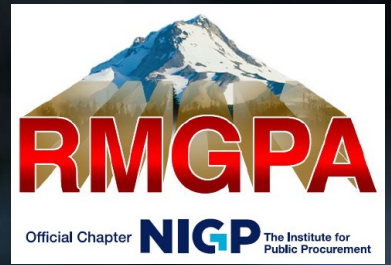


ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOVERNMENTAL PURCHASING ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2021 / 2022



UPCOMING:

CPPB Prep

January 12 – February 9

NIGP-CPP Module A Prep

January 10-24

NIGP-CPP Module B Prep

January 24-February 7

RMGPA Board Meeting

January 26

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Contact Information

Email submissions to:
newsletter@rmgpa.org



Diana Cantu,
RMGPA President

Letter from the President

Hello, RMGPA members...it has been an honor to serve as your president. I would like to acknowledge that together, we have successfully adjusted and navigated through this pandemic to celebrate our professional and personal growth. 2020 and 2021 actually created many teachable moments for each one of us. The last time we were physically together was for our spring conference in 2020. We had our first virtual winter conference in 2020 and then our 2021 virtual summer conference, both of which had high member participation. For our winter conference we were able to attend either in person or virtually. Look how far we have come! We were able to ***Celebrate Excellence in Public Procurement! We got your back!***

This year's winter conference was important to our organization as we celebrated our 40th Anniversary. Rocky Mountain Governmental Purchasing Association (RMGPA) was established 40 years ago and is a diverse, non-profit organization whose membership includes purchasing officers, agents, buyers, managers and others associated with public purchasing throughout Colorado and Wyoming. RMGPA has been a member chapter of NIGP (National Association of Governmental Purchasing) since 1987.

Our conference was focused on celebrating you as a procurement professional. Rick Grimm, NIGP Chief Executive, was in attendance and provided an insightful presentation. We had multiple speakers, such as Bill Munch, NIGP Chapter Ambassador for Area 9, Kevin McCarthy & Likky Lavji, from Blind Spots Global, and Hall of Fame business keynote speaker Marilyn Sherman. There were various relevant and meaningful breakout sessions available to our members. In addition, to support our conference, we had a platinum sponsor and 13 vendors present for our Vendor Trade Show Networking Event. Topping off the evening was a Member Recognition and Appreciation Dinner where we celebrated RMGPA's 40th anniversary. Past presidents and member's professional accomplishments were recognized, and the first Shannon's Gift Scholarship was presented and awarded.

I look forward to working with the new board as we continue to focus on our mission: **To provide our membership with the education, professional development, and technical assistance required to secure the public trust through the promotion of excellence and effectiveness in Public Procurement.**

Be well and take care.

2021 Winter Conference – Vendor Event - 40TH Anniversary Celebration
December 2nd & 3rd, 2021
Westin at Westminster

***CELEBRATE!* EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT**

We got your back!

Submitted by Traci Burtnett, Programs Co-Chair

WOW! Once again, a jammed packed RMGPA program did not disappoint! RMGPA wrapped-up its 2021 Winter Conference – Vendor Expo - 40th Anniversary celebration in GRAND STYLE with a tremendously successful event! Initial impressions from those in attendance indicated the conference was “one of the best” provided by RMGPA.

The programs committee is especially proud to have achieved another ***first***, by providing members a Hybrid conference format with 65 members attending in-person and 35 members attending virtually. We had many great presentations plus a variety of breakout sessions, well attended vendor trade show exhibit tables, along with an evening event celebrating the 40th anniversary full of member recognitions and awards.

We are proud of our profession and what we do for our respective organizations. The one thing that has brought us together time and time again is our profession – public procurement. If you were not able to make it, you missed a bold, engaging and educational event. Here’s a taste of what you missed:

RMGPA was especially honored to have Rick Grimm, NIGP Chief Executive join us as our special guest. Rick started the event off with some heart-felt welcome back remarks to reconnect with the RMGPA family. He gave a dynamic presentation “Picture-Perfect Procurement” sharing thought-provoking insights by exploring how key attributes of a professional photographer apply toward a successful professional public purchasing official.

The first day program was accentuated by two presentations from Kevin McCarthy, and Likky Lavji, BlindSpots Global. They jump-started the agenda with an opening keynote “Blind Spot Breakthroughs for Team Excellence!” They gave an equally engaging “Improving Team Culture by Design” wrap-up session of our workshop series. Their high-energy interaction reminded us to focus on what’s important, and to laugh.

Both days of the conference offered two concurrent breakout sessions on a variety of topics. Members were able to gain insight into “Vendor Debriefings: Out of the Multiverse of Madness” with Jake Smithwick, Center for Procurement Excellence; “Paradigm Shifts: Who Moved my Office?” with Tammy Rimes, NCPP that included a cooperative panel of OMNIA Partners and Sourcewell who shared insights and future trends; “Procurement Disputes” with Darin Matthews, Merrell US; and “Key Considerations for Complying with Uniform Guidance Procurement Rules” with Allison Slife, Principal at CliftonLarsonAllen. We anticipate many of these presenters will facilitate a Learning Lunch session in 2022 to reach more members.

CELEBRATE! EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

We got your back!

We wish to extend our esteemed appreciation to the conference Platinum Sponsor: Rocky Mountain BidNet Direct. Janine Rossi and Brittany Parker presented "Looking Ahead: Procurement with RMEPS". Members were able to get a better understanding about the scope and accessibility of the online tool.

Twelve additional suppliers staffed exhibit tables during the Vendor Networking Session. A huge Thank You is extended to Buckeye Cleaning Center, CDW-G, Cintas, Conserve-A-Watt Lighting, GovDeals, Hertz Furniture, Ion Wave Technologies, Merrell US, OMNIA Partners, Pro Chem, Second Life Mac and Sourcewell. It is with their generous monetary contribution of support that we are able to provide a top-quality event for the Association.

No conference as intensive as this one would be complete without an opportunity to kick back and celebrate. Thursday evening provided the venue to flash back 40 years through a historical picture slide show, member recognitions, awards, ugly holiday sweater contest, and Bingo, Trivia and raffle ticket prizes. Jim O'Neill, first RMGPA chapter president, conducted a champagne toast recognizing how far we've come and how far we can go!

Closing keynote speaker Marilyn Sherman knocked it out of the park with "Back to the New Future: How to Navigate your SEAT of Success". Marilyn inspired us to get out of that rut and motivated us to take a front-row seat in life. She left us feeling energized to take on whatever comes next. Success, delivered!

It is encouraging to hear the comments from membership of how much this event is appreciated. No other NIGP chapter has planned or achieved such success with now two highly successful events of this magnitude! AWESOME!

RMGPA wants to give a great big thank you to all the wonderful volunteers that helped put this event together and generate enough vendor sponsorship to make it happen! This would not be possible without these groups of people spending some of their valuable time making sure we have the best Winter Conference ever!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Programs Committee

Cheryl Gray, Chair
Traci Burtnett, Co-Chair
Becky Schaffstein
Alicia Armentrout

Vendor Trade Show Volunteer Coordinators

Shelly St. Pierre
Tim Wellmann

Shannon's Gift

Annual Educational Scholarship

Remembering Shannon Sprauge, mother, wife, friend, co-worker, RMGPA member, and a ball of light to anyone lucky enough to have known her.

The RMGPA Board, BidNet Direct, and Shannon's family were honored to announce this annual scholarship opportunity, open to any RMPGA member at the 2021 Winter Conference. The scholarship is Shannon's Gift, presented by BidNet Direct, and awards \$1000 to a RMGPA member to use towards continued education in public procurement. The scholarship will be awarded to one applicant each year. Applicants must be in good standing with RMGPA. Further details regarding this scholarship opportunity and how to apply will be provided by your 2022 Board of Directors and posted on the RMGPA website closer to the 2022 Winter Conference.



Shannon was a RMGPA member from 2006 through 2020. During that time, she served on the Board of Directors as the Marketing Chair from 2012-2015, and was elected Vice President at the end of 2019 for 2020 until she accepted a career change with Rocky Mountain BidNet.

Shannon's procurement career touched many organizations within the Denver Metro area. She shared her talents with the City of Westminster, the City of Thornton, the City of Brighton, the City & County of Denver, Auraria Higher Education Center, Denver Water Utility and Adams County.

May your journey continue with passion and a bit of sparkle. And may we always remember the important place Shannon had within our Association and hearts.

The following are notes from RMGPA members that were left for and about Shannon at the 2021 Winter Conference.

Shannon -
You always had
a smile and a
positive outlook on
life + your profession!
Your laugh was
infectious + I miss
that... Diana W.

I greatly
appreciated
Shannon's sweet
spirit & willingness
to jump in. & She is missed!
Ruth Smith

Love a miss you
so much, Shan!
Whit

Whitney Muford-Smith
City of Westridge

I've been away from
RMGPA for several years
but Shannon always stood
out for me. She'll be
missed. I'm sorry for
your family's loss.
Richard Pennington

Thanks for being one
of the first people to
help me get started
in the field of
procurement and for
being an awesome
friend and resource.
John Daly

Shan was very
involved in RMGPA
and encouraged
everyone in public
procurement. She
was a mentor and
great friend. Miss
you, Shanndel!
-Steve Tino

Shannon always
showed great support
for the industry +
education. She wore
her passion & kindness
on her sleeve. I'm
grateful to have known
& learned from her. @

A fast friend
and slow
eater! (u)
Zac Felts

I didn't get to know
Shannon, but I share her
passion. Change does not
happen overnight - & it certainly
doesn't happen on a grand scale.
It happens in our communities.
It happens w/ people like Shannon &
other place agent people like her -
striving to do the best for our patients.
- Melanie Ortiz

Shan,
you were a real
bend and you'll
always be loved,
remembered, and
missed - Kevin

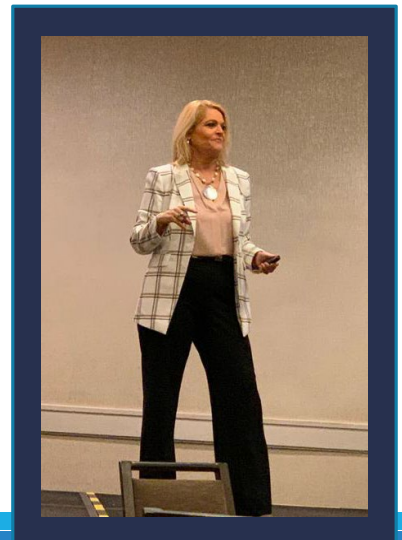
THE PROGRAMS
WE SUPPORT
SHOULD BE ABLE
TO LEGALLY &
EFFICIENTLY DO
THEIR WORK

2021 Shannon's Gift Recipient

Lisa Sharp



RMGPA Winter Conference and 40th Anniversary Celebration





2021 RMGPA Individual Award Winners



Shelly St. Pierre
Volunteer of the Year



Scott Harris
Buyer of the Year



Tyler Mellecker
Future Leader



Rick Grimm
Honorary Membership



Nathan Weatherford
2021 Manager of the Year

2022 RMGPA Executive Board

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Past President

Jon Babcock
David Musgrave
Marisa Donegon
Trudi Peepgrass
Diana Cantu



SPOTLIGHT: Chelsey Axtell



Tell us about your background.

I grew up in a small community called Castle Valley which is 22 miles from Moab, Utah. I met my husband when I was a junior in high school and we were married in 1994. I moved to Loveland, CO with my husband and two sons in 2007. The only kids we have at home now are two cats, Wilson and Francis, and we are enjoying every minute of being empty nesters.

Did you work in other professions prior to procurement and if so, where and for how long?

When my kids were little, I did daycare out of my house so that I could be home with them. My first “real” job once my kids were in school full time was with the Seventh Judicial District & Juvenile Courts for the State of Utah as a Court Clerk/Exhibit Clerk. There was never a dull moment with that job—adoptions were my favorite! After moving to Colorado, I worked at Centennial BOCES in Greeley as the Medicaid Coordinator. Unfortunately, due to budget cuts, my position was dissolved in 2010. I applied at SVVSD in October that year and started work on November 1st.

What organization do you currently work for and how long have you been there?

I currently work for St. Vrain Valley Schools (SVVSD) in Longmont. I started in November 2010 and just recently celebrated 11 years.

How did you get into the procurement field?

I saw a position open for Purchasing Secretary with SVVSD and thought, “what the heck—I’ll try Purchasing!” (Isn’t that pretty much how everyone gets into Purchasing?)

What is the most interesting purchase/project you have been involved in and what was your role?

PPE!!! Trying to get enough PPE in stock for our schools and admin. buildings was a challenge! It was also incredibly rewarding when I was able to find vendors and other agencies out there who wanted to help and I was able to get what our district needed and still continues to need.



SPOTLIGHT: Chelsey Axtell (Con't)

When did you join RMGPA and what have you enjoyed most about being a member of our organization?

I became a member of RMGPA in 2015. The recent winter conference was the first that I have attended and I was just struck by the family feel of it. Here is a group of people who haven't seen each other in two years, yet everyone is laughing and catching up on stories of how their kids and family are doing. I instantly felt right at home. Never once did I feel left out—I love that about this group!

How long have you been RMGPA's Newsletter Chair and what responsibilities do you have in this role?

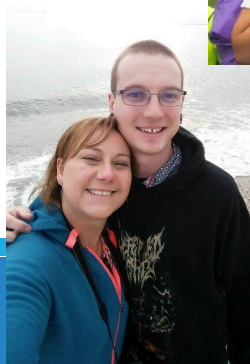
I was convinced by a dear friend (you know who you are!) that I needed to be the Newsletter Chair in April 2021. As I am weird and love to proofread and edit, of course I said yes! Every quarter, I gather upcoming class/webinar information as well as any notices of awards or accomplishments from members and their agencies. I obtain the President's letter and Spotlight article information and find free artwork that compliments the current season (or use photos submitted by RMGPA members). Once everything is put together, it then goes to the wonderful Newsletter Committee for review and editing.

Are there any professional and/or personal accomplishments you're proud of?

I am extremely proud of the advances that I have made in my current position at SVVSD. I started out there knowing nothing about the field of purchasing and now I am often the "go-to" person when people have questions.

Tell us about your interests/hobbies outside of work.

My youngest son and I attend as many concerts and baseball games as we can. I enjoy attending comedy shows and traveling with my family (especially if it's somewhere with an ocean). My mom and I love to check out the flea markets whenever possible (my husband does not love this). When I'm home, I like to craft, crochet or curl up with a good book.



Congratulations

NIGP-CPP Recipients

Brenda M. McGee
CPPB, NIGP-CPP

Adams 12 Five
Star Schools

Chariety Riggs
NIGP-CPP

Roaring Fork
Transportation
Authority

RMGPA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

RMGPA feels that education is key to our members' professional development and success. Because of this, many scholarship opportunities are available to those members who are unable to obtain funding to further their education. Below is a list of scholarships that are offered:

RMGPA CPPB-CPPO Scholarship

RMGPA General Scholarship

RMGPA NIGP Forum Scholarship

RMGPA New Member Scholarship

RMGPA Rewards

For more
information:

[Scholarship Information](#)



Free Online Classes from NASPO's Procurement U!

Update: The free classes have been extended until December 2022!

Over the past year, procurement professionals have led the way in procuring critical PPE and essential needs for state and local governments across the country. As a small token of profound appreciation for everything you do, the National Association of State Procurement Officials ([NASPO](#)) is making ALL Foundational Procurement courses FREE through December 2022. There are a wide variety to choose from, including:

- Creative Problem Solving
- Introduction to Service Contracts
- Blockchain: An Introduction
- And many more!

[You can create a free Procurement U account and sign up for these courses here.](#)

Note that most Procurement U courses are self-paced, so you can start them at any time.



Questions?

Email procurementu@naspo.org

Pathways Workforce Development provides a career roadmap you can follow based on your current and future roles in the public procurement profession.

Why Pathways Workforce?

NIGP provides the tools and resources for individuals and organizations to expand the boundaries of their potential and take command of their career journey.

Individual Benefits

NIGP provides a customized roadmap that takes you from point A to Z. Here's what it can do for you:

- Maintain job market competitiveness
- Focus on continued growth and improvement
- Get the flexibility you need to meet the demands of any schedule
- Access to ongoing support for new and seasoned professionals
- Develop overarching competencies needed to be productive in the workplace

Organizational Benefits

NIGP does the due diligence to ensure procurement professionals develop the appropriate competencies they need to succeed in their roles and best service their organization's growth and succession plans. Here's how Pathways Workforce can help your entity:

- Attract new, diverse talent
- Improve employee retention
- Create and maintain a strong leadership pipeline for succession planning
- Develop the organizational infrastructure for a deep and effective talent pool
- Nurture and grow the competencies to deliver effective procurement practices for the public sector

[READ MORE](#)

NIGP Pathways Workforce Development

NEW NIGP Headliner Series

Live, Interactive and Impactful

We're excited to introduce a new virtual learning experience designed for real-world impact.

The NIGP Headliner Series feature compact sessions on the hot procurement topics that impact your career, your entity, and your community. The Series gets right to the heart of the matter by identifying the hard facts of these procurement headlines and what it means for you. These series analyze the critical challenges in the profession, and offer practical solutions from subject matter experts to help you make informed decisions. Handouts will be provided at the end of each session.

Series priced affordably with our members' budget constraints top-of-mind.

\$79 Member/per topic

\$179 Non-Member/per topic

Group Discounts Available - Contact Customer Care at customercare@nigp.org

ARPA and the CARES Act

We understand how important topics such as ARPA and the CARES Act are to you and your entity, that's why we're kicking off the Headliner Series on January 12 with this two-part learning event on Federal Grants Funding.

FEDERAL GRANTS FUNDING - REGISTER NOW

Join procurement experts as they demystify Federal Grants Funding. Learn the rules attached to specific sources of funding and how to correctly report for auditing purposes.

Part 1 - General Information, Guidance, and Best Practices

January 12, 1PM - 5PM (ET) | Contact Hours: 4

Part 2 - Federal Grant Funding Current Issues Related to ARPA and the CARES Act

January 19, 1PM - 4PM (ET) | Contact Hours: 3

\$79 Member and \$179 Non-Member (pricing includes all parts in topic)

Additional Topics in the Headliner Series include:

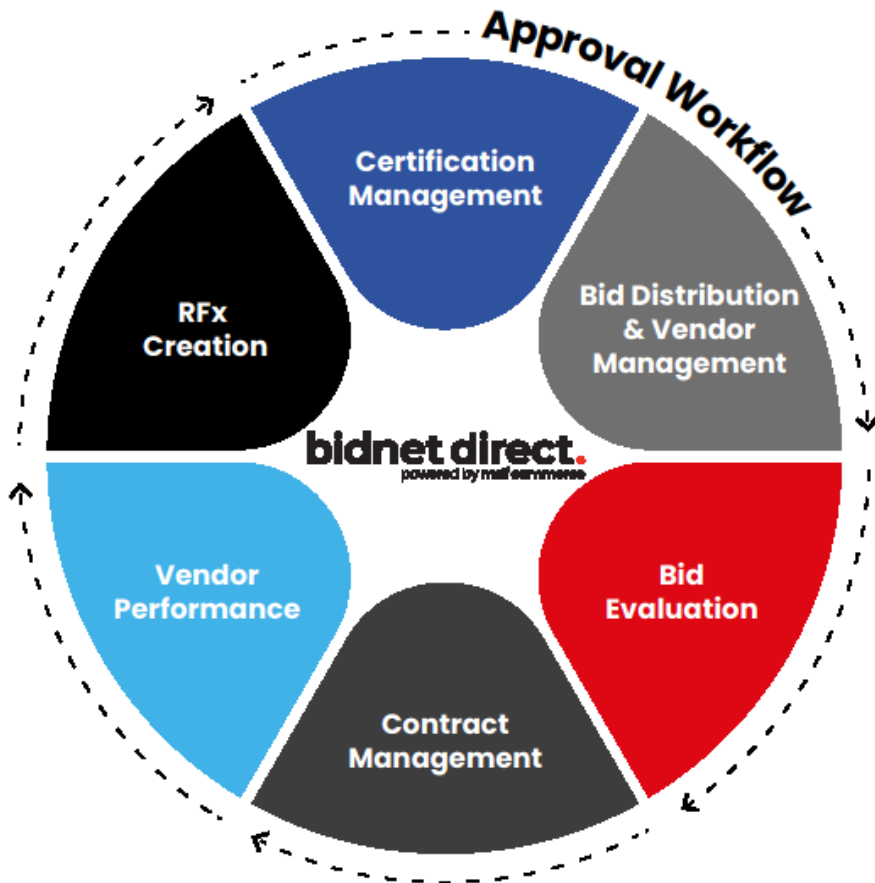
Supply Chain

Finance & Procurement

Negotiation: Identifying Winning Strategies

[READ MORE](#)

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2021 RMGPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President	Diana Cantu, CPPB	president@rmgpa.org	303-702-7715
Vice President	Jon Babcock	vicepresident@rmgpa.org	970-490-3545
Secretary	Jamaica Watts	secretary@rmgpa.org	
Treasurer	Marisa Donegon, CPPB	treasurer@rmgpa.org	719-641-0402
Past President	Traci Gorman, CPPO, CPPB	pastpres@rmgpa.org	

2021 STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Awards	Amanda Zila	awards@rmgpa.org	303-866-4005
Chapter Enhancement/ Vendor Liaison	VACANT	vendorevents@rmgpa.org	
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Education/Professional Development	VACANT	prod@rmgpa.org	
Elections	Skyler Thimens	elections@rmgpa.org	970-443-4780
Historian	Pat Johnson	historian@rmgpa.org	970-221-6816
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Marketing	Brenda Hannu	marketing@rmgpa.org	720-913-8118
Membership	Doug Clapp	membership@rmgpa.org	970-590-9792
Newsletter	Chelsey Axtell	newsletter@rmgpa.org	303-702-7769
Programs	Cheryl Gray	programs@rmgpa.org	970-208-9526

2021 STANDING COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS			
POSITION	OFFICER NAME	E-MAIL	PHONE
Awards	Curt Decapite, CPPB	awards@rmgpa.org	
Chapter Enhancement/ Vendor Liaison	Christine Weber, C.P.M., CPPB	vendorevents@rmgpa.org	303-828-6094
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Marketing	Nicol Suddreth	marketing@rmgpa.org	720-865-7508
Membership	Jim Walker, CPPO, CPPB	membership@rmgpa.org	720-442-0708
Newsletter	Kelly Wooden, CPPO, CPPB	newsletter@rmgpa.org	307-766-5546
Programs	Traci Burtnett	programs@rmgpa.org	303-682-7309

