NEXTGEN VOICES

2026 NIGP NEXTGEN LEADER

Kindra Coggins, NIGP-CPP
Procurement Manager
City of Corvallis, OR

What does this recognition mean to you?

Public procurement is ever-changing, and many of our stakeholders still aren't particularly fond of the rules and regulations that come with it. Receiving this recognition means so much to me because it represents my commitment to my peers, stakeholders, and the public procurement profession as a leader. Receiving this recognition at the same time as earning my NIGP-CPP has also given me a tremendous confidence boost.

When I applied for this recognition, I thought, "Out of the entire country, there's no way my leadership in my tiny town could really have an impact." But it did. That realization has meant so much to me, and I am incredibly glad I took the chance and applied.

Why did you choose a career in public procurement?

You will likely hear many people say they didn't choose procurement but rather they simply fell into it. That is exactly what happened to me. Like many other leaders in our profession, I want to help change that. I want to help the next generation discover public procurement, understand the important role we play, and see just how much of an impact we can have on our organizations and our communities.

How has NIGP helped support your growth and learning?

I have been a member of NIGP for as long as I can remember. Over the years, I have taken a variety of courses, including Legal Aspects of Public Procurement and Advanced Legislation and Legal Environments, and I earned my Public Procurement Associate Designation in 2022. The NIGP-CPP prep courses were also instrumental in my success on

the exam and gave me the confidence and preparation I needed to take that next step in my professional development.

NIGP offers so many other valuable resources, including the Career Concierge Program, mentoring, the document library, NSite, white papers, and so much more. I visit the NIGP website multiple times a week when I'm stumped on something and need quick guidance. Having access to a professional community and resources like these has been invaluable throughout my career.

Did you attend Forum in person or virtually? What was your experience like?

After more than a decade in public procurement, I was finally able to attend my first NIGP Forum in person this year, and it did not disappoint! I learned so many valuable tools and ideas, met AMAZING people, and experienced the kindness and hospitality of those who are Forum veterans. I even volunteered as a session monitor, which was a little scary if you don't particularly enjoy speaking into a crowd, but it was SO worth it. Forum helped me understand I am part of a profession filled with people who genuinely want to learn, grow, share, and make a difference. I am proud to be part of that community, and I am excited to continue learning and leading.