



THE INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC
PROCUREMENT
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SEPTEMBER 2026



Chapter Newsletter

cfcnigp.org

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VISION	MISSION	CORE VALUES
To be the leading Chapter of NIGP, promoting the development of public procurement professionals throughout Central Florida.	Provide our members with opportunities for professional development and the exchange of best practices.	Ethics • Integrity • Professionalism • Education & Growth • Service to Stakeholders

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Luis A. Aviles
PRESIDENT

Hello Chapter Members!

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to all our Chapter members who participated at NIGP Forum 2026 in August both in-person and virtually. Thanks to your continued commitment, our Chapter earned two distinguished awards: the Outstanding Chapter Operations Award and the NIGP Platinum Chapter Standard Seal! These achievements reflect the exceptional professionalism and dedication that define our Chapter. Let's keep this momentum going!

September Membership Meeting and Workshop.

Please join us on Friday, September 18, 2026, for our In-Person and Virtual Chapter Membership Meeting and our Fall Workshop. **The Fall Workshop begins at 9:00 AM with Lunch at 1:00 PM. Kirk Buffington will be our guest speaker and will present three powerful presentations in the morning starting at 9:00 AM through 1:00 PM. Chapter Membership Meeting will begin at 2:00 PM.** Price is \$20 for four (4) contact hours. Register at September 18, 2026 Membership Meeting and Workshop on the Events page of the Chapter website.

New Strategic Plan.

The Chapter will be discussing and voting on our new Strategic Plan at our September Membership Meeting. Special thanks to the Strategic Plan Task Force for their efforts in getting our plan updated!

Virtual CPPB/CPPO Study Group Session for Fall 2026.

The VIRTUAL WEDNESDAY Study Group Session for Fall 2026 for CPPB/CPPO will run from July 22, 2026, through October 7, 2026. Meetings are held every Wednesday between 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM EST. Please note you only need to register ONCE for the study group. The meeting link, which will be provided via e-mail upon successful registration, will remain the same for the entire Fall 2026 session. This virtual study group is provided at no charge. Central Florida Chapter Members are eligible to receive scholarship points if at least five (5) sessions are attended. Please visit the Chapter's website for additional details and registration.

Pro-D Opportunities.

The Chapter is offering three Specialization Certificate opportunities and one free CFC-NIGP Young Professional (Under 40) Fall Workshop Raffle! Surveys are located on the CFC-NIGP website under Surveys.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

Reverse Trade Show.

Don't forget! Join us on Wednesday, November 4, 2026 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Orlando Theme Park Resort!

- Event Registration: Registrations for vendors and agencies are located on the home page of the Central Florida Chapter of NIGP website.
- Rooms: Scholarship points can be used for hotel rooms the day before and night of the event.
- Volunteer Opportunities: Contact Damaris Nazario at fundraising@cfcnigp.org 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.

Additional details are available on the CFCNIGP website.

Engagement.

As always, the CFC-NIGP Board is truly grateful for your continued support and partnership. We look forward to building on our shared success as we move into the fall season. If you are interested in contributing your expertise to the important work of our Chapter, we have several opportunities available, including Committee Chair roles, Committee Member positions, and participation in RTS activities. If you'd like to learn more, please feel free to reach out to me or any Board member. We would be glad to discuss available opportunities.

Thank you!

Luis A. Aviles, CPPPO, CPPB, FCCM • 2026-2028 President • president@cfcnigp.org

MEET YOUR BOARD



Nick Canjar
VICE PRESIDENT

A quick reminder regarding our Fall Workshop on Friday, September 18, featuring Kirk Buffington.

To accommodate Kirk's schedule, we have adjusted the agenda slightly. Kirk's presentations will begin promptly at 9:00 AM, and our Chapter Business Meeting will take place after lunch. Since this is a change from our typical format, I wanted to make sure everyone is aware. Lunch will be served at approximately 1:00 PM, rather than our usual noon timeframe.

Please see the flyers in this issue for full details.

Nick Canjar, CPPO, NIGP-CPP, CPPB, FCCM



Angela L. Thomas
TREASURER

Hello everyone. Congratulations to all the members for making our Chapter Outstanding Chapter Operations and Platinum of the year. Everybody deserves this award. The board can never be successful without the great members that we are lucky to have.

I know we had a few people that were able to attend Forum in Columbus, OH. If you are going to use your scholarship money for reimbursement, please turn in your redemption forms and receipts by September 8, 2026, so we can have them processed and mailed on September 22, 2026.

Have a safe and blessed day.

Angela L. Thomas, MBA, CPPB



**Sheila "Shae"
Hernandez**
SECRETARY

Happy September, everyone!

I hope your fall is off to a wonderful start. I also have to share how grateful I am to have attended my very first NIGP Forum in Columbus, and what an amazing experience it was! Between the insightful sessions, the fresh ideas, and the many welcoming faces from across the procurement community, I came home inspired and full of energy. Best of all, our chapter was recognized with the 2026 Outstanding Chapter Operations Award and once again earned Platinum Chapter status. What a proud moment for the Central Florida Chapter!

On another exciting note, our CPPB and CPPO Certification Study Group is absolutely thriving. Participation has been fantastic, and it has been inspiring to watch members show up each week, support one another, and take real steps toward earning their certifications. If you have been thinking about joining, come be a part of it. Join us on Wednesdays, there is always room for you!

As always, thank you for being part of the Central Florida Chapter. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meetings and events, and please don't hesitate to reach out anytime.

Sheila "Shae" Hernandez, MBA, CPPB, FCCM

COUNCIL & CHAIR MESSAGES



Katrina Ponzini
TALENT COUNCIL CHAIR

Hey, Y'all!

I look forward to seeing you all at the Fall Workshop where we will hear from the infamous Kirk Buffington on "Responsiveness, Responsibility, and Minor Informalities in Public Bidding"; "Understanding Contract Clauses"; and "Case Law and the UCC: Dealing with Challenges When the Contract is Silent".

I recently had the opportunity to volunteer with some of our members at the Ronald McDonald House, where we got to cook a brunch for the families staying there. Wow! What a rewarding and eye-opening experience! I will definitely be volunteering again in the future.

I am truly excited to serve as your Talent Council Chair and to help champion the continued growth of our volunteer community. Thank you to the members who have stepped up recently to take on new volunteer roles! There are still a wide variety of flexible opportunities available, and volunteerism turns into scholarship dollars!

Please see the updated Committee List posted to the website. If you are interested in serving as a volunteer on any of our committees, please reach out to me.

Katrina Ponzini, M.Ed., CPCM, NIGP-CPP, CPPO, CPPB, FCCM



Milli "Meegee" Medina
MEMBER COUNCIL CHAIR

I Would Love for You to Get Involved!

Our Chapter is strongest when our members get involved, share their talents, and build connections with one another. We have several opportunities available and would love to have you join us! I'm currently looking for members to serve with our:

- Member Retention Committee. Help keep members connected, engaged, and informed about the value of membership.
- Member Outreach & Mentoring Committees. Welcome new connections, support mentoring, and help grow our Chapter.
- Nominating Task Force. Help identify and encourage members who can serve as our future Chapter leaders.
- Family Day Task Force. Help plan a fun event that brings our members and families together.
- Special Event Coordinator Task Force. Help create a meaningful event for our mentors, mentees, officers, and committee chairs.

Getting involved is a great way to meet fellow members, grow professionally, build friendships, and make a difference. You don't have to do it alone. We're all part of the same team! Ready to get involved or curious about where you might fit? I'd love to hear from you. Contact me to learn more!

Milli "Meegee" Medina, CPPB, FCCM



Damaris Nazario
FUNDRAISER COUNCIL
CHAIR

A quick RTS reminder! We still have several agencies that have not registered. If you haven't registered yet, please do so as soon as possible.

We also need your help filling our remaining vendor spots. Please continue sharing RTS with your vendor contacts and networks. Every registration helps support our chapter scholarship funds.

Thank you for your continued support!

Damaris Nazario, MBA, NIGP-CPP, CPPB, FCCM • fundraising@cfcnigp.org

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Fatima Calkins

MENTORING

Let's continue building connections and growing together in 2026! Our procurement community is full of talent, experience, and potential. The Procurement Mentoring Program is our opportunity to invest in each other, strengthen our community, and build a future where every colleague feels supported, empowered, and inspired.

If you're interested in being a mentor or a mentee, please contact Mentoring Chair Fatima Calkins at fatimacalkins@yahoo.com.



CFC-NIGP Mentoring Program. Contact Fatima F. Calkins at fatimacalkins@yahoo.com

COMMITTEE UPDATES CONTINUED

Arima Santana

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Ronald McDonald House Brunch Volunteer Event

On Sunday, August 2, the Chapter had the honor of participating in a brunch volunteer event at the Ronald McDonald House. We were excited to serve the families staying at the House and help make their day a little brighter.

We had a wonderful group of eight participants, including chapter members, students, and family members, who came together to prepare and serve a delicious brunch. The menu included scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, Mickey Mouse pancakes, hash browns, biscuits, croissants, fresh fruit, and blueberry and chocolate chip muffins.

The most meaningful part of the experience was the opportunity to interact with the families. Many expressed their appreciation and shared how much it meant to have a warm meal during what can be a very challenging time. Others shared their personal stories with us, reminding us just how powerful simple acts of kindness, compassion, and giving back can be.

Their stories truly humbled us and gave us all an opportunity to pause and appreciate the blessings we sometimes take for granted. It was a beautiful reminder that every day is a gift, and that even the simplest things, good health, a warm meal, and the opportunity to help someone else, are blessings in themselves.

I am truly honored to serve on the committee and to have the opportunity to volunteer on behalf of the chapter in such a rewarding way. Giving our time and serving others is one of the many ways we can make a meaningful difference in our community.

A special thank-you to everyone who came out and participated and helped make this event so special. We hope to see even more familiar and new faces at our next volunteer event! Be on the lookout for our next volunteer opportunity. We would love to have you join us!

Arima Santana, CPPO, CPPB, NIGP-CPP, FCCN, FCCM

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE BRUNCH VOLUNTEER EVENT



Chapter members, students, and family prepare and serve brunch.

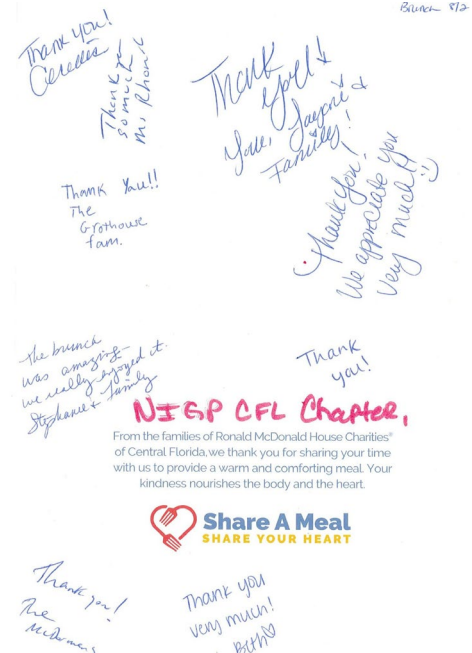
Sunday, August 2, 2026. Eight volunteers from the Chapter served scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, Mickey Mouse pancakes, hash browns, biscuits, croissants, fresh fruit, and muffins to families staying at the House.

The families signed a thank-you card for the Chapter. Their note reads, in part, that our kindness nourishes the body and the heart.

Be on the lookout for our next volunteer opportunity. We would love to have you join us.



Volunteers at the Ronald McDonald House on the Nemours campus.



2026 OUTSTANDING CHAPTER OPERATIONS AWARD



The Central Florida Chapter of NIGP accepts the Outstanding Chapter Operations Award at NIGP Forum 2026 in Columbus, Ohio.

Two national honors for the Central Florida Chapter

On Wednesday morning, August 26, at NIGP Forum 2026 in Columbus, Ohio, the Central Florida Chapter of NIGP was named the recipient of the Outstanding Chapter Operations Award. NIGP's Outstanding Chapter Awards recognize excellence and innovation in chapter operations, membership, advocacy and outreach, and professional development. One chapter is recognized in each category.

The Chapter was also named a Platinum Chapter under NIGP's Chapter Standard Seals program. Chapter Standard Seals recognize chapters for excellence in the programs, services, and opportunities they provide to members, at four levels: Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze, based on achievement of established performance standards.

Congratulations to every member of the Central Florida Chapter. These awards belong to all of you.



NIGP
Central Florida
Chapter



Fall
WORKSHOP



Guest Speaker
KIRK BUFFINGTON



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2026
Worth 4 Contact Hours!



IN-PERSON:
3800 S Econlockhatchee Trl
Orlando, FL 32829

OR



VIRTUAL:
Join from
wherever you are!



\$20 PER PERSON
In-Person or Virtual



LUNCH INCLUDED
for those
attending in-person!

3 POWERFUL PRESENTATIONS

1

**Responsiveness,
Responsibility &
Minor Informalities
in Public Bidding**

9:00 – 10:30 AM

2

**Understanding
Contract Clauses**

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

3

**Case Law & the UCC:
Dealing with
Challenges When
the Contract is Silent**

12:00 – 1:00 PM



**9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
PRESENTATIONS**



**1:00 PM – 2:00 PM
LUNCH**
(In-Person Attendees)



**2:00 PM
CHAPTER
BUSINESS MEETING**

★ *Schedule is subject to change.*

Learn. Connect. Grow.

Join procurement professionals from across Central Florida for a day of learning, networking, and chapter updates. We look forward to seeing you there!



REGISTER TODAY!



VISIT:
www.cfcnigp.org



QUESTIONS?
Email us at vicepresident@cfcnigp.org

Stronger Together. Better Procurement.

CFCNIGP – Advancing Procurement Excellence in Central Florida



FALL VIRTUAL CHAPTER Check-In

— CONNECT • COLLABORATE • PLAN FOR THE FUTURE —



WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 14TH
NOON – 1:00 PM



VIRTUAL
EVENT



EARN **10 SCHOLARSHIP POINTS**
FOR THOSE WHO ARE REGISTERED
AND ATTENDANCE IS VERIFIED.



TOPICS OF DISCUSSION



Reverse Trade Show Updates



Committee Updates



Discussion on Topics for 2027



Strategic Plan Discussions as Needed



Open Floor – Your Questions, Your Ideas

Register Today!

REGISTER ON THE CHAPTER'S WEBSITE

www.cfcnigp.org



2026 REVERSE TRADESHOW

Wednesday, November 4, 2026
8:30am - 3:30pm

DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando Theme Park Resort
10100 International Dr
Orlando, Florida 32821



Regular Attendance Options

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 and valid through Friday, October 2, 2026. 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!

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

Sponsorships

Diamond \$2,200

- Four Full-Day Admissions & **Lunch**
- 8ft Trade Show Table Set Up
- 12-Month Website Banner
- Digital Member Directory
- Full Page Color Ad (Vertical)
- 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

Contact Us

 407-435-2744

 www.cfcnigp.org
www.GovTradeShow.com



NIGP



Central Florida
Chapter

SCHOLARSHIP OVERVIEW DISCUSSION

BEFORE THE DECEMBER CHAPTER MEETING



FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 4TH
11:00AM – NOON



VIRTUAL
ATTENDANCE

OR



IN-PERSON
ATTENDANCE

Renaissance Senior Center
3800 S Econlockhatchee TRL
Orlando, FL 32829



We will review the scholarship
application process to help make
the application process as
easy as possible.



EARN 10 SCHOLARSHIP POINTS
TO THOSE THAT REGISTER AND
ATTENDANCE IS VERIFIED.



Register Today!

REGISTER ON THE CHAPTER'S WEBSITE
www.cfcnigp.org

CERTIFICATION SUPPORT

Question of the Day

The goal is simple: to assist public procurement professionals in preparing for the CPPO, CPPB and NIGP-CPP exams, one question at a time.

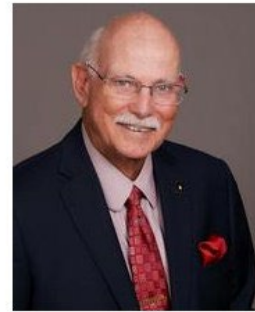
Created and managed by procurement industry expert and longtime advocate David Nash, Question of the Day began in 2007 as a single sample question emailed daily by David himself. Since then, it has helped more than nine thousand procurement professionals prepare for certification.

QOTD is now powered by A Posteriori, LLC. Participants sign up within their certification testing window and receive an automated multiple-choice question each day, with several chances to answer correctly. Anyone who needs extra help can connect with certified coaches for one-on-one support. Participation is free.

Visit <https://qoftheday.net/>

David E. Nash, CPPO, CPPB, NIGP-CPP: NIGP certified instructor with over 45 years of experience in logistics and public procurement, and recipient of the Spirit of NIGP Award and NIGP's Distinguished Service Award.

Your Facilitator



David E. Nash, CPPO, CPPB, NIGP-CPP: NIGP certified instructor with over 45 years of experience in logistics and public procurement.

David E. Nash, CPPO, CPPB, NIGP-CPP



Unlock Your Career Potential with Public Procurement CPPO & CPPB Certification!

Aligned with the UPPCC Body of
Knowledge and Competency

Instruction by Leading
Procurement Certification Expert



Darin L. Matthews
FNIGP, CPPO, CPSM,
C.P.M., NIGP-CPP

Boost Your Professional Credentials and
Career Success with Our Comprehensive
Procurement Certification Prep Course.

Choose from CPPO—"Certified Public
Procurement Officer" or CPPB—"Certified
Professional Public Buyer" online courses.

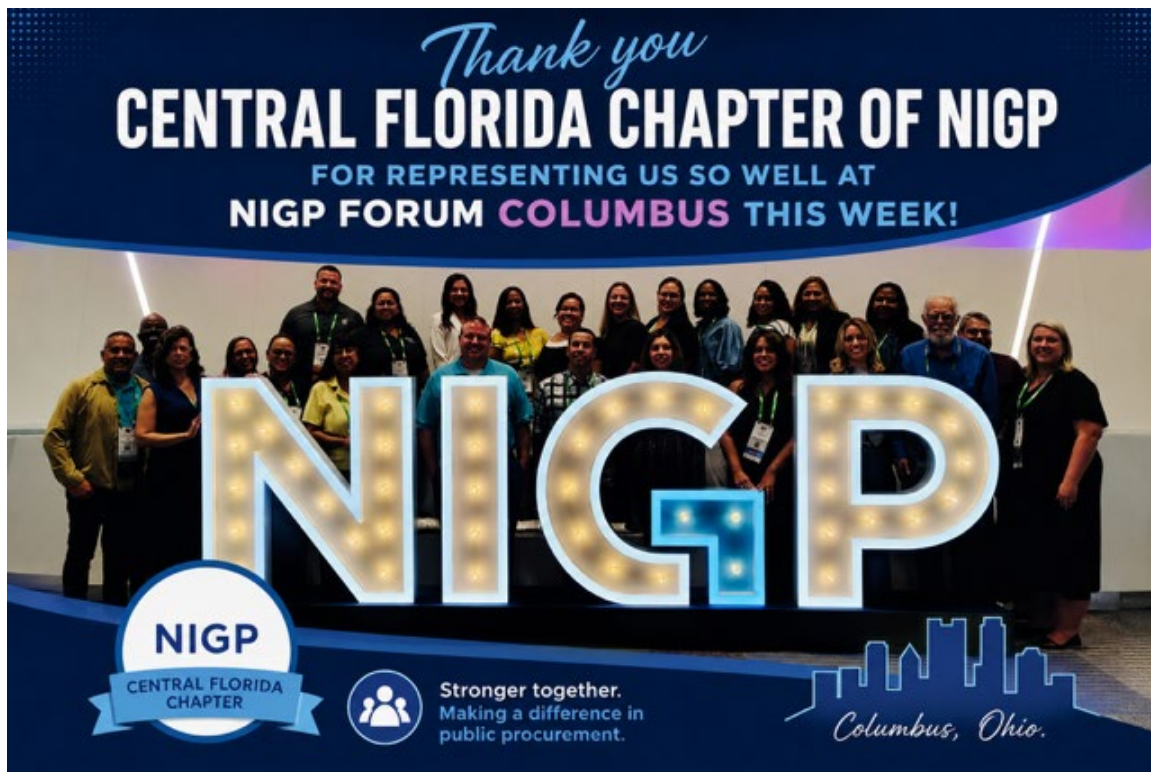
Your Public Procurement Certification Course Includes All of this and more...

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- Online video training
- Quizzes to assist learning
- *Public Procurement* Ebook
- Certificate of completion
- 16 Contact Hours
- 365 day access to course
- 100% Guaranteed

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information or Start Today!

BirkdaleProcurementPrep.com





With thanks to Carrie Mathes for sharing this recognition of the Chapter at NIGP Forum 2026.

Each year the Chapter's Pro-D Opportunity scholarships send members to NIGP Forum. In return, recipients share what they gained. Twelve recipients submitted articles about Forum 2026 in Columbus, Ohio, held August 23 to 26. Their reflections follow:

Arima Santana, CPPO, CPPB, NIGP-CPP, FCCM, FCCN
PROCUREMENT MANAGER, OSCEOLA COUNTY

Attending the NIGP Forum was a wonderful opportunity to learn, connect, and gain new ideas that I can bring back to my organization. The sessions covered a wide range of topics related to public procurement and provided valuable insight into how other procurement professionals are addressing challenges similar to those we face every day.

One of the most valuable aspects of the Forum was the opportunity to network and share experiences with other procurement professionals. Connecting with individuals from different agencies provided me with new perspectives, practical ideas, and innovative approaches that can help improve our processes and make our procurement operations more efficient and effective.

The AI workshops were especially eye-opening. They demonstrated how AI resources can be used to streamline procurement processes, improve efficiency, and potentially reduce the amount of time spent on routine tasks. I left the workshops excited about the possibilities and looking forward to exploring how these tools can be responsibly incorporated into our procurement operations.

I also want to highlight the motivational speakers, who were truly one of my favorite parts of the Forum. Juan was my #1 favorite, followed closely by Mr. Awesome! Their messages gave me a different perspective on how I view life, personal growth, and the importance of living to my fullest potential. Their words were both inspiring and a great reminder to appreciate the journey while continuing to strive for growth and success.

Overall, I walked away from the Forum with new knowledge, valuable resources, fresh ideas, and a better understanding of where public procurement is headed. The experience also reminded me of the importance of continuing to learn, staying connected with other professionals, and always looking for ways to improve the services we provide to our organization and the community.

I would like to sincerely thank the Central Florida Chapter for giving me the opportunity to attend the NIGP Forum and for allowing me to have such a wonderful and memorable experience. The Central Florida Chapter has played an important role in my procurement career, and I am truly grateful for the support, opportunities, and connections it has provided me throughout my professional journey.

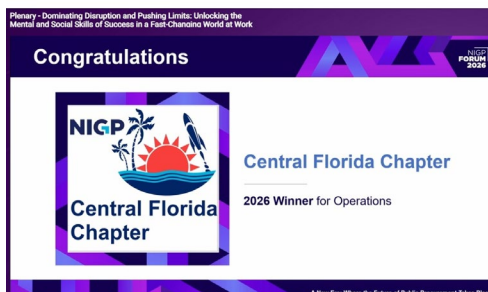


Anabel Gates, NIGP-PPA
PROCUREMENT AGENT, CITY OF CLERMONT

I'm very grateful to have attended the 2026 NIGP Forum virtually through the scholarship program. One of the things I enjoyed most about Forum was the variety of foundational and advanced sessions that provided useful information for procurement professionals at every level. The keynote speakers were also a highlight. They were engaging, thought-provoking, and inspiring while keeping their presentations professional, fun, and relatable.

While attending virtually, I participated in several valuable sessions and took away best practices and ideas that I can apply in my role. The photos I've included highlight a few memorable parts of the experience, including awards received by our Central Florida Chapter, two of my favorite keynote speakers, and a couple of the presentations I found especially interesting.

Overall, I'm very thankful for the scholarship and the opportunity to participate in the NIGP Forum. It was a valuable experience that allowed me to continue learning and connecting with the procurement profession.



An Opportunity I Will Carry Forward

Melisa Vergara

CONTRACTING AGENT, ORANGE COUNTY PROCUREMENT

When I found out that I had been selected to receive a scholarship to attend NIGP Forum 2026, I was truly grateful. The scholarship covered my flight, hotel, conference registration, and professional training, giving me the opportunity to attend an experience that might not have been possible otherwise.

But what I received was much more than a trip to a conference.

More Than a Conference

From the moment I arrived, I was surrounded by people who share the same passion for public procurement. I had the opportunity to learn from experienced professionals, participate in training, attend sessions, ask questions, and hear different ideas about how we can do our jobs better.

One of the things I enjoyed most was meeting people from different parts of the country. We talked about procurement, but we also shared stories, laughed together, encouraged one another, and built friendships. Those personal connections were just as meaningful to me as the professional knowledge I gained.

What I Learned

The training and conference sessions gave me new ideas that I can take back to my everyday work. I learned about different approaches to procurement, new ways of thinking through challenges, and the importance of continuing to grow as a professional.

Most importantly, NIGP Forum reminded me that procurement is about much more than contracts, bids, and processes. The work we do has a direct impact on the organizations we serve and on the communities that depend on public services.

That perspective made me think differently about my own role and the responsibility that comes with being a public procurement professional.

Bringing It Home

I did not want the value of this scholarship to end when I left Columbus.

I returned to work with new ideas, new resources, and a renewed desire to share what I learned with my colleagues. Whether it is sharing a new approach, discussing an idea from a training session, or simply encouraging someone else to pursue professional development, I want to pass along what was given to me.

The scholarship opened a door for me, and I want to help keep that door open for others.

A Personal Thank You

I am incredibly thankful to the people who made this opportunity possible. Thank you for recognizing the importance of investing in procurement professionals and for giving me the chance to learn, grow, connect, and be inspired.

NIGP Forum 2026 reminded me that we never stop learning, and we are never too experienced to learn something new.

I came home with more knowledge, but also with new friendships, new motivation, and a renewed appreciation for the profession I have chosen.

Daniel Gutierrez III, NIGP-PPA, FCCM, LSSYB

PROCUREMENT ANALYST I, OSCEOLA COUNTY

Attending the Forum virtually was an excellent experience and marked my first time participating. Overall, it was highly positive and provided valuable opportunities for networking and learning from the experiences shared by others. I gained a substantial amount of resources that will support my professional growth.

The breakthrough stories presented by speakers such as Sydnee Distance, Juan Bendana, and Henna Pryor were truly inspiring. The "Ask A Procurement Pro" series was especially insightful; my favorite session was the technology-focused discussion with Nathan Dawson and Stephanie, as it closely aligned with my day-to-day responsibilities and offered practical, relevant information.

In summary, the Forum was a great experience, and I look forward to watching the remaining sessions on demand to continue expanding my knowledge and enhancing my professional career.

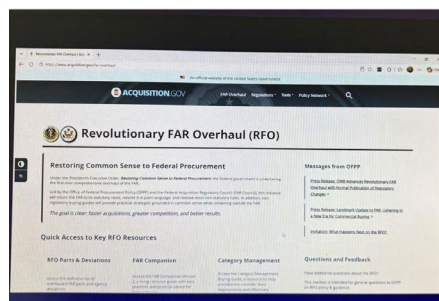
Thank you Central Florida Chapter for this Pro-D opportunity.



Don Gaskins, CPPB, CPPO, NIGP-CPP, FCCM
PROCUREMENT ANALYST IV

I enjoyed attending the Virtual 2026 NIGP Annual Conference. I learned about current trends in AI being integrated into the workplace and how AI can create efficiencies and improve Procurement processes. I also gained a deeper understanding of federal compliance requirements and the changes taking place.

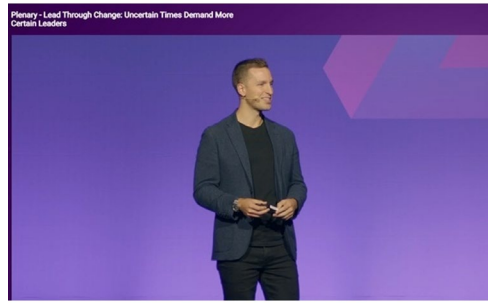
Overall, the conference was very informative and energetic. I found the sessions to be beneficial to my work in Procurement.



Jenna Bullard, BS
PROCUREMENT COORDINATOR, CITY OF CLERMONT

This was my first time attending NIGP Forum, and wow! It was amazing. I attended virtually, but would love to be there in person next time. You could definitely feel the energy of the room, even though the computer screen! In each session I attended, I learned many new things. I have been in the procurement profession

for a year now, and the NIGP Forum has made me all the more excited to continue my journey in procurement.



Juan Bendana, Lead Through Change: Uncertain Times Demand More Certain Leaders.

Michael Hall, CPPB, NIGP-CPP, FCCM
SENIOR PROCUREMENT ANALYST, ORANGE CITY

Winning the CFC NIGP Pro-D Opportunity Scholarship to attend NIGP FORUM 2026 provided me with valuable professional knowledge, practical leadership strategies, and a renewed perspective on the future of public procurement. The experience was especially meaningful as I prepare to follow Orange City's succession plan and eventually assume the responsibilities currently held by David Santiago.

One of my most important takeaways was that effective leadership begins with leading yourself. Before we can successfully lead other people, we must demonstrate discipline, accountability, self-awareness, and consistency in our own work. I also learned the importance of distinguishing between managing tasks and leading people. Tasks may require structure and oversight, but people need direction, encouragement, trust, and support. Strong leaders balance their authority with empathy and recognize that accountability should be supportive rather than punitive. Accountability is most effective when it helps employees understand expectations, learn from challenges, and grow professionally.

The sessions also reinforced that AI must become a tool within the procurement profession. AI should not replace professional judgment, relationships, or ethical decision-making. Instead, it can support our work by improving efficiency, organizing information, assisting with research, and helping us communicate more effectively. AI can also be tailored to meet our organization's specific needs, policies, and procedures. As public procurement professionals, we have an opportunity to thoughtfully introduce these tools while maintaining transparency, accountability, and appropriate human oversight.

Another significant lesson was the importance of procurement earning a seat at the executive table. Purchasing professionals have knowledge that can help agencies manage risk, achieve strategic objectives, strengthen vendor relationships, and make responsible use of public funds. However, gaining executive involvement can be challenging, particularly when procurement operates within a larger department such as Finance. This structure makes communication and relationship-building especially important.

When stakeholders question Purchasing or its role, we must explain the **why**, and not the **what**. Rather than only citing a policy or requirement, we should explain how the process promotes fairness, protects the agency, supports competition, and produces better outcomes. We must strike the right balance between being viewed as rule enforcers and serving as trusted advisors. Our role is not merely to stop actions that create risk, but to help departments find compliant, practical paths toward accomplishing their goals.

NIGP FORUM 2026 gave me knowledge that I can immediately apply at Orange City and throughout my continued professional development. I am grateful to CFC NIGP for the scholarship opportunity and for its investment in the next generation of public procurement leadership.



Nancy Ortiz, CPPB, CCMA, FCCM
PROCUREMENT ANALYST I, OSCEOLA COUNTY

The NIGP Forum event organizers worked tirelessly behind the scenes to create an exceptional procurement experience and from the very beginning I knew it would be something so special for me. So, I prepared myself for a great event, and I was not disappointed!

It was my first time in Columbus Ohio, and I have to say that it was an unexpected delight, revealing a very vibrant city adding more energy to my week.

The Forum stood out in many countless ways. It offered thought-provoking sessions and brought together diverse cities, backgrounds, and perspectives. This was deeply meaningful to me.

Walking through the Hilton's hallways, I felt genuinely grateful for the opportunity to volunteer and be part of the QCT team and contribute to the inner workings of such a large, impactful educational conference even if it was just for a very short time. The QCT group was awesome!

The vendor EXPO opened and it marked one of the convention's anticipated highlights, bringing a glimpse to "what's next". I was truly impressed with all the vendors and the great networking opportunity.

The Forum offered great learning opportunities. I attended the Leadership sessions with one of NIGP's greatest presenters Lourdes Coss. I also attended the Technology Learning Path AI sessions and I was blown away on how fast AI is evolving and changing.

On Wednesday morning, August 26, our Chapter was presented with the NIGP Chapter of the Year Operations award. The Chapter implemented a Task Force to recognize the Board. This being a great accomplishment for OUR Chapter. Our Chapter also won the Platinum Seal award for excellence! I am so proud to be part of such an awesome chapter and group of professionals.

But the Forum experience doesn't end there, at least for me. It has only begun. I return to the office with a renewed vision of the great future that awaits for the Procurement profession and I am so grateful for those who made it possible that I could attend the FORUM this year. A big THANK YOU to my supervisors at Osceola County BOCC who have encouraged me, guided me, and have helped me grow in the procurement field. Thank you for granting me the time off to attend the FORUM.

I encourage YOU, the Procurement professional to stay engaged, attend chapter meetings, participate in discussions and take advantage of the excellent resources the NIGP has to offer. So start planning for next year's FORUM and make attending a priority! The value, the connections you will make, and the inspiration are truly worth it. Thank you NIGP for this unique opportunity!

My 2026 Pro-D Scholarship Award Trip to Forum!

Lisa Kesecker, CPPB, FCPA

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FL

Attending the NIGP Forum in Columbus, OH, was an awesome experience that provided me with a wealth of knowledge and networking opportunities. I arrived Saturday, August 22, 2026, to get registered and to check out all NIGP had to offer this year's Forum Attendees. NIGP had set up something new this year called "Main Street" with various store fronts showcasing NIGP committees along with information on next year's Forum in Kansas City, MO.

Our Chapter had a Poster exhibited at the Performance Excellence Showcase within the Vendor Expo, which was showing our Scholarship program, which offers our active members a chance to earn points throughout the year by attending chapter meetings, social events, workshops and our Reverse Trade Show. The points are totaled then assigned a dollar value based on the amount of money made at our Reverse Trade Show. Our members can then use the scholarship money to pay for classes or attending other Procurement offerings, like VCON and Forum, we can also use the money to pay for our NIGP-CPP or CPPB, CPPO prep classes and exams.

All the Plenary sessions offered great messages on motivation and reminded us that we have choices on how we interact with others. One of the quotes that stuck with me was "You can't control your first thought, but you can choose your second thought". Of the four plenary sessions my favorite keynote speaker was Juan Bendana, his message "Lead Through Change: Uncertain Times Demand More Certain Leaders", was truly insightful, I even went onto Amazon and bought his book to read when I get home.

Let me tell you about some things I learned. I recommend the buddy system when taking these sessions to keep things fun, I did the 4 session Construction Path with Nick learning about best practices on the various procurement solicitations that can be used for construction projects, Design-Build, Design-Bid-Build, CM, CMAR, etc. Next week we will go to Aspire to take the exam to get our Construction Badge.

We also did sessions on "JOC" Job Order Contracting, I will be doing some additional recorded sessions once I get home, since some classes were held at the same time, and there were so many sessions to choose from.

We were waiting around during the Awards Luncheon, for them to finish with all the personal distinguished service awards for members, which was nice, but the introductions and acceptance speeches made the event run over, so they had to postpone the Chapter Awards until the following day, but we prevailed and Won! The Platinum Seal and the Award for Outstanding Chapter Operations which had to do with our Board Re-organization to help redistribute some of the workload, by creating more board members and identifying everyone's responsibilities.

In Conclusion: Attending NIGP's Annual Forum in Columbus, OH, was an invaluable experience that provided a wealth of knowledge and practical skills. The insights gained from these sessions will undoubtedly enhance my effectiveness within my Agency. Forum was a highly rewarding experience that I would recommend to any procurement professional looking to advance their skills and knowledge as a procurement professional. Thank you, CFC-NIGP for providing me with this fantastic opportunity!

The New Era of Procurement

Ramsey Jimenez, MPA, CPPB, FCCM

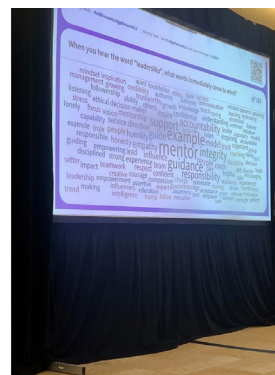
PROCUREMENT MANAGER, CITY OF CLERMONT

One of the biggest takeaways from FORUM is that the new era of procurement is not just about being good at procurement. We can know the policies, processes, bids, contracts, and laws, but we really make an impact through how we serve our communities. We are leaders who build relationships, communicate well, and understand how Procurement fits into the bigger picture within our agencies.

I chose to take the leadership path sessions during FORUM. This consisted of four sessions. During the first session we talked about self-leadership. This session made me think about how I lead myself before leading others. I want to be more aware of how my habits, reactions, and communication impact those around me. I want to ask more questions instead of always providing the solution so others can develop their own judgment.

The third session was about the discipline of strategic influence. We discussed how influence comes from trust, credibility, relationships, and consistent follow through. It is not just from our title. I want procurement to build stronger relationships with other departments and understand their priorities earlier and become a trusted resource instead of only being involved when something needs to be purchased.

Another one of my favorite plenary speakers was Henna Pryor. One of the biggest takeaways from her session that stuck with me most was, "When we are in triage mode we react instead of anticipate and iterate instead of innovate." This really relates to our work in procurement and some of the challenges we face. I want to work toward getting ahead of projects and needs instead of constantly responding to the next urgent request. I also liked the reminder that feelings are not facts and that while I can not control my first thought, I can control my second. Asking myself, "Is that a truth or is that a thought?", is something I can use both personally and professionally.



From Opportunity to Impact: Reflections from the 2026 NIGP Forum

Heidee Santiago-Rullan, CPPB, NIGP-CPP, FCCM

CONTRACTING AGENT, ORANGE COUNTY GOVERNMENT, FL

Attending the 2026 NIGP Forum in Columbus, Ohio was more than an opportunity to attend a national conference, it was an opportunity to be surrounded by the people, ideas, experiences, and leadership that continue to shape the future of public procurement.

Having begun my journey in public procurement during a transformative period for our profession and the world around us, I have learned that there is always more to discover. Procurement is constantly evolving, and while hands on experience teaches us many things, there is something uniquely powerful about stepping outside of our everyday environment and immersing ourselves in a community of professionals who are willing to share what they know, challenge the way we think, and inspire us to become better.

I am deeply grateful to the Central Florida Chapter of NIGP for believing in the value of investing in its members and for making my attendance at the 2026 NIGP Forum possible. The support I received opened the door to an experience that extended far beyond the conference itself. Being there in person allowed me to fully immerse myself in the learning, connections, and conversations that make opportunities like this so impactful.

There Is Something Different About Being in the Room

Virtual learning has opened countless doors for professionals who may not otherwise have access to conferences, training, and professional development. I am grateful for those opportunities. However, the 2026 NIGP Forum reminded me that there are some experiences that simply cannot be replicated through a screen.

Being there in person allowed me to have the conversations that happen between sessions, in hallways, over meals, and during networking events. It allowed me to put faces to names, build relationships with professionals whose work I have admired, ask questions in real time, and hear perspectives that may never have emerged during a virtual presentation.

The Forum was not simply about attending sessions and taking notes. It was about connection. It was about being able to say, "Tell me more." It was about meeting someone who had already navigated a challenge I was facing or might face tomorrow or mentoring someone through a challenge I had already overcome and that they were struggling with in their current agency and role.

Grateful for the Mentorship Behind the Opportunity

I am especially grateful for the mentorship and encouragement I have received from the Central Florida Chapter's Board and Council. Professional development opportunities are valuable, but having people who recognize your potential, encourage you to pursue opportunities, and invest in your growth is something much greater.

The Chapter has demonstrated that its commitment to developing procurement professionals extends beyond providing training. It is about creating opportunities for members to grow, connect, lead, and ultimately give back. That investment does not end when the conference ends, it creates a responsibility.

Bringing the Inspiration Home

I do not want to simply return to my agency with a notebook full of ideas that stays on a shelf. I want to bring the inspirational gems of knowledge I received back to my agency, share them with my peers, and use what I have learned to encourage others to continue developing themselves and our profession.

Whether it is a new approach to procurement innovation, a leadership lesson, a better way of engaging our customers and vendors, or simply a different perspective on how we can serve our communities, I want to be intentional about sharing what I have learned.

The greatest value of an opportunity like this is measured by what happens because it was given to you. If something I learned helps a colleague approach a challenge differently, if a conversation I had encourages someone else to pursue a certification, if an idea inspires a new process, or if my experience gives another

young professional the confidence to step outside of their comfort zone, then the investment in me has multiplied. That is the goal: to take what was poured into me and pour it into others.

A Humbling Honor: The 2027 First Timer's Award

As if the 2026 Forum were not already an incredible experience, I was both honored and humbled to walk away as the recipient of the First Timer's Award, which provides complimentary full conference registration for the 2027 NIGP Forum in Kansas City.

As part of the First Timer's experience, attendees were given a unique opportunity to connect with one another through a networking bingo activity. Each square represented a different experience, background, or connection, encouraging us to step outside of our familiar circles, introduce ourselves to others, and discover the many things we had in common.

I was fortunate enough to meet the variety of distinct peers I needed to complete my card. At the risk of sounding a little cringe, I could not help but think it was not so different from a dance card at a debutante ball. While the outcome was certainly exciting, what made the experience especially meaningful was the way it was achieved: by doing exactly what the Forum encouraged us to do, connect, engage, and get to know the people around us.

Receiving complimentary registration for the 2027 NIGP Forum in Kansas City is an honor I do not take lightly. It is also a wonderful reminder that sometimes the greatest opportunities come from simply being willing to participate, introduce yourself, and step outside of your comfort zone.

Pay It Forward

To my fellow procurement professionals, especially those who are newer to the profession, I encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities the Central Florida Chapter offers.

- Apply for the scholarships. Don't think twice. A "no" is better than a non-attempt.
- Take courses. Back your drive with knowledge.
- Attend the events. Who knows who you'll meet.
- Volunteer. You will discover something about yourself.
- Join a committee or task force. We don't bite.
- Ask questions. Just ask.
- Introduce yourself to someone you admire, or anyone, really.
- Set certification and career goals.
- Step outside your comfort zone.

And if you are wondering whether you are "ready" for an opportunity, go for it anyway! You do not have to know everything before you take the next step. Sometimes the opportunity itself is what helps you become ready.

I am still learning. I am still growing. I am still figuring out the many ins and outs of procurement innovation, leadership, and what it truly means to make an impact in public service and that is okay. Growth does not require us to have all the answers. It requires us to remain willing to learn, willing to listen, and willing to share what we discover along the way.

If you are considering getting involved with the Central Florida Chapter, pursuing a scholarship, attending your first national conference, or simply trying to figure out your next step in your procurement career, please reach out to me. I would be happy to answer questions, share my experience, talk through doubts, or simply have a conversation.

The 2026 NIGP Forum gave me knowledge, connections, inspiration, and memories that I will carry with me throughout my career. But the greatest lesson may be the responsibility that comes with receiving an opportunity like this.

Do not keep what you have learned to yourself. The belief that you must hoard knowledge to protect your place or prevent someone else from taking your future spot is ultimately self-defeating. When you withhold

knowledge, you limit not only those around you, but your own opportunity to grow, lead, and leave a lasting impact. The strongest professionals do not protect their place by keeping others from rising; they strengthen their place by helping others rise with them. Amplify it. Share it. Build upon it. And pour it into someone else.



My NIGP Forum 2026 Journey

Susan Perry, CPPB, CFSBO, FCCM

PURCHASING COORDINATOR, CITY OF DEBARY

Overall, the virtual NIGP Forum 2026 was an extremely valuable and worthwhile experience. The sessions provided a strong balance of practical procurement strategies, leadership development, technology and AI, compliance, communication, and professional growth. I especially appreciated that many of the sessions went beyond the traditional transactional role of procurement and emphasized the importance of procurement as a strategic partner within an organization. The discussions around AI, contract administration, procurement agility, stakeholder relationships, and innovative approaches to sourcing provided ideas that can be applied directly to our processes at the City of DeBary.

One of my biggest takeaways from the Forum was the importance of being open to change and continuously looking for ways to improve. The keynote speakers reinforced the importance of resilience, confidence, adaptability, and leadership, while the learning sessions provided practical tools and strategies to put those concepts into practice. Juan Bendana's keynote on leading through change was my personal favorite and particularly resonated with me. I also found the sessions on AI and technology especially relevant as procurement continues to evolve. Overall, I left the Forum feeling energized, more confident, and motivated to bring new ideas back to the City, continue developing professionally, and look for opportunities to make our procurement processes more efficient, strategic, and engaging.

Day 1 - Sunday

Opening Plenary with Keynote Speaker: "Becoming Awesome: If You Can Fail Without Being Discouraged, Success Becomes Inevitable" Cam Awesome

An engaging and motivating way to open the conference. Cam Awesome's keynote was energetic, inspirational, and memorable. It set a positive tone for the conference and left me motivated to approach challenges with a stronger mindset and not let setbacks discourage me.

Learning Path Session: "From Intake to Award: Embedding AI into your Processes" Aran Raz

The presentation clearly showed how AI can be incorporated into the procurement process while maintaining appropriate human oversight and accountability. The session demonstrated how AI can help turn unclear or incomplete stakeholder information into more organized scopes and solicitation language, reducing rework and improving consistency before a solicitation is released.

Ask A Procurement Pro: "Bonds" Kirk Buffington

I particularly appreciated the open, participant-driven format. Rather than simply listening to a presentation, attendees were able to bring forward questions, discuss challenges, and hear different perspectives on situations that procurement professionals encounter in their day-to-day work.

Learning Path Session: "Identify Sensitive Contracts for Efficient Post-Award Contract Administration and Compliance" Sombudha Adhikari

Overall, this was an informative and forward-thinking session that provided practical ideas for using technology to improve contract oversight, identify risk earlier, and make contract administration more efficient. The real-world examples and case studies helped demonstrate how these tools can be applied in an actual procurement environment.

Innovation Theater 1: "DRS: Emerging Trends in Disaster Preparedness and Recovery: Impacts to Your Agency's Procurement Strategy" Sarah Stanley; Shelley Vineyard

DRS provided procurement strategies that can support FEMA reimbursement requirements while still allowing an entity to respond quickly during an emergency.

Innovation Theater 5: "FOS: Doing More with Less: Utilizing the Advantages of Job Order Contracting" Michael Perno; Jacob Guy

This session showed us how JOC can streamline repetitive procurement needs, reduce administrative workload, and improve the ability of procurement and facilities teams to respond to projects efficiently while maintaining appropriate oversight.

Day 2 - Monday

Opening Plenary with Keynote Speaker: "AI and the New Dawn of the Industry: Unlock the Power of Artificial Intelligence to Transform Your Business" Dr. Shawn DuBravac

I found the keynote valuable because it encouraged forward-thinking and highlighted the importance of being prepared for continued technological change. Understanding these changes is increasingly important as agencies look for ways to improve processes while maintaining transparency, accountability, and sound decision-making.

Innovation Theatre Sessions

Engaging presentations featuring fresh ideas, real-world success stories, and innovative solutions: SOVRA, The Evolution of Public Procurement: Connected Intelligence Across the Procurement Lifecycle; Surety 2000, Fortifying Trust: Harnessing Electronic Surety Bonds to Safeguard Against Surety Bond Fraud; MillerKnoll, Simplifying Capital Projects Through Smarter Procurement: How Public Agencies are Reducing Risk, Time, and Complexity.

Learning Path Session: "The Compliance Shift: Navigating the New Landscape of Public Procurement" Art Moore; Stacy Gregg

Provided a useful framework for evaluating current procurement practices and emphasized the importance of regularly reviewing policies, contracts, and procedures as laws and regulations continue to evolve. The practical focus on maintaining a merit-based, transparent, and legally defensible procurement process.

Learning Path Session: "From Yawning to Fawning: How to Make Dry Subjects Engaging" Tammy Rimes; Mitch McCallson; Mark Logan

Overall, this was an enjoyable and useful session. It encouraged me to think differently about how procurement information is presented and demonstrated that government communication can remain professional and compliant while also being creative, engaging, and approachable.

Day 3 - Tuesday

Opening Plenary with Keynote Speaker: "Lead Through Change: Uncertain Times Demand More Certain Leaders" Juan Bendana

This was an excellent keynote that provided practical reminders about the role leaders play in helping their teams navigate change. I left the session feeling motivated to be more intentional, confident, and adaptable in my own leadership approach. I am now following Juan. This was my favorite session so far.

Learning Path Session: "The Power of the Pitch: Making a Case for Procurement Agility" Carrie Mathes

This was a very practical and valuable session. It reinforced that procurement can be more than a compliance function, it can be a strategic partner in improving organizational efficiency and agility. The

tools and strategies discussed can be applied directly when developing and presenting future procurement process improvement recommendations.

Learning Path Session: "The Choice Is Yours: Procurement Decisions to Impact Organizational Wellbeing" Ryan Donovan; Michelle Williams; Jair Espinoza

I appreciated the emphasis on the connection between procurement decisions and employee wellbeing. The discussion highlighted how procurement professionals can have an impact on important areas such as health insurance, employee benefits, risk management, mental health resources, and public service loan debt. It reinforced that procurement decisions are not just about contracts and compliance, they can directly affect employees and organizational performance.

Learning Path Session: "Guiding the Committee: Practical Strategies for Managing Evaluation Committee Dynamics" Rebecca Seifert; Lisa Goodman

The presentation did an excellent job of addressing the reality that evaluation committees are influenced by personalities, communication styles, and group dynamics just as much as they are by scoring tools and procurement policies. The examples of dominant voices, reluctant participants, inconsistent scoring, and evaluators interpreting criteria differently were particularly relatable and highlighted challenges that can affect the fairness and defensibility of an evaluation.

Day 4 - Wednesday

Opening Plenary with Keynote Speaker: "Dominating Disruption and Pushing Limits: Unlocking the Mental and Social Skills of Success in a Fast-Changing World at Work" Henna Pryor

The session offered practical insights into building resilience, strengthening confidence, and developing the mental and social skills needed to adapt when circumstances don't go as planned. Henna's energy and ability to connect with the audience made the presentation especially engaging.

Learning Path Session: "Beyond the Inbox: Designing a Meaningful Procurement Career" Jodi Hart

The practical examples and guided reflection helped connect common procurement responsibilities to broader career goals and advancement opportunities. I especially appreciated the focus on being intentional about identifying opportunities to expand skills, increase strategic contributions, and build a professional presence.

Learning Path Session: "The Power of Perspective: Shifting Mindsets for a New Era" Stacy Adams

A key takeaway was the importance of moving beyond the traditional transactional role of procurement and becoming a strategic advisor who helps align priorities and achieve value-based outcomes. Overall, the session was engaging, practical, and provided useful strategies for improving stakeholder relationships, reducing friction, and approaching procurement challenges from a broader perspective.

Closing Plenary with Keynote Speaker: "Overcoming Hurdles: Embracing Change and Turning Obstacles into Opportunities" Sarah Wells

Sarah Wells delivered an inspiring and energetic closing presentation that was the perfect way to end the Forum. Drawing from her experiences as an Olympian, she shared powerful stories about overcoming challenges, pushing through setbacks, and turning obstacles into opportunities for growth.



Chapter members at the NIGP marquee, Greater Columbus Convention Center.



State of Florida, Area 5 members at NIGP Forum 2026.

JULY 2026 MEETING MINUTES



Membership Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2026 • 12:30 PM to 1:10 PM • Virtual Meeting Only

Welcome — Luis Aviles, President

- **Introductions, Welcome Guests & Recognition of New Members —**
 - 84 members in attendance
 - Daniel- Orange County
 - Jennifer Granitski- Palm Bay

Old Business

- **Secretary's Report —**
 - May Membership Meeting Minutes distributed to the membership for review
 - No questions from the membership
- **Treasurer's Report — Angela Thomas:**
 - March, April & May reconciliations completed
 - June to be completed by September
 - Scholarship checks routed for second signature and will be mailed to recipients
- **Consent Agenda — May Meeting Minutes & March, April, May Reconciliations**
 - 1st motion- John Schmidt
 - 2nd motion- Katrina Ponzini
 - No Discussion
 - All in favor, 0 opposed
 - Motion carries
- **Vice President's Report — Nick Canjar:**
 - Highest meeting registration and attendance of the past three years
 - Fall Workshop- Friday, September 18, guest speaker Kirk Buffington, three presentations
 - \$20 per person, 4 contact hours
 - Revised schedule: presentations 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, lunch 1:00 to 2:00 PM, Chapter Business Meeting 2:00 PM
 - Scholarship requests received have been turned over for processing
 - Social Event- Medieval Times, Saturday, September 19
 - \$30 chapter member and \$30 first guest; additional guests at market rate
 - 17 registered as of this meeting; 30 seats reserved
 - Registration deadline- September 4
- **President's Report — Luis Aviles:**
 - Bylaw Revisions- new Contracted Procurement Professional membership category
 - Removal of diversity from the Chapter's Core Values, in alignment with state law
 - Discussion: language amended to read employed by private sector firms or NIGP
 - 1st motion- Herronda Montimer
 - 2nd motion- Mildred Maldonado
 - All in favor, 0 opposed
 - Motion carries; bylaws to be updated and posted to the Chapter website
 - Two Board Members with Same Agency- Nick Canjar & Milli Medina, Orange County
 - 1st motion- John Schmidt
 - 2nd motion- Shae Hernandez
 - All in favor, 0 opposed
 - Motion carries
 - Appointment of Secretary- Yanique Reddick was unable to continue in the role; the Nominating Task Force recommended Sheila "Shae" Hernandez, appointed by the Board of Directors on June 10

- 1st motion- Tabatha Freedman
- 2nd motion- Milli Medina
- All in favor, 0 opposed
- Motion carries
- Installation of Secretary- deferred
- NIGP Forum Update- Chapter under consideration for the Outstanding Chapter Award for Operations, for the board reorganization task force and implementation
- Awards Luncheon- Tuesday, August 25
- Strategic Planning- 2027 to 2029 plan; virtual task force, approximately four Friday sessions of one hour each; scholarship points available
- **Council Chair Reports**
- **Member Council — Milli Medina:**
 - Pro-D opportunities: Young Professional Fall Workshop raffle, NIGP Technology Evaluations, Demos & Negotiations, NIGP Using Federal Grant Funds, Foundations of Leadership
 - Surveys located under the Member Services tab in the member portal
 - Technology class survey closes August 3
 - Committee Chair positions still open
- **Fundraising — Damaris Nazario:**
 - No updates; unable to attend due to a work conflict
- **Talent — Katrina Ponzini:**
 - Updated Committee List posted to the website
 - Volunteers needed, including for RTS
 - Mentor / Mentee interest poll posted on the website homepage
- **New Business**
- **Committee / Task Force Updates**
- **Internship / Externship — John Schmidt:**
 - Pause on Bethune-Cookman, UCF & Stetson career fairs for the fall semester
 - Committee continues to promote public procurement careers to college students
- **Mentoring — Fatima Calkins:**
 - Mentor / Mentee survey open on the website
 - Seeking experienced procurement professionals to serve as mentors
- **Study Groups — Shae Hernandez:**
 - CPPB / CPPO Certification Study Group launching the following week
 - 11-week program with Wednesday and Saturday sessions
 - Registration available on the Chapter website
- **Community Services — Arima Santana:**
 - Ronald McDonald House Brunch- Sunday, August 2
 - All volunteer positions filled; confirmation email to be sent one week prior
- **Open Floor**
- **Recognition of New Certifications —**
 - Janet- City of New Smyrna Beach, CPCP, Certified Purchasing Card Professional
- **Job Postings, Announcements & Purchasing News —**
 - None reported
- **Chapter Meeting Is Adjourned**
- **Motion to Adjourn —**
 - 1st Shae Hernandez
 - 2nd Tabatha Freedman
 - No Discussion
 - All in favor, 0 opposed
 - Motion carries

End of July 17, 2026 Membership Meeting Minutes

SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA



Membership Meeting

In-Person & Virtual

September 18, 2026 • 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

8:45 AM Registration

9:00 AM Workshop: Kirk Buffington (In-Person)

1:00 PM Chapter Lunch

2:00 PM Chapter Business Meeting

Welcome — Luis Aviles, President

- Introductions, Welcome Guests & Recognition of New Members

Old Business

- Secretary's Report — Shae Hernandez
 - July Membership Meeting Minutes
- Treasurer's Report — Angela Thomas
 - Reconciliations
 - Audit
- Consent Agenda
 - Minutes from Previous Meeting
 - Bank Reconciliations
- Vice President's Report — Nick Canjar
 - Programming Updates
 - Scholarship Updates
- President's Report — Luis Aviles
 - NIGP Forum
 - Get Together Social Event
 - Strategic Plan

Council Chair Reports

- Member Council — Milli Medina (Pro-D Scholarships)
- Fundraising — Damaris Nazario (RTS)
- Talent — Katrina Ponzini (Committees)

New Business

- Committee / Task Force(s) — Updates from Chairs
 - Internship / Externship / Mentoring
 - Legislative
 - Study Groups
 - Community Services
- Open Floor
- Recognition of New Certifications
- Job Postings, Announcements, New Positions & Purchasing News
- Other New Business

Chapter Meeting Is Adjourned

MEETING LUNCH MENU

Taco Bar Lunch

2026 CHAPTER DATES

Chapter Social Event
September 19

Fall Virtual Chapter Check-In
October 14

Reverse Trade Show (RTS)
November 4

Membership Meeting &
State of the Chapter
December 4