

Tennessee State University
ICMA Student Chapter
(2017-2018)

Chapter News

During the first full year of existence (founded February 2017), the TSU ICMA Student Chapter leadership has worked diligently to introduce an increasing number of students to local government management as a profession. The student chapter's membership has grown considerably since its inception, now totaling approximately 25 current students.

Inviting Local Government into the Classroom

During the past year, the student chapter focused on illuminating the importance of professional local government management. Towards those ends, the student chapter worked with TSU's Department of Public Administration to have guest speakers in MPA classes from local governments. Students consistently praise this initiative, for both increasing exposure to the "real world" of public administration, and enhancing awareness of careers in local government

The student chapter is committed to having student members attend regional and national ICMA events. We were successful in sending our first student to one of those events this year, when current student member, Reuben Ovbiebo (pictured), attended the 2018 Southeast ICMA Regional Conference. Reuben won a free conference registration from ICMA, as well as a \$1,500 scholarship from the National Association of County Administrators (NACA).



Reuben Ovbiebo, ICMA Student Chapter Member, with ICMA President, David Johnstone.

2018 Public Service Awards

The student chapter's leadership also focused on designing and implementing an event that would showcase passion for public service overall, and excellence in local government management specifically. Working together with TSU's College of Public Service, and the Tennessee Chapter of ASPA, the inaugural Public Service Awards event was held on April 18, 2018 in Downtown Nashville. Over 50 local government and nonprofit leaders, students, alumni, and faculty members were in attendance. The student chapter worked with TN-ASPA to recognize a state government administrator of the year, and independently recognized a nonprofit administrator and local government administrator of the year (pictured).



Brian Collins, ICMA Student Chapter President, welcoming attendees to the 2018 Public Service Awards



Brian Collins, ICMA Student Chapter President, with 2018 Local Government Administrator of the Year, Tony Massey, City Manager, Columbia, Tennessee.

Outgoing President's Remarks

Serving as the President of TSU's ICMA Student Chapter has been an absolute honor. The time spent in this role, has provided the opportunity to engage and interact with an energetic and intelligent group of students, faculty, and local government practitioners, which has only enhanced my experience at TSU. The relationships and connections that have been established – which are instantly valuable – have solidified my decision to attend *this* program at *this* school, and to have a career in local government. The privilege of serving in this capacity has proven to be a wonderful capstone for my time in the MPA program, and I look forward to supporting the

student chapter as an alumnus. Furthermore, I am excited to transition to being a full ICMA member.

Looking to 2018-2019

During the next academic year, the student chapter will work to continue growing chapter membership, securing internships for students interested in local government, and enhancing exposure to ICMA resources in and beyond the classroom. The student chapter will hold the second annual Public Service Awards event during the Spring 2019 semester, and we plan to leverage the creativity and enthusiasm of the new student chapter president to design an event for the Fall 2018 semester. Most importantly, the student chapter will continue to increase networking opportunities with local government professionals, alumni, and other organizations that have goals aligned with ICMA.

2017-2018 Chapter Officials

President: Brian Collins, Battalion Chief, City of Brentwood, Tennessee

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Anthony Campbell, Assistant Professor, Tennessee State University

Mentor: Eric Stuckey, City Manager, Franklin, Tennessee

Past President: Jim Conner, Data Specialist, United Way of Metro Nashville