

ICMA Student Chapter 2017-2018

Appalachian State University

The Appalachian State University ICMA Student Chapter had a very eventful year. The chapter had four meetings over the fall and spring semesters. In addition to Student Chapter attendance, members were involved in various local government conferences in North Carolina. Events attended outside the Student Chapter by our members include the North Carolina City and County Management Association (NCCCMA), North Carolina Local Government Budget Association (NCLGBA), and the North Carolina Criminal Justice Association.

Fall Semester

The ICMA Student Chapter assisted the Appalachian State University Local Government Alumni Association (ASULGAA) with the Fall Conference and a golf tournament that raises money for scholarships for current MPA students. The annual Fall Conference allows current students to meet and network with alumni that work in the local government profession and begin to find summer internships, future job opportunities and professional guidance. Student Chapter Members Hunter Nestor (back row, 4th from right to left), Halee Ratcliff (front row, 3rd from right to left) and Cody Haire (front row, very right) were awarded scholarships during the conference. The Fall Conference also gave the opportunity for students to listen to speakers on various topics like Economic Development, Public Utilities, and Public Safety.



Spring Semester

The highlight during the spring semester was the NCCCMA Conference, where members attended various sessions that aided in professional development focused on local government administration. Student members in attendance included: our Student Chapter Faculty Advisor Robert Eskridge, Hunter Nestor, Katherine Johnson, and Halee Ratcliff. All students in attendance identified internship and job opportunities as a result of networking efforts. Members were also able to have an additional networking opportunity with alumni at a social hosted by the ASULGAA at Foothill brewery. Chapter members were

able to attend numerous panels that were focused on emerging issues in local government. These panels were led by members of our alumni association that have been Town Managers, County Managers, and other roles in local and county government. The best part of these panels was the discussions that arose from the questions that our members asked the group.



Student chapter meetings involved visits from speakers. The Student Chapter would like to thank alumni for their mentorship. Visiting speakers include: Brian Pahle (City of Hendersonville), Paarth Mehta (Catawba County), John Ward (Town of Boone), Ken Noland (Town of Wilkesboro), Seth Eckart (Town of Valdese), Jerry Church (Town of Granite Falls), Mike Peoples (City of Gastonia), James Inman (Bessemer City), and Lane Bailey (City of Salisbury).

Summary

The Appalachian State ICMA Student Chapter is fortunate to have a strong relationship with program alumni. Our members are constantly provided development opportunities in local government. Notable speakers who interacted with the Student Chapter include members of federal, state, and local government. Students enjoy frequent communications with our strong alumni base. Our alumni truly add value to our student chapter and help produce a great new generation of local government leaders. However, we are working on different ways to increase membership by reaching out to all of the students in our program, especially students in our satellite cohorts. We also working on potential opportunities that allow our members to attend the ICMA Annual conference and other professional development opportunities. Our chapter strives to continue providing our members with quality professional development opportunities that supplement our public administration education.

Chapter officials:

President: Hunter Nestor

1st Vice President: Halee Ratcliff

Student Chapter Faculty Advisor: Robert Eskridge

Student Chapter Mentor: Kenneth Noland