

SOUTHEAST TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC PURCHASING

THE PUBLIC PURCHASER NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026 ISSUE



NIGP Official
Chapter



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

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



Announcements



March is Procurement Month

This March, we celebrate the professionals who found their purpose in procurement—and the extraordinary impact you make every day. Public procurement is the quiet force that keeps cities running, schools equipped, roads safe, and essential services accessible to all.

This month, we honor the choice to build a career in public procurement: a choice rooted in integrity, stewardship, and service. It is a profession often working behind the scenes yet shaping outcomes that touch millions. Procurement professionals are the connectors, the problem-solvers, the guardians of public trust—unsung heroes whose decisions strengthen communities and elevate the quality of life for everyone. Procurement Month is a celebration of pride, purpose, and the profound influence of a profession that rarely seeks the spotlight—but always delivers impact.

Public Procurement: Choose it once. Live it always.

Kick Off Procurement Month Webinar
with Debbie Trueblood, NIGP CEO





Announcements

During our first quarter meeting, we recognize excellence in public procurement, by awarding our Awards and Scholarships for the year.

NIGP believes it is important to recognize and acknowledge those individuals who strive to elevate the procurement profession.

These honors include:

Buyer of the Year

Manager of the Year

Debbie Kaminski Lone Star Conference Scholarship
and

Darcell Ambres Scholarships

Let's say **CONGRATULATIONS!!!**



Announcements

Manager of the Year:
Veronica Douglas



Buyer of the Year:
Allison Cruz





Announcements

Debbie Kaminski Lone Star Conference Scholarship: Angela Kostecki



Darcell Ambres Scholarships: Debbie Kaminski Juan Diaz, Susan Chevalier and Shannon Pleasant





Announcements



Thank you to Norma Weaver and our Awards and Scholarships Committee for your work in making this program a success!





Announcements



**DO WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS?
Please make sure your email is updated with us.**

- [Click here to log in to the SETAPP website](#)
- [Go to your profile](#)
- [Click on Basic Member Information](#)
- [Edit to make any changes and save.](#)

We don't want you to miss anything!!!



Announcements

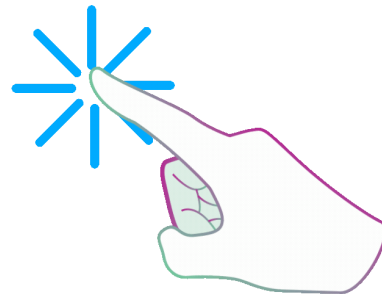
Help us grow our online community.
Follow us and Connect with us.



FACEBOOK



LINKED IN

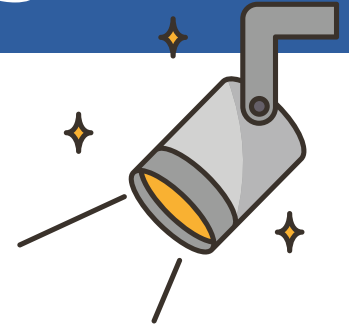


Member Spotlight

SETAPP SECRETARY

Juan Diaz

Senior Contract Administrator
City of Houston



How long have you been in public procurement? 11 years

Personal interests and hobbies: Spending family time

First job: Inventory and Purchasing Clerk

Tell us something about yourself that most of us don't know: Working on old cars and trucks

What's cooking at your house on the holidays?

Tamales and Ponche

What's some things on your bucket list? Go to Rome, Italy

Educational Opportunities

LATEST TRENDS AND INFORMATION IMPACTING THE PROFESSION

Webinars

Real-Time Learning, Real-Time Connections—A Can't-Miss Opportunity

As a member, enjoy unlimited, no-cost access to these live sessions. Each educational-focused webinar grants one (1) contact hour upon completion, fueling your professional development.

Don't miss your chance to learn, grow, and network with like-minded procurement pros. **Save your spot today and discover the difference NIGP webinars can make in your career.**

Questions?

Contact Customer Care at customer care@nigp.org.

Educational Focused

Practical skill-building sessions. (1 Contact Hour)

Gain valuable insights and enhance your practical skills in key public procurement functions through our Educational Focused webinars. Facilitated by experienced procurement professionals and industry partners, these sessions deliver innovative strategies, best practices, and real-world experiences. Whether you're looking to immediately apply new skills on the job or stay informed about the latest developments in procurement, these webinars offer a focused and impactful learning experience to drive your expertise forward.


APR
9

Webinar - Executive Briefing - Why Vendors Don't Bid and What Actually Increases Competition

 Webinar


APR
16

Webinar - Executive Briefing - One Man Army - Building a due diligence program with limited resources

 Webinar


MAY
20

Webinar - Technology Procurements: What Could Possibly Go Wrong?

 Webinar


APR
15

Webinar - Debriefs Demystified: From Missed Opportunity to Meaningful Practice

 Webinar


MAY
13

Webinar - ADHD in the Workplace

 Webinar

JUN
10

Webinar - Procurement as a Strategic Partner: Elevating the Role of Public Procurement

 Webinar

Educational Opportunities



NIGP LEADERSHIP MASTERCLASS

Introducing NIGP Leadership Masterclasses

The NIGP Leadership Masterclass is a dynamic program designed to transform mid-to-senior-level procurement professionals into influential leaders. Facilitated by Lourdes Coss, MPA, NIGP-CPP, CPPO, each one of these masterclasses delivers a high-impact, executive-level experience rooted in the globally respected Maxwell Leadership framework.

This isn't just about managing tasks, it's about leading people. You will master the art of influential communication, learn to inspire your team, and develop a strategic vision that drives your entity forward. Gain the skills to navigate complex challenges, make ethical decisions, and become a trusted leader in the field.

Upon completion, you'll receive a **Maxwell Leadership certificate**, a credential that recognizes your commitment to professional growth and signals that you are ready to lead.

1 Day

8 Contact Hours

Facilitator

Lourdes Coss, NIGP-CPP, CPPO,
MPA

[View Bio](#)



Coaching for High Performance: Empowering Procurement Leaders to Inspire Excellence

This workshop provides the tools and strategies to help you move from a directive to a developmental leadership style. Using procurement-specific case studies, you'll learn to build trust, foster accountability, and unlock your team's full potential, ensuring continuous improvement and results.

[Register for the April 9th Course](#)



Strategic Leadership & Business Planning for High-Impact Results

Learn to refine your priorities and align your actions with your values. You'll leave with a practical, strategic plan to confidently lead your team and achieve measurable results.

[Register for the June 5th Course](#)

PROCUREMENT NEWS

NIGP Blog

nigp.org/blog

Blogs > Mentorship Matters > Mentorship Is a “Heart Healthy” Investment in Your Procurement Career

Discover What's Next with Debbie: Celebrating Procurement Month



Debbie Trueblood, MSW, FASAE, CAE, IOM



Why I Mentor and Why I Never Hesitate to Say Yes



Brandy Hazel NIGP-CPP, CPPB, MBA



Mentorship Is a “Heart Healthy” Investment in Your Procurement Career



Keith Glatz, FNIGP, NIGP-CPP, CPPPO



PROCUREMENT NEWS

Radio NIGP

March 2026: Thinking Differently Continued



Radio NIGP

Send Us Your Comments & Questions

radio@nigp.org

EVENT SPOTLIGHT- 1st Quarter Meeting

1st Quarter Meeting Highlights March 5, 2026



Speakers: Bob Wooten and
Michael Skelton with
Tradition Energy
Topic: How Rising Grid-Intensive
Loads Are Reshaping Demand
Growth & Market Dynamics

Committee
Reports

Awards & Scholarships
Presentation

Buntinis &

Procurement Month
Appreciation Gift



UPCOMING EVENTS



NIGP Forum 2026 Experience


Join us for an immersive experience built around driving your professional progress. You'll deepen your commitment to learning and growing, tap into the power of transformative networking and connection, explore disruptive innovation, and celebrate the accomplishments that shape our community.

The Core Components of the Forum Experience

- Get Inspired**
[Learn more >](#)
- Learn and Grow**
[Learn more >](#)
- Build Connections**
[Learn more >](#)
- Find Solutions**
[Learn more >](#)
- Celebrate Colleagues**
[Learn more >](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS



GET INSPIRED

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Our lineup of keynote plenary speakers will challenge your thinking and fuel your next big idea.

Speaker Announcements coming March 2026

LEARN AND GROW

This year's learning experience is reimagined for the modern procurement professional—bold, member-driven, and designed to deliver exactly what you need.

Shaped by extensive member feedback, this year's Forum offers a powerful blend of foundational and advanced sessions, immersive learning paths and workshops, and real-world insights you can put to work immediately.

Whether you're joining us in Columbus or tuning in virtually, you'll gain fresh perspectives, actionable strategies, and develop future-ready skills designed to elevate your impact. NIGP Forum is not just a conference, it's your launchpad for what's next in public procurement.

Badged Learning Paths

Back by Popular Demand

NIGP is collaborating with procurement experts to develop four new Learning Paths:

- Technology
- Leadership
- Project Management
- Construction

FOUNDATIONAL THEMES

- Procurement Process Fundamentals
- Contracting & Compliance Basics
- Communication & Collaboration Skills
- Customer Engagement & Service Mindset
- Strategic Thinking
- Digital Tools & Technology Readiness

ADVANCED THEMES

- Strategic Leadership & Organizational Impact
- Strategic Digital & AI-Driven Procurement
- Data-Informed Decision-Making & Metrics
- Political Acumen & Organizational Navigation
- Leadership Maturity & People Management

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS

- Advanced Contracting & Risk Mitigation
- Requests for Proposals
- Advanced Negotiations & Relationship Management
- Legal
- Cooperative Procurement

UPCOMING EVENTS



BUILD CONNECTIONS

ENTITY NETWORKING
IN PERSON ATTENDEES


Innovation thrives through meaningful connections. Dive into collaborative networking sessions designed to help you connect with fellow attendees, exchange insights, build lasting relationships, and discover fresh approaches that can inspire and elevate your work in procurement.

DISCOVER NEW SOLUTIONS




Innovation Theaters

Step into the future of procurement. These dedicated theaters are your hub for cutting-edge insights. Connect with thought leaders and leave equipped with the proven, actionable tools to shape your professional future.




Solution Series

See results in action as supplier success stories reveal the newest innovations and provide the practical blueprint you need to elevate your own procurement strategy.



Products Expo

Maximize your time. Connect face-to-face with 280+ government suppliers in one location. Explore the vast exhibit hall to see the latest products, services, and engage directly with product experts.



Procurement Excellence Showcase

Step into our interactive exhibit where procurement's best reveal their secrets! Explore the latest peer-driven success stories and innovative processes firsthand. Cast your vote for the top project and gain actionable, real-world insights from colleagues' greatest achievements. Details on how to participate coming Spring 2026.

UPCOMING EVENTS



CELEBRATE YOUR COLLEAGUES



Forum Social Event

The Premier Social Event of the Year! Cap off the conference with an unforgettable celebration. Raise a glass to our community success and enjoy a relaxed setting designed for high-quality networking and fun conversation.



Awards Celebration

Celebrate and recognize the industry's highest achievers, individuals whose lasting impact and commitment are setting new benchmarks for procurement excellence.

AUGUST 23 - 26, 2026

Register for Forum

EARLY REGISTRATION

ENDS MAY 31, 2026

Two ways to participate:



In Person

EARLY: \$1,015 Members | \$1,265 Non-Members



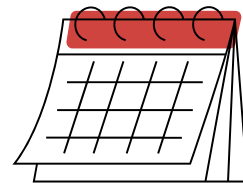
Virtual

EARLY: \$299 Members | \$399 Non-Members

UPCOMING EVENTS



Upcoming SETAPP EVENTS



May 14th - Vendor Expo

June 11th - Q2 Meeting

Sept. 4th - Pro D Day

Oct. 22nd - Q3 Meeting

Dec. 3rd - Q4 Meeting

COMMITTEES

Here at SETAPP,
there are lots of opportunities for volunteerism!

Join a committee or even Chair one!

Reach out to VP, Sandra Melancon to get involved.

Email: sandra.melancon@pur.hctx.net

Public Relations Committee

Help us maintain our online presence.
Publish Quarterly Newsletters



Education Committee

Help organize annual educational and
professional development events.



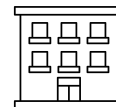
Membership Committee

Help build and maintain a healthy
membership.



Program/Facilities Committee

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



Legislative Committee

Help keep membership informed of
legislative changes.



CHAPTER CONTACTS

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Program and Facilities Chair and Data Protection Officer

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