

KANSAS ASSOCIATION FOR
PUBLIC PURCHASING PROFESSIONALS

re-KAPPP

Q1 2026 NEWSLETTER



President's Message



Elevating the Standard: Our Path to Gold & Beyond

As we step into 2026, it's clear that public procurement in Kansas is in the midst of a truly exciting transformation. We've evolved far beyond the role of "purchasers." Today, we serve as strategic partners, risk managers, and—most importantly—trusted stewards of public value for our neighbors and communities.

(continued on page 2)

Celebrating the Guardians of Public Service – You!

March is National Procurement Month

March is National Procurement Month, a time to recognize the dedication, stewardship, and hard work of procurement professionals like you. You stand behind every successful project and efficient purchase as the guardians of public service. Your commitment to fairness, transparency, and efficiency often goes unseen, but it is absolutely essential to the success of our communities. Check out more on how some of our member agencies acknowledged this month and how you can raise awareness in your own organization.

(continued on page 5)

Inside this Issue:

President's Message

KAPPP & NIGP Events

**National Procurement
Month**

**Scholarship
Appreciation**

Kudos & Trivia

President's Message (Continued)

Reflecting on last year, my heart is full thinking about our second NIGP Bronze Performance Seal. That achievement wasn't just a trophy on a shelf; it was a testament to your collective hard work and dedication. This year, we're dreaming even bigger and setting our sights on the Gold Performance Seal. But to us, this isn't just about the accolade—it's about "leveling up" the support, education, and genuine networking opportunities we offer each and every one of you.

The year ahead brings new frontiers, from navigating the complexities of state and federal laws to exploring how we can ethically integrate AI into our daily work. Whatever changes come our way, please know that KAPPP is here to be your home base. Whether you've been in this field for decades or are just starting your first week, I want to personally encourage you to lean into our community.

If there is one thing I've learned during my time with this association, it's that while technology might change by the second, the human element of procurement is irreplaceable. Your empathy, your creativity, and your ethics are what truly solve the real-world problems our citizens face. As your President for 2026, my focus is simply on connection. We all know that procurement can sometimes feel like a solo journey behind a desk, but within KAPPP, you are never alone. You have a vibrant network of friends and peers across every city, county, and agency in Kansas. We are so much stronger when we share our "lessons learned" over a cup of coffee or a quick phone call. If you need a good coffee shop recommendation in the area, I'm your gal.

I am so looking forward to hearing your stories and working right alongside you to make 2026 our most connected, supportive year yet. Stay curious, stay ethical, and let's grow together!

With gratitude,
Nicole Hogan

*Elevating the Standard:
Our Path to Gold and Beyond*



Upcoming Events

For more information and to register for the KAPPP events below, please login to your member account at [KAPPP.org](https://www.kappp.org).

Kansas City Regional Procurement Exposition

KCRPE is back, revived with renewed energy and purpose. This event brings together public procurement professionals for practical strategies, real-world insights, and meaningful peer connections.

We're partnering with members from Missouri and Kansas City NIGP chapters to build a broader, more connected community. Attendees can expect engaging sessions, a vibrant vendor expo, and a social event to foster relationships and exchange ideas.

KCRPE isn't just back, it's laying the foundation for something bigger, bringing the region together to strengthen and advance public procurement.

KAPPP Konnections

Bringing members together for engaging educational and networking sessions designed to inform, connect, and inspire. With a rotating mix of trainings, discussions, and peer networking, each session offers fresh perspectives and valuable opportunities to learn and build relationships.

SAVE



THE DATE

OCTOBER 14TH - 16TH, 2026

More details coming soon.

Join Us for an Inspiring Procurement Event!

Location: Embassy Suites by Hilton Kansas City International Airport

April 18th

**David Taylor Zoo Emporia
2:00PM**

May 20th

**Membership Meeting
Zoom Video
10:00AM**

June

Stay Tuned!

Upcoming Events

NIGP VCON 2026

Join colleagues for a fully virtual, highly interactive experience, April 28-30, featuring practical technologies you can implement immediately and forward-looking insights to help you stay ahead of the rapid changes transforming the profession.

NIGP Forum 2026

A New Era: Where the Future of Public Procurement Takes Shape.

Join the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing's annual Forum event, a member-driven, foundational and advanced learning experience that delivers immediate, powerful insights.

Attendance is available in-person at Columbus, Ohio, or virtually, from August 23-26.

NIGP Courses & Webinars

Gain valuable insights and enhance your practical skills in key public procurement functions through a wide-range of learning experiences including virtual instructor-led, in-person instructor-led, on-demand, and educational focused webinars.

Scholarships Available

Financial support is now available for your professional development activities.



Recognizing Procurement Month



City of Wichita

On March 3, 2026, the Wichita City Council officially proclaimed March 2026 as Procurement Month. Their Purchasing Division is instrumental in obtaining the greatest value for each taxpayer dollar and are committed to providing high-quality services efficiently and effectively.

Johnson County

On March 5, 2026, Chairman Mike Kelly of the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners signed a proclamation to declare March 2026 as National Purchasing Month, noting the significant role we play in the efficiency and effectiveness of the government in upholding transparency, fairness, and integrity.



Sedgwick County

Sedgwick County's Purchasing Team was acknowledged during the County Announcements on March 11, 2026, noting:

March is celebrated as Procurement month - and Sedgwick County is proud of all of the work done by the Purchasing team in Finance. These are the people who show up everyday and make sure we are getting the best possible price for goods and services. They are here today to be celebrated.



Raising Awareness for Your Agency

Recognizing March as National Procurement Month offers your agency a valuable opportunity to showcase the essential role public procurement plays in its operations—not just as a support function, but as a strategic organizational asset that may not always be fully understood by leadership or constituents. By raising awareness, we can emphasize how effective procurement practices promote transparency, accountability, and the responsible stewardship of public resources. The question then becomes: how do you tell your story and elevate awareness of our profession and the critical responsibilities we manage? Below are a few ideas to consider:

Highlight the “Team Effort” of Procurement

While procurement is often viewed as a siloed function, it’s important to recognize that it is inherently a collaborative effort. From identifying needs to selecting the right vendors and ensuring successful project delivery, a wide range of staff across an agency play a role in the procurement process - it’s a shared responsibility. Proclaiming March as National Procurement Month helps acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of all staff, not just those with “Purchasing” in their title, reinforcing the collective impact that drives an agency’s success.

Procurement is About Stewardship of Public Funds

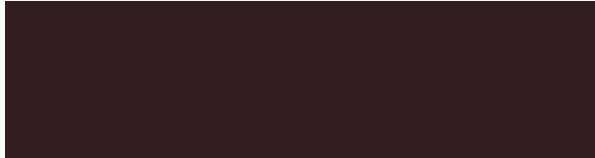
Emphasize how procurement professionals and other stakeholders work together to ensure public funds are used responsibly and transparently. By showcasing the stewardship role of procurement, you help to frame it as not just a bureaucratic process, but a vital mechanism for ensuring taxpayer dollars are spent wisely. You can even feature examples where Purchasing helped save costs, department efficiencies, or improved services in your agency.

Connect Procurement with Your Agency’s Mission

It’s important to understand your agency’s mission and long-range goals - and how the work you do directly contributes to achieving them. By making that connection clear, procurement becomes more than a transactional function, it becomes a key partner in advancing priorities, supporting programs, and delivering meaningful outcomes.

Procurement as a Strategic Driver of Innovation

Share how procurement isn’t just about buying goods or services - it’s about ensuring your agency is equipped with the right tools and services to innovate and thrive. Whether it’s selecting cutting-edge technology, facilitating new partnerships, or ensuring supply chain resilience, procurement plays a key role in driving progress.



Scholarship Appreciation

Each year, the KAPPP Scholarship Program helps members enhance their professional development by providing financial assistance to attend educational opportunities. Last summer, **Lee Barrier from Sedgwick County, and Cyndi Phillips from Douglas County**, attended the 2025 NIGP Forum in Denver, Colorado.

Lee appreciated the opportunity to attend as a first-time Forum attendee, highlighting the valuable insights gained and connections made with fellow KAPPP members and peers. She shares her gratitude for the KAPPP scholarship that made the experience possible and emphasizes the importance of networking with like-minded professionals dedicated to upholding fiscal responsibility within their organizations.



January 20, 2026

Kansas Association for Public Purchasing Professionals (KAPPP)
Executive Board

Re: 2025 NIGP Forum Attendance and Scholarship Appreciation

Dear Board Members,

I would like to thank KAPPP and the Scholarship Committee for generously awarding me with a scholarship for the registration fees to attend NIGP Forum in Denver, Colorado, July 27-30, 2025. It was a wonderful experience, from moving and inspirational speakers during each day's plenary session through the closing session, bidding farewell to Rick Grim. In between those bookends were sessions that informed, entertained, and reinforced for public procurement professionals that the work they do is important and valuable.

Prior to starting work in the public sector in 2022, I spent 16 years in the legal field, 11 as a paralegal and 5 as a law office administrator. Having a foundation of legal knowledge is certainly helpful but, as you all know, public procurement is a different beast altogether! One of the primary benefits I derived from Forum 2025 was the focused courses for the Legal Learning Path that went in-depth on contracts. Learning about the key clauses in public procurement, customizing contracts, understanding termination types, and the case law that forms the framework for analyzing and determining appropriate procurement decisions, was all highly informative and enlightening. I earned my NIGP Certification Badge for the Legal Learning Path in September. Because of what I learned in these courses, I am better able to serve Douglas County with regard to contract modifications, negotiations, and understanding when county legal counsel needs to be engaged.

I appreciate the opportunities for networking, learning, exploring, and growth that NIGP Forum 2025 gave me.

With Gratitude,

Cyndi Phillips, Procurement Coordinator
Douglas County Administration Department
Lawrence, Kansas 66044
(785) 832-5286; cphillips@dcok.gov

NIGP Forum 2025-Denver, CO/ Scholarship Appreciation and Conference Summary
KAPPP Team,

First, please accept my apologies for the delay in sending this. As you may know, Sedgwick County has been in the process of implementing a new financial system. In my role, I have been working closely with our IT/ERP team to define the processes necessary for Purchasing to function within the new system, including mapping out the sequence of these processes and their interaction with other financial operations across the organization. Thank you for your patience and understanding while I was MIA working through this transition.

I was honored to represent Sedgwick County and KAPPP at the 2025 NIGP Forum in Denver, CO. The scholarship I received from KAPPP helped make this opportunity possible, and I am sincerely grateful for their support.

As my first time attending Forum, it was both an educational and eye-opening experience. I gained valuable insights and perspectives that I look forward to applying in my role.

I especially enjoyed connecting with peers from other governmental organizations, sharing experiences, and realizing that there are many professionals—like myself—who care deeply about their fiscal responsibilities to the taxpayers they serve, whether at the city, county, or state level.

There were so many sessions offered that it was difficult to decide which ones to attend. From contract management to leadership development, every session I participated in was engaging and informative.

I was also excited to celebrate earning my NIGP-CPP alongside the rest of the Class of 2024–2025 who shared in that achievement.

It was truly an amazing experience, and one of the highlights of the conference was sharing a meal with my fellow KAPPP members. Moments like that are a great reminder that we are not alone in navigating the challenges of this profession. Only a fellow procurement professional can truly appreciate the thrill of negotiating a cost-saving contract—and the challenge of guiding it through the legal process! Lol

Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,
Lee Barrier, NIGP-CPP

Senior Purchasing Agent -Sedgwick County

Cyndi reflected on the inspiring speakers and informative sessions at Forum, especially those in the Legal Learning Path that deepened her understanding of contracts in public procurement, enhancing her ability to serve Douglas County and improve contract management and negotiations.

Scholarships Available

Financial support is now available for your professional development activities.

Behind every scholarship is a story of perseverance meeting opportunity.

Kudos

Introducing our new Kudos Newsletter Section!



This is your opportunity to shine a well-deserved spotlight on the everyday victories that often go unnoticed. It's a chance to express gratitude for the hard work, dedication, and support that happen behind the scenes but make all the difference.

Submit a brief kudos online to recognize a colleague - a couple sentences is all it takes! The kudos will be featured in the upcoming quarterly newsletter.

Celebrate the people who make our work - and our culture - award-worthy!!

Trivia

What is a key benefit of the Design/Build project delivery method?

- A) It allows for more time in the design phase, reducing pressure on decision-making
- B) It has a single point of responsibility for both design and construction
- C) It provides limited collaboration between the design and construction teams
- D) Its public bidding for the construction work leads to cost savings

Submit your answer to info@kapp.org to be entered into a drawing to win a prize at the end of the year!