

SOUTHEAST TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC PURCHASING

THE PUBLIC PURCHASER NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026 ISSUE



NIGP Official
Chapter



2026 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

President: Christopher Kaminski

Vice-President: Sandra Melancon

Secretary: Juan Diaz

Treasurer: Tina Vega

Immediate Past President:

Jedediah Greenfield

This issue

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- **Announcements**
- **Member Spotlight**
- **Education**
- **Procurement News**
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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.

2026 President's Message

President's Message

Chris Kaminski, NIGP-CPP, SETAPP President

As I embark on my third year as President of the Southeast Texas Association of Public Purchasing (SETAPP), I am immensely proud to witness our chapter continuing to thrive, grow, and progress in a direction that benefits all our esteemed members. My aim is to sustain this momentum and propel our chapter to new heights by providing an array of exciting new events, opportunities, trainings, and conferences for our membership.

SETAPP is an exemplary organization, endowed with a wealth of resources for connecting with other entities, seeking answers, sharing ideas, and more. I encourage all our members to reach out and engage with fellow members in any manner possible and fully utilize the extensive offerings of SETAPP.

Since establishment in 1993, SETAPP has been committed to enhancing public purchasing practices, upholding high ethical standards, and advancing the public procurement profession. The organization promotes integrity, transparency, and accountability to maintain excellence in public procurement and safeguard the public trust.

Thank you for granting me the privilege of being part of the SETAPP Board. I eagerly anticipate the remarkable achievements we will realize together.

Thank You,
Chris Kaminski, NIGP-CPP
SETAPP President





Announcements



January is membership renewal time.

**[Click here to log in to the SETAPP website](#)
and **renew your membership if you haven't yet.****

Dues can be paid by cc or check.

Benefits Include:

Educational Events

Professional Development

Scholarship Opportunities

Continuing Education Credits

Networking with Peers

Fun and Fellowship

Volunteer Opportunities

Annual Vendor Expo

Bragging Rights

And More!

NIGP Official
Chapter





Announcements



The Membership Committee chair position is open due to Juan being elected to our Secretary position so we are now looking for his replacement. Juan will be able to assist you in the training for the position. If interested please email Sandra Melancon at sandra.melancon@pur.hctx.net ASAP!!!

SETAPP Executive Board of Directors



Announcements

SETAPP Awards and Scholarships

It's that time of year to honor members! The award and scholarship forms are now available for submission. You can nominate yourself or nominate another deserving member. The criteria is listed on each form and be sure to submit any required documentation. This is a great opportunity to receive SETAPP funds for continuing education so don't wait and don't miss out. FYI, there will be no Lone Star Conference in 2026 so the funds for that award will carry over for 2027 when the conference is hosted by the DFW Chapter.

Forms are due by Monday, February 9th.

SETAPP Executive Board of Directors



[Manager of the Year](#)



[Buyer of the Year](#)



[Kaminski Lone Star Conference](#)



[Darcell Ambres Scholarship](#)

Announcements



Don't be a stranger y'all!

LET'S STAY CONNECTED



FACEBOOK

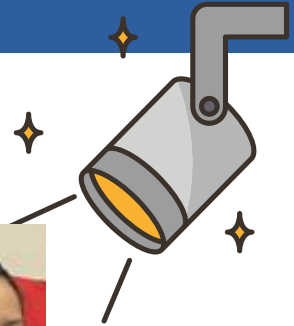


LINKED IN

Member Spotlight

Tina Vega

MEET OUR NEW TREASURER



A mother of 4 children and 6 grandchildren, Tina graduated with her Bachelor's in Accounting from University of Houston- Downtown. She currently works for the Department of Treasury- Internal Revenue Service as an Internal Revenue Agent in the Tax Exempt & Government Entities department.

Previously with Harris County, she was shy just 4 months from hitting her 10 year mark when she moved to her next role. Vega started with Adult Probation, then Commissioner Pct 1, and lastly with Commissioner Pct 2. While working with the County, she worked in Finance, Procurement/Travel, and managed other administrative duties.

Vega is also a real estate agent with Keller Williams Houston Central and enjoys volunteering with a variety of organizations such as Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo, Bayou City Art Festival, Comicpalooza and others. Vega is currently part of multiple Associations such as NIGP, GFOA, ALPFA, and NSA. She is a person who likes to learn and help others grow.

One other thing she doesn't mention much anymore - is that she was a widow at the age of 21. Widow at 21 with 4 children. A lot of people ask Vega, "how do you do it all?". She smiles and says, "One day at a time and 1 task at a time. Of course, nothing is ever done without the man upstairs. He would not give me more than what I can handle."

Educational Opportunities



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

**Get Your Testing Fee Reimbursed
when you complete either or both new Exam
Modules during the February 2026 window.
Reimbursements will be sent to all candidates who
sit for and complete the new Exam Modules only.
This special program is presented by 1GPA to
support procurement leaders as they advance in
the profession.**



New FREE Competencies Course For Current NIGP-CPPs Available On-Demand

Registration details have already been sent to NIGP-CPPs who earned their certification through November 2025 testing.

As part of the updated Job Task Analysis, **17 new technical competencies** have been identified as essential for today's procurement leaders.

To ensure every NIGP-CPP stays current, NIGP has created a free, on-demand New Competencies Course exclusively for current NIGP-CPPs. Because you attained the NIGP-CPP by successfully completing Exam Modules A and B, the New Competencies Course has been designed to provide education to you – at no charge by NIGP – on the 17 new technical competencies.

What You Need to Know

- Completing this course is required for recertification
- You'll earn 3 Continuing Education Hours (CEHs) upon completion
- Your completion will be recorded in your ASPIRE profile, and the CEHs will automatically transfer to your NIGP-CPP Recertification Application

Educational Opportunities

NIGP-CPP CERTIFICATION

WHY ATTAIN YOUR NIGP-CPP

2,800+ approved NIGP-CPP candidates and counting....

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

WHY EARN THE NIGP-CPP

NIGP-CPP is one of several ways a procurement professional can be publicly recognized for the achievement of competencies. The program is offered by NIGP - the leading public procurement association that serves as a trusted advisor to more than 2,600+ public agencies and 18,000+ public procurement professionals throughout North America.



Educational Opportunities

SCHEDULE TODAY

Offerings Catalog

NIGP offers a wide-range of learning experiences ranging from 1/2 day to 3 days. In addition, our 2, 4 & 7 week courses allow you to study on your own and then come together with peers and an NIGP instructor to discuss concepts in detail. Our courses come in various delivery formats: Virtual Instructor-Led, In-Person and On-Demand. Choose your course and choose what format works best for you!

AVAILABLE COURSEWORK

** All Members receive 20% off if registering 60 days prior to the course start date.

Course Offerings Catalog | NIGP

just to mention a few courses coming up in February

Specialization Certificate: Technology Scope of Work and Cyber Security

February 13

1 Day | Contact Hours: 8.0 | CEUs: 0.8

Delivery Format: Virtual Instructor-Led

Price: \$350 Member | \$450 Non-Member

Competency Module: Negotiations

February 13

1/2 Day | Contact Hours: 4 | CEUs: 0.4

Delivery Format: Virtual Instructor-Led

Price: \$180 Member | \$280 Non-Member

Core Certificate: Foundations of Technology Procurement

February 16 - 18

3 Day | Contact Hours: 28 | CEUs: 2.8

Delivery Format: Virtual Instructor-Led

Price: \$670 Member | \$770 Non-Member

Advanced Legislation and Legal Environment

February 16 - 17

2 Days | Contact Hours: 16 | CEUs: 1.6

Delivery Format: Virtual Instructor-Led

Price: \$479 Member | \$579 Non-Member

EARN MONEY FOR YOUR CHAPTER

NIGP Learning Giveback Program

Enroll in a NIGP-hosted course, elevate your procurement expertise, and simultaneously fuel your chapter's financial growth.

The process is effortless - register for any NIGP course and, during the registration process, select your chapter from the dropdown menu. With that single action, NIGP will contribute 5% of the course's gross revenue to your chapter.

PROCUREMENT NEWS

NIGP Blog

nigp.org/blog

Welcome to the NIGP Blog, the place to explore a diverse range of perspectives on the world of public procurement. From personal anecdotes to legal insights, practical tips to career development guidance, our blog offers a comprehensive and engaging platform for you to connect with the latest trends, insights, and ideas in the industry.

Direct from the CEO

A New Chapter for NIGP: Reflections from My First Months as CEO



Debbie Trueblood, MSW, FASAE, CAE, IOM

Radio NIGP

[Radio NIGP](#)

Dive into the dynamic world of public procurement with RADIO NIGP! Join a passionate community of procurement professionals sharing captivating stories, insightful expertise, and relevant discussions on today's hottest topics. Get ready to be informed, entertained, and inspired!

January 2026: Thinking Differently! What ideas might you pursue this year?



Send Us Your Comments & Questions
radio@nigp.org

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.



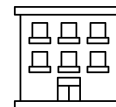
Membership Committee

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.



EVENT SPOTLIGHT- 4th QUARTER MEETING

Thank you SETAPP for an awesome 2025!



Our Q4 Meeting started off with a blessing over the meal, and an expression of gratitude for everyone joining us .



EVENT SPOTLIGHT- 4th QUARTER MEETING



THANK YOU TO OUR EXECUTIVE BOARD,
COMMITTEE CHAIRS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS
AND EVENT VOLUNTEERS FOR ALL THAT
YOU DO THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.



EVENT SPOTLIGHT- 4th QUARTER MEETING



*We couldn't do it without you.
THANK YOU!!!!*



EVENT SPOTLIGHT- 4th QUARTER MEETING

WE DID OUR NEW OFFICER INSTALLATION



**Thank you for a great 2025
and we're looking forward to an
even better 2026!**

EVENT SPOTLIGHT- 4th QUARTER MEETING

Then it was
time for

Fun & Games



Teamwork



&



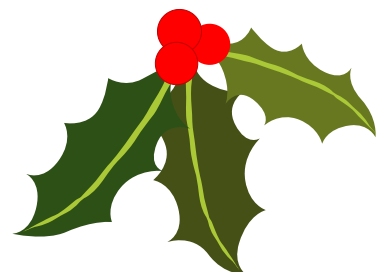
Prizes Galore!



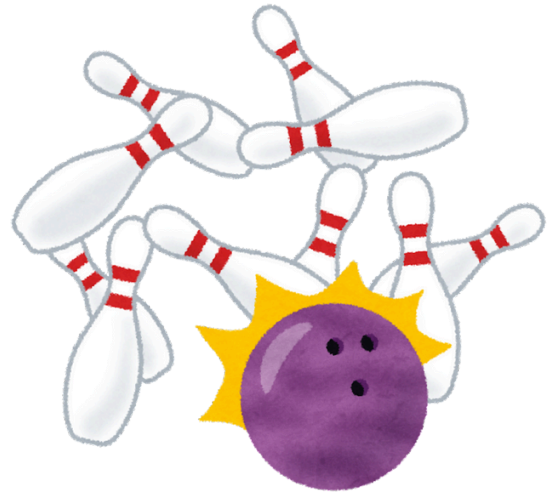
EVENT SPOTLIGHT- 4th QUARTER MEETING



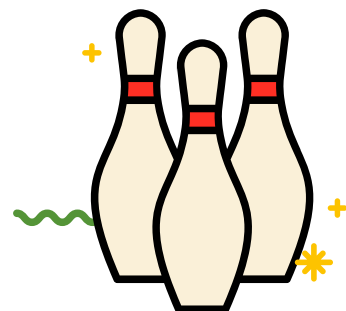
Everyone had a
GOOD TIME



EVENT SPOTLIGHT- 4th QUARTER MEETING



EVENT SPOTLIGHT- 4th QUARTER MEETING



UPCOMING EVENTS



1st Quarter Meeting-2026-How Rising Grid-Intensive Loads Are Reshaping Demand Growth & Market

Our 1st Quarter meeting for 2026 will be at HCAD. Representatives from Tradition Energy will discuss rising grid-intensive loads—from data centers and AI expansion to electrified fleets and industrial growth—are driving some of the most significant shifts in U.S. power demand in decades. These changes are reshaping price dynamics, generation needs, and long-term market risk for large energy users. They will break down what's driving this new wave of demand and what it means for SETAPP members and their energy strategies. We will also announce the Awards and Scholarship winners.

Date and Time

Thursday, March 5, 2026, 11:30 AM until 1:00 PM

Location

HCAD Room 641
13013 NW Freeway
Houston, TX 77040
USA

[Register Now](#)

In-Person: Chickfila Regular Chicken Sandwich box *

\$15.00

In-Person No Food/Drink *

(No Fee)

Virtual *

(No Fee)

In-Person: Chickfila Market Salad *

\$15.00

In-Person: Chickfila Spicy Chicken Sandwich Box *

\$15.00

Event Contact(s)

debbie Kaminski

Program/Facility Chair

281-344-7777 (p)

2813447777 (c)

kaminskid60@hotmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS



Leadership Summit

In Person February 19 - 21, 2026

Tucson, Arizona

Recharge Your Leadership. Reignite Your Purpose.

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

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

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

CHAPTER CONTACTS

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