



*Rachel Horne  
Seminole County*

Thanks to the generous scholarship from the Central Florida Chapter of NIGP, I had the opportunity to attend an in-person Request for Proposal (RFP) class led by Mr. Kirk Buffington. The experience enhanced my understanding of the entire RFP process, particularly the importance of a well-written scope of work and early contract administration planning. The hands-on, face-to-face learning environment renewed my passion for public procurement and equipped me with practical insights I look forward to applying within my agency and in service to the community.

*Celeste Trossbach, M.A.  
Volusia County Schools*

I received the scholarship opportunity through the Central Florida Chapter of NIGP to attend the in-person Specialization Certificate: Request for Proposal class. Kirk Buffington, a knowledgeable and renowned instructor, taught the class. The course covered the RFP best practices for drafting clear and effective proposals, and strategies for evaluation of the responses. The class was interactive, with plenty of opportunities for discussion and feedback. Thank you, CFC-NIGP for the great opportunity.

*Ramandeep Mann, MBA, NIGP-CPP, CPPB, FCCM  
Kissimmee Utility Authority*





# PRO-D OPPORTUNITY FEEDBACK

The Central Florida NIGP Chapter hosted an in-person Specialization Certificate: Request for Proposals class in Deland, Florida, at the Volusia County Historic Courthouse Building.

The class was led by Kirk Buffington, FNIGP, NIGP-CPP, CPPO, C.P.M., MBA, MLS. Fourteen (14) attendees gathered from Volusia County, Seminole County, Orange County, the city of Sanford and even Washington D.C.!

Mr. Buffington did a tremendous job presenting the topic over the course of the 2 days. The discussions and questions were lively from start to finish, and overall, it was an extremely informative and learning focused event. Many thanks to Tabatha Freedman, Chapter President, and all involved in planning and executing the event.

*John Jankowich*  
*Volusia County*



My first in-person NIGP course was fantastic experience! The course was held in DeLand, with the historic Volusia County Court House providing a perfect backdrop. The walkability of the area made it easy to explore and enjoy everything the town had to offer. I had the opportunity to connect in person with other procurement professionals and receive direct instruction from a respected leader in the procurement community. While I don't yet have direct experience with Requests for Proposals, this course provided a solid foundation for what I hope to pursue in the future.

*Cecilia Dominguez*  
*Orange County Government*

Having started in Procurement during the pandemic I had only ever experienced virtual courses, this in-person opportunity was such a refreshing change! Kirk, our instructor, brought a wealth of knowledge and real-world experience that truly elevated the learning environment. I am confident that we all walked away with valuable takeaways from both the course and each other.

*Heidee Santiago-Rullán, NIGP-CPP, CPPB*  
*Orange County Government*



# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT UPDATE

Hello Chapter Members!

The chapter is always looking for ways to give back to the community. If you have any service events or charities you'd like us to consider, please contact Arima Santana at [santanaar@seminolestate.edu](mailto:santanaar@seminolestate.edu) or (407) 708-2174.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement.

**Arima Santana**

(407) 708-2174

[santanaar@seminolestate.edu](mailto:santanaar@seminolestate.edu).



## Donation Receipt

### DONATION RECEIPT

(Please print clearly so form can be returned to you timely)

Donated by:		
Agency:		
Email:		
Donated to: (list charity)		
Type of donation:		
Value:		
<b>** AREA BELOW FOR COMMITTEE CHAIRS USE ONLY **</b>		
<b>COMMUNITY SERVICES CHAIR</b>		
Approved by / Date		
<b>SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR</b>		
Accepted by / Logged / Date:		
<i>Not eligible for scholarship points unless signed by Community Services &amp; Scholarship Chairs</i>		
Thank you for your generosity. We appreciate your support!		



# INTERNSHIP/EXTERNSHIP COMMITTEE

Last month I had the pleasure of hosting three outstanding students from the University of Central Florida at the Orange County Convention Center as part of **UCF's Knight Shadow** program. This career awareness program provides students with insights and awareness of various career paths, including the numerous opportunities within the public sector! In conjunction with support from the Central Florida Chapter of NIGP, and following a theme of, "Where Business Meets Hospitality", UCF students Jorge, Holland, and Andrew, experienced a schedule-packed day of information and career exploration. Activities included a walkthrough of an active event, a tour of the recently renovated Linda Chapin Theater, an interactive career chat with the Center's Executive Director, Mark Tester, as well as the opportunity to cook alongside Executive Chef, 'Chef-K', in preparing their own Pad Thai meal for lunch.

The Knight Shadow events, coordinated and matched through UCF's Career Services Department and hosted by dozens of employers and organizations throughout central Florida, serve as real-life experiences in creating awareness of career path options for students, including those in the public sector purchasing and contracting fields, as they prepare to enter the workforce. As an employer host volunteer for this event for several years running, and able to represent the Central Florida NIGP chapter, I look forward to participating in the Knight Shadow events in the future.

Looking ahead, future outreach activities include the Chapter's Internship/Externship Committee attending the University of Central Florida's Fall 2025 Internship and Career Expo on October 1<sup>st</sup>, and hosting a table at a similar Internship Expo event at Stetson University on October 17<sup>th</sup>. There may be an opportunity for another Chapter member to join us at the UCF event so if you, or any member you may know, who may be fairly early in your career and interested in an outreach effort representing our chapter, you are encouraged to contact John Schmidt, at 407-685-5822, or [John.Schmidt@occc.net](mailto:John.Schmidt@occc.net) for more information and encouragement.



Respectfully submitted,

**John Schmidt**, CPPB  
Chair, Internship/Externship Committee

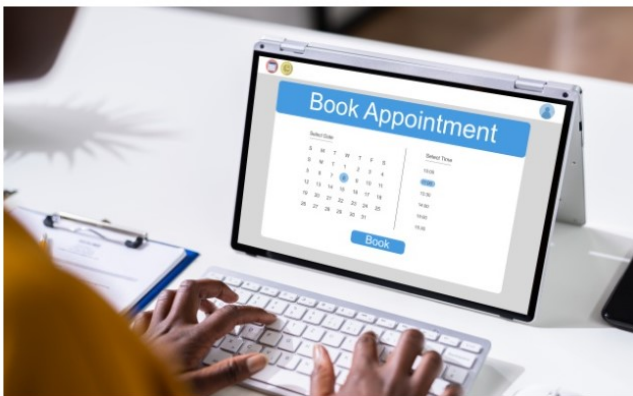
UPPCC CERTIFICATION

## C P P B / C P P O S T U D Y   G R O U P   2 0 2 5



### UPCOMING EXAM SCHEDULE

The CPPO & CPPB certification exams are available twice a year on the months/days shown below, unless a specific date is listed. All deadlines are at 11:59 p.m. ET US on the dates specified.



#### October Testing Window: October 17-31

Application Opens:

Application Deadline:

Late App Window Deadline:

Schedule Exam By:

May 27

Aug 19

Sep 2

Sep 16

The Fall session of CFC NIGP Study Group is currently meeting on Fridays from 2:00pm - 3:00pm EST via Google Meetup through October 23rd.

Registration is available under upcoming events at [www.cfcnigp.org](http://www.cfcnigp.org). If you have questions please contact Heather Beaudry at [cfcstudygroup@cfcnigp.org](mailto:cfcstudygroup@cfcnigp.org).



## CERTIFICATION SUPPORT



The David Nash Question of the Day is now powered by A Posteriori, LLC. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of David Nash, QOTD has been an essential tool for almost 8,000 procurement professionals as they journey toward certification. The QOTD team is thrilled to continue this mission with a new look: an automated emailed daily question that

<https://www.davidnashgotd.com/>

For those curious individuals, yes, David will continue supporting Question of the Day and be part of the 1:1 coaching!

## MENTORING OPPORTUNITIES

*Growth happens together!*

*Our Central Florida NIGP Chapter Mentoring Program pairs you with experienced mentors for guidance, networking, and real-world advice.*

- ♦ *Grow your skills*
- ♦ *Expand your network*
- ♦ *Reach your goals faster*
- ♦ *Supportive Community*



*Apply now and start your journey!*

**Contact Info:** Fatima F Calkins at [fatimacalkins@yahoo.com](mailto:fatimacalkins@yahoo.com)!

## COURSE

# Specialization Certificate: Technology Procurement

**DATE:** 12/08/2025 - 12/10/2025

**START TIME:** 8:00 AM Eastern Time

**END TIME:** 5:00 PM Eastern Time

**HOSTED BY:** Central Florida Chapter of NIGP

**INSTRUCTOR:** Mrs. Rashpal U.

**LEVEL:** Advanced Practitioner

**FORMAT:** Virtual Instructor-Led

**CONTACT HOURS:** 28

**CEUS:** 2.8

### FOCUS AREAS:

Specializations

Specialization Certificate: Technology Procurement

Skills in government technology procurement and IT infrastructure are crucial for strategic community interactions. NIGP's Specialization Certificate: Technology Procurement is a comprehensive learning experience covering terminology, research practices, solicitation methods, and risk identification in IT contracts. This course enhances skills in negotiating complex contracts, evaluating stakeholders, and promoting IT best practices. Gain confidence in achieving fair agreements and advancing your career as a knowledgeable procurement professional in governmental entities.

### Pricing: ?

Specialization Certificate: Technology Procurement  
(Member: Early) \$536.00

Specialization Certificate: Technology Procurement  
(Non-Member: Standard) \$770.00  
(prices valid until Oct 9, 2025)

REGISTER YOURSELF

REGISTER OTHERS

[Download Print & Fax Form](#)

## Local Contact

Name: Lisa Kesecker

Phone: [407-870-4622](tel:407-870-4622) Ext: [65518](tel:407-870-4622)

Fax: 407-870-4616

Email: [Lisa.Kesecker@OsceolaSchools.net](mailto:Lisa.Kesecker@OsceolaSchools.net)

For more information, [click here](#)





COURSE

# Introduction to Public Procurement

**DATE:** 02/10/2026 - 02/11/2026  
**START TIME:** 8:00 AM Eastern Time  
**END TIME:** 5:00 PM Eastern Time  
**HOSTED BY:** Central Florida Chapter of NIGP  
**INSTRUCTOR:** Mr. John Lee Robinson, NIGP-CPP, CPPO, CPSM, CPPB, C.P.M.

**LEVEL:** Foundation  
**FORMAT:** Virtual Instructor-Led  
**CONTACT HOURS:** 16  
**CEUS:** 1.6

FOCUS AREAS:

Business Principles

Mastering compliance, ethical standards, and risk mitigation is crucial for organizational success and professional growth. NIGP’s Introduction to Public Procurement is a comprehensive learning experience focused on these essential skills, emphasizing efficient procurement methods and stakeholder partnerships. This course equips you with practical insights to navigate the dynamic world of public procurement confidently. Elevate your expertise, embrace continuous professional development, and thrive in the challenging landscape of public procurement.

Pricing: ?

Introduction to Public Procurement  
(Member: Early) \$383.00  
Introduction to Public Procurement (Non  
Member: Standard) \$579.00  
(prices valid until Dec 12, 2025)

REGISTER YOURSELF

REGISTER OTHERS

Download Print & Fax Form

## Local Contact

Name:	Lisa Kesecker
Phone:	407-870-4622 Ext: 65518
Fax:	407-870-4616
Email:	Lisa.Kesecker@OsceolaSchools.net

For more information, [click here](#)

## COURSE

# Core Certificate: Foundations of Planning and Analysis

**DATE:** 03/10/2026 - 03/11/2026

**START TIME:** 8:00 AM Eastern Time

**END TIME:** 5:00 PM Eastern Time

**HOSTED BY:** Central Florida Chapter of NIGP

**INSTRUCTOR:** [Mrs. Rashpal U.](#)

**LEVEL:** Foundation

**FORMAT:** Virtual Instructor-Led

**CONTACT HOURS:** 16

**CEUS:** 1.6

### FOCUS AREAS:

Core Certificate: Foundations of Planning and Analysis

Designated Public Procurement Associate

Planning and Analysis

Cost, Price, and Value Analysis

Requirements Planning and Understanding

Standardization

Strategic thinking and proactive planning are crucial for procurement professionals to drive successful outcomes. NIGP's Core Certificate: Foundations of Planning and Analysis is a comprehensive activity-based learning experience that equips novice professionals with essential skills in stakeholder engagement, risk management, and strategic analysis. This course will enhance your ability to identify and articulate procurement goals effectively, ensuring sustainable strategies and beneficial outcomes. Acquiring these skills will not only boost your procurement career but also enable you to deliver value to stakeholders and communities through informed decision-making.

### Pricing: ?

Core Certificate: Foundations of Planning and Analysis (Member: Early) \$383.00

Core Certificate: Foundations of Planning and Analysis (Non-Member: Standard) \$579.00

(prices valid until Jan 9, 2026)

[REGISTER YOURSELF](#)

[REGISTER OTHERS](#)

[Download Print & Fax Form](#)

## Local Contact

Name: Lisa Kesecker

Phone: [407-870-4622](tel:407-870-4622) Ext: [65518](tel:407-870-4622)

Fax: 407-870-4616

Email: [Lisa.Kesecker@OsceolaSchools.net](mailto:Lisa.Kesecker@OsceolaSchools.net)

For more information, [click here](#)



## COURSE

# Core Certificate: Foundations of Strategy and Policy

**DATE:** 04/14/2026 - 04/15/2026

**START TIME:** 8:00 AM Eastern Time

**END TIME:** 5:00 PM Eastern Time

**HOSTED BY:** Central Florida Chapter of NIGP

**INSTRUCTOR:** Ms. Denise E. Badillo, NIGP-CPP, CPPO, CPPB

**LEVEL:** Foundation

**FORMAT:** Virtual Instructor-Led

**CONTACT HOURS:** 17

**CEUS:** 1.7

## FOCUS AREAS:

Core Certificate: Foundations of Strategy and Policy

Designated Public Procurement Associate

Enabling Regulations and Compliance

Ethics, Integrity and Transparency

Legislation & Legal Environment

Strategy

Mission and Public Benefit

Stakeholder engagement and strategic value demonstration are crucial skills for procurement professionals, fostering trust and success in their roles. NIGP's Core Certificate: Foundations of Strategy and Policy is a comprehensive activity-based learning experience focusing on legal, ethical, and strategic aspects of public procurement. This course equips learners with the necessary tools to navigate governmental entities effectively, enhancing their procurement functions. By mastering these skills, professionals boost their career growth, gaining confidence in executing procurement tasks aligned with legal and ethical standards.

### Pricing: ?

Core Certificate: Foundations of Strategy and Policy (Member: Early) \$383.00

Core Certificate: Foundations of Strategy and Policy (Non-Member: Standard) \$579.00

(prices valid until Feb 13, 2026)

[REGISTER YOURSELF](#)

[REGISTER OTHERS](#)

[Download Print & Fax Form](#)

## Local Contact

Name: Lisa Kesecker

Phone: [407-870-4622](tel:407-870-4622) Ext: [65518](tel:407-870-4622)

Fax: 407-870-4616

Email: [Lisa.Kesecker@OsceolaSchools.net](mailto:Lisa.Kesecker@OsceolaSchools.net)

For more information, [click here](#)

## COURSE

# Specialization Certificate: Cloud Procurement

**DATE:** 04/28/2026 - 04/29/2026

**START TIME:** 8:00 AM Eastern Time

**END TIME:** 5:00 PM Eastern Time

**HOSTED BY:** Central Florida Chapter of NIGP

**INSTRUCTOR:** [Danny Mays](#), NIGP-CPP, CPPO, CPSM, CPSP, CPPB

**LEVEL:** Advanced Practitioner

**FORMAT:** Virtual Instructor-Led

**CONTACT HOURS:** 16

**CEUS:** 1.6

## FOCUS AREAS:

Specializations

Specialization Certificate: Cloud Procurement

Understanding the challenges of cloud technology and mastering skills in procurement is crucial for personal growth. NIGP's Specialization Certificate: Cloud Procurement is a practical learning experience focusing on cost savings, risk assessment, and effective negotiation strategies in cloud services. This course equips professionals with the knowledge to navigate the complexities of cloud procurement, enhancing their ability to advise, procure, and negotiate successfully. Acquiring these advanced skills is vital for career growth in the rapidly evolving field of technology procurement.

### Pricing: ?

Specialization Certificate: Cloud Procurement (Member: Early) \$383.00

Specialization Certificate: Cloud Procurement (Non-Member: Standard) \$579.00

(prices valid until Feb 27, 2026)

[REGISTER YOURSELF](#)

[REGISTER OTHERS](#)

[Download Print & Fax Form](#)

## Local Contact

Name: Lisa Kesecker

Phone: [407-870-4622](tel:407-870-4622) Ext: [65518](tel:407-870-4622)

Fax: 407-870-4616

Email: [Lisa.Kesecker@OsceolaSchools.net](mailto:Lisa.Kesecker@OsceolaSchools.net)

For more information, [click here](#)



## COURSE

# Specialization Certificate: Construction Procurement

**DATE:** 06/09/2026 - 06/11/2026

**START TIME:** 8:00 AM Eastern Time

**END TIME:** 5:00 PM Eastern Time

**HOSTED BY:** Central Florida Chapter of NIGP

**INSTRUCTOR:** Ms. Carolyn L. Everett, CPPO, CPPB

**LEVEL:** Advanced Practitioner

**FORMAT:** Virtual Instructor-Led

**CONTACT HOURS:** 24

**CEUS:** 2.4

## FOCUS AREAS:

Specializations

Specialization Certificate: Construction Procurement

Developing expertise in procurement of architect and engineering services and construction is crucial for navigating the complexities of public procurement. NIGP's Specialization Certificate: Construction Procurement is a comprehensive, activity-based learning experience that delves into the unique challenges of procuring professional design and construction services. This course equips professionals with essential skills in compliance, procurement best practices, and contract administration. By mastering advanced procurement techniques, participants can enhance their career prospects and become valuable assets in the field of public procurement.

### Pricing: ?

Specialization Certificate: Construction

Procurement (Member: Early) \$536.00

Specialization Certificate: Construction

Procurement (Non-Member: Standard)

\$770.00

(prices valid until Apr 10, 2026)

[REGISTER YOURSELF](#)

[REGISTER OTHERS](#)

[Download Print & Fax Form](#)

## Local Contact

Name: Lisa Kesecker

Phone: [407-870-4622](tel:407-870-4622) Ext: [65518](tel:407-870-4622)

Fax: 407-870-4616

Email: [Lisa.Kesecker@OsceolaSchools.net](mailto:Lisa.Kesecker@OsceolaSchools.net)

For more information, [click here](#)

## COURSE

# Core Certificate: Foundations of Sourcing and Contracting

**DATE:** 06/23/2026 - 06/25/2026

**START TIME:** 8:00 AM Eastern Time

**END TIME:** 5:00 PM Eastern Time

**HOSTED BY:** Central Florida Chapter of NIGP

**INSTRUCTOR:** Ms. Bobbie Tolston, NIGP-CPP, CPPO, CPPB

**LEVEL:** Foundation

**FORMAT:** Virtual Instructor-Led

**CONTACT HOURS:** 24

**CEUS:** 2.4

## FOCUS AREAS:

Core Certificate: Foundations of Sourcing and Contracting

Designated Public Procurement Associate

Sourcing and Solicitation

Evaluation Methods

Negotiations

Sourcing and Contracting Methods

Specification Development

Skills in sourcing, contracting, and negotiation are crucial for procurement professionals to excel and drive organizational success. NIGP's Core Certificate: Foundations of Sourcing and Contracting is a comprehensive, activity-based learning experience designed to equip entry-level professionals with the essential tools and strategies. This course enhances decision-making abilities, promotes best practices in procurement, and cultivates a deeper understanding of sourcing and contracting methodologies. By mastering these skills, professionals can elevate their career prospects, contribute effectively to their organizations, and become valuable assets in the procurement field.

### Pricing: ?

Core Certificate: Foundations of Sourcing and Contracting (Member: Early) \$536.00

Core Certificate: Foundations of Sourcing and Contracting (Non-Member: Standard) \$770.00

(prices valid until Apr 24, 2026)

[REGISTER YOURSELF](#)

[REGISTER OTHERS](#)

[Download Print & Fax Form](#)

## Local Contact

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Phone: [407-870-4622](tel:407-870-4622) Ext: [65518](tel:407-870-4622)

Fax: 407-870-4616

Email: [Lisa.Kesecker@OsceolaSchools.net](mailto:Lisa.Kesecker@OsceolaSchools.net)

For more information, [click here](#)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Foundation



#### Competency Module: Sourcing and Contracting...

Level: Foundation

8 Contact Hours

09/09/2025

CEUs: 0.8

### Advanced



#### Competency Module: Market Analysis and Forecasting

Level: Advanced Practitioner

8 Contact Hours

09/12/2025

CEUs: 0.8

## CARE

### CARE empowers procurement excellence through research and innovation

The NIGP Center for the Advancement of Research and Excellence (CARE) is a dynamic insight hub dedicated to advancing public procurement through research, collaboration, and thought leadership. CARE brings together a variety of voices—including procurement practitioners, academic researchers, and the business community—to explore the evolving landscape of public procurement.

By centralizing research efforts and funding opportunities, CARE ensures a consistent and structured approach to supporting groundbreaking studies that benefit the public procurement profession.

### Call for Academic Research Proposals

LEARN MORE

### Sponsor CARE Research

LEARN MORE

For more information, visit: <https://www.nigp.org/care/Care>

## NIGP RESOURCES & MORE!

### NIGP PATHWAYS

#### Public Procurement Competency Framework (PPCF)

The Public Procurement Competency Framework (PPCF) is the backbone of the Pathways curriculum, designed to help procurement professionals build essential skills for success.

The Framework consists of 7 focus areas with 33 key competencies critical to public procurement.



**STRATEGY**



**POLICY &  
LEGISLATION**



**PLANNING &  
ANALYSIS**



**SOURCING &  
SOLICITATION**



**CONTRACT  
ADMINISTRATION**



**LEADERSHIP**



**BUSINESS PRINCIPLES**

<https://www.nigp.org/our-profession/global-best-practices>

GAIN CONTACT HOURS BY VIEWING PAST RECORDINGS

### Webinar Recordings

Webinars and Webinar recordings are FREE to members AND  
You earn 1 contact hour!

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

### NIGP RADIO

Check it out at <https://www.nigp.org/events/radio-nigp>.



STEP UP TO PUBLIC PROCUREMENT CERTIFICATION

## NIGP Certified Procurement Professional (NIGP-CPP)



## WHY ATTAIN YOUR NIGP-CPP

**2,100+ approved NIGP-CPP candidates and counting....**

When NIGP launched the NIGP Certified Procurement Professional (NIGP-CPP) certification, we knew from research that a competency-based certification for procurement leaders was need and wanted. And, we are very happy with the success of this certification. This is in no small part to the amazing group of professionals, volunteers, and subject matter experts who worked hard to elevate the work that each of you do by building a whole new way to get recognized for your competencies, skills, and abilities.

## WHY EARN THE NIGP-CPP

NIGP-CPP is one of several ways a procurement professional can be publicly recognized for the achievement of competencies. The program is offered by NIGP - the leading public procurement association that serves as a trusted advisor to more than 2,600+ public agencies and 17,300 public procurement professionals throughout North America.

### TOOLS TO HELP YOU PREPARE



#### Test Your Procurement Knowledge

Access the Personalized NIGP-CPP Assessment Tool

**\$49** [Register Today >](#)



#### Purchase the Prep Guides

Available for Modules A and B in digital and print formats.

**\$35** digital **\$45** hardcopy [Purchase >](#)



#### Take an Exam Prep Course

Register for a NIGP-CPP Exam Prep Course

**\$195** [Register Today >](#)



#### Prep Community on NSite

Join the NIGP-CPP Prep Community to study with colleagues.

**\$0** to Members [Join the NSite Community >](#)

For more information please visit: <https://www.nigp.org/certification/why-the-nigp-cpp>.



## PROCUREMENT U

### FREE COURSES - GIVE BACK PROGRAM

### Course Types

Procurement U offers several complimentary courses in various formats to suit different learning styles. We also provide many other diverse and interactive resources to support procurement education.

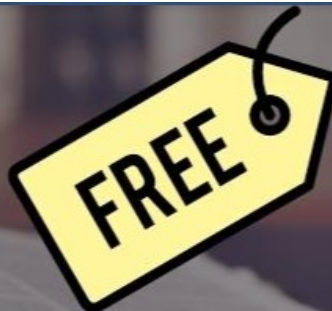
VISIT **Procurement U**

<https://procurementu.myabsorb.com/#/login>

Don't WAIT!

Take advantage of Procurement U today, while it's still free to access.

Check the Procurement U website for more information on upcoming changes to this TREASURE TROVE OF PROCUREMENT LEARNING!



## Self-Study Tool



## Membership Meeting

Friday, July 11, 2025

Start: 12:30 PM

Ended: 12:48 PM

Welcome – Vice President Luis Aviles on behalf of President Tabatha Freedman

### Welcome Guests

CKrisha Yurkiewicz, City of Altamonte Springs

➤ Denise Schneider, Retired

### Old Business

### Secretary's Report and Approval of Previous Minutes – Nick Canjar

- Meeting Minutes from May 23, 2025, membership meeting was provided via e-mail and in the July 2025 newsletter.
- Recap of Sleuth's Mystery Dinner Adult Event
  - The event took place on July 7, 2025.
  - Approximately 25 people were in attendance.
  - There was positive feedback from many attendees.

### Treasurer's Report – Sean Hynes

- April, May, and June 2025 Reports were provided via e-mail.
- Discussion took place on the summary of the remarks provided by the auditor. Three (3) items were noted:
  - **Registration vs. Actual Receipt:** A member was reimbursed for a hotel room prior to the event based on registration confirmation. A receipt, providing proof that the funds were expended as requested, should have been included in the supporting documents.
  - **Void Documents:** Two reimbursement requests file names were labeled VOID. However, no explanation of why they were void was included in the support documentation. Voided transactions should have a reason why they were voided in the support documentation.
  - **Late Submission of receipts:** A member submitted receipts for an expense that was almost six months old. It was recommended by the auditor that the board implements a policy stating that all expense reimbursements must be submitted within sixty (60) days of the date the expense was incurred.

### Approval of Consent Agenda to include:

- Approval of Previous Minutes from May 23, 2025, Membership Meeting.
- Approval of Bank Reconciliations from April, May, and June 2025.
  - Motion to approve by Damaris Nazario, Seconded by Fatima Calkins.
  - No Discussion
  - Motion Passed



## CFC NIGP

### Membership Meeting Minutes

Page 2 of 4

#### **Vice President's Report—by Luis Aviles**

##### **Programming Updates**

- July 11, 2025, Membership Meeting:
  - Fatima Calkins, NIGP Ambassador at Large
  - Topic: NIGP/Content in Development

#### **Vice President's Report—by Luis Aviles (continued.)**

##### **Programming Updates**

- September 19, 2025, Fall Workshop:
  - United Rentals:
    - Buy vs Lease
    - Supplier Relations (or similar topic).
  - Ted Phillips (Osceola County)
    - FEMA
    - Federal Grants (or similar topics)
- December 5, 2025
  - Vice President State of the Chapter Address

##### **Scholarship Updates**

- Updated Scholarship Log available on the chapter's website.
- Redemption forms are being processed as they are received.

#### **President's Report - Vice President Luis Aviles presented on behalf of President Tabatha Freedman**

##### **80<sup>th</sup> Annual NIGP Forum**

- NIGP FORUM Chapter Awards, Photo, and meet up, Monday July 28, 2025.
- Members attending FORUM in person are encouraged to reach out to Tabatha.

##### **Chapter Awards**

- The chapter is an Outstanding Awards Membership Finalist!

##### **Pro-D Scholarships**

- Two scholarship opportunities recently closed: Leadership Summit (February 2026) and 3-Day Course: Specialization Certificate: Technology Procurement (December 2025).
- Scholarship recipients will be notified soon.

##### **Reverse Trade Show (RTS) 2025**

- RTS registration is now available on the Chapter Website for both chapter members and vendors.
- Members are **highly encouraged** to reach out and invite vendors.
  - Tabatha will provide marketing materials.
- Volunteers are needed! Sign up on Website.

# JULY MEETING MINUTES

CFC NIGP

Membership Meeting Minutes

Page 3 of 4

- Marketing is under way, and we have exceeded \$25K in revenue. All event expenses are paid for and anything else may go towards the scholarship fund.
- RTS Hotel Room Raffle Survey is available on the chapter's website through August 31, 2025.
  - 10 hotel rooms will be available from the Pro-D team for the night before RTS, November 6, 2025.
  - Survey to enter in for an opportunity to win a room is available on the Chapter's website.
  - Requirements:
    - Must be registered to attend the full day of RTS & must live at least 25 miles away.
  - Link: [Surveys - Central Florida Chapter of NIGP](#)

## Officer Applications

- Officer Applications are available on the website and were e-mailed out.
- Reach out to Tabatha or any other officers for additional information.
- Applications are due July 16, 2025.

## Committee/Task Force(s) – Updates from Chairs

### Legislative

- Fatima Calkins presented and noted an update will be sent to Tabatha for distribution soon.

### Nominating Task Force

- Katrina Ponzini presented and reminded members of the July 16<sup>th</sup> officer application date.
- If interested in one of the new director positions, please reach out to a Board member.

### Study Groups

- Nick Canjar provided an update on behalf of the committee chair, Heather Beaudry.
- Study group is on hiatus but will resume on August 14, 2025.
- At the August 14 meeting dates and times of the Fall study group will be discussed.
- The study group will run through October 23, 2025.

### Internship/Externship

- John Schmit presented.
- The committee will be attending the upcoming events:
  - August 5<sup>th</sup> – Job Shadowing. Showing young professionals the world of the Public Procurement Sector.
  - October 1 – Expo at UCF
  - October 17 – Career Expo at Stetson University.

CFC NIGP  
Membership Meeting Minutes  
Page 4 of 4

- If interested in participating in any of these events, please reach out to John at [john.schmidt@ocfl.net](mailto:john.schmidt@ocfl.net).
- It was shared that John and his team were able to hire a former young professional that attended one of these expos last year and she is doing well.

## **Mentoring Committee**

- Fatima Calkins presented and noted that it is not too late to sign up for a mentor or to be a mentor.
- There are 10 sets of mentors/mentees so far this year.
- Please contact Fatima at [fcalkins@goaa.org](mailto:fcalkins@goaa.org) for additional information.

## **New Certifications:**

- Jill Selby from Toho Water Authority achieved her CPPB.
- Meghan Chestnut from County of Volusia Received her CPPB.
- Gabriel Sangiovanni received his CPPB.

## **Job Openings:**

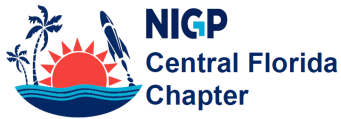
- **Orlando Utilities**
  - Has a mid-level analyst position available.
  - IT related experience is preferred.
  - Salary Range is \$67-\$83K.
- **Brevard Public Schools**
  - Procurement Agent 1 or 2 position available.

## **Chapter Meeting Is Adjourned at 12:48 PM**

- Motion to approve by Damaris Nazario, Seconded by Katrina Ponzini.



# SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA



## Membership Meeting Agenda

September 19, 2025

9:00 AM—3:00 PM

8:30 AM Registration

9:00 AM - 9:45 AM Chapter Business Meeting

10:00 AM Workshop: Josh Higgins / Renee Lindler, United Rentals , NIGP Business Council (in-Person)

12:00 PM Lunch

1:00 PM Workshop: Ted Phillips with Osceola County , FL (In-Person)

### Welcome – Tabatha Freedman, President

Introductions, Welcome Guests & Recognition of New Members

### Old Business

Secretary's Report – Nick Canjar

Treasurer's Report – Sean Hynes

Consent Agenda

Item 1: Minutes from Previous Meeting

Item 2: Bank Reconciliations

Vice President's Report – Luis Aviles

Programming Updates

Scholarship Updates

President's Report – Tabatha Freedman

RTS

NIGP FORUM Chapter Awards: Platinum Performance Seal, Outstanding Chapter Membership Award, highest % NIGP members

Carrie Mathes—2025 NIGP Albert H. Hall Award, NIGP Fellow

### New Business

Presentation of Slate of Officers & Voting – Nominating Task Force

Committee/Task Force (s) – Updates from Chairs

Community Services

Legislative

Pro-D

Study Groups

Internship/Externship/Mentoring

Open Floor

Recognition of New Certifications

Job Postings, Announcements, New Positions, Purchasing News

Other New Business

Meeting  
LUNCH MENU

*Hot Lunch*

### 2025 CHAPTER DATES

Fall Workshop  
September 19th

Reverse Trade Show  
(RTS)

November 7th

Membership Meeting

**Chapter Meeting Is Adjourned**