

# The Rocky Mountain Governmental Purchasing Association NEWSLETTER

Spring 2021



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PG. 2
Letter from the President
PG. 3
Mentoring Program
PG. 4
Let's Fix Each Other's Crowns
PG. 7
Governor Polis Proclamation
PG. 8
Spotlight
PG. 11
Awards and Accomplishments
PG. 15
Contact Information

## UPCOMING:

RMGPA Newsletter Article Deadlines:  
June 23, 2021  
September 29, 2021

Board of Directors Meeting:  
April 28, 2021  
July 28, 2021

Fall CPPB/CPPO Exams:			
Exam App Window Opens:	Apply By:	Apply w/ Late Fee By:	Schedule Exam By:
MAY 1	JULY 16	JUL 1	SEP 20



# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Diana Cantu,  
RMGPA President

During the month of March, we celebrated “Governmental Procurement Purchasing Month” as officially declared by Governor Polis. I encourage you to continue to celebrate and acknowledge the value each and every one of you add to your agencies.

Our amazing programs committee is focused on creating meaningful and relevant virtual educational and professional opportunities through the Learning Lunch Webinars. As we navigate through this virtual environment, we are planning other events and we are hopeful that we can once again have a face-to-face conference in the near future.

I am excited to announce that we have started our Mentor Program. At this time, we are in need of mentors who are willing to support and enhance the professional needs of fellow members. If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please go to the RMGPA website and complete the application.

I would like to emphasize that RMGPA is a family. We are here to support every member.





If you are interested in becoming an RMGPA mentor, please complete the application and email it to:

[membership@rmgpa.org](mailto:membership@rmgpa.org) and  
[president@rmgpa.org](mailto:president@rmgpa.org)

[rmgpa-mentoring-guide.pdf](#)  
[mentor-mentee-program-application.pdf](#)

Thank you in advance for sharing your invaluable knowledge with other RMGPA members!



# Let's Fix Each Other's Crowns

## Christine Weber, C.P.M., CPPB

While we celebrated March as Purchasing Month and Women's History Month, the struggle to maintain or continue employment has become grim. The pandemic not only changed *the way* we work, but also directly affects *whether or not* we are employed. Some casual research on this topic highlights striking data about our current workforce, with more details in the website links below.

### Facts and statistics

In the fall of 2020, [NPR](#) was already sharing how even the most successful women were paying a big price with the pandemic's devastating toll on women. "The pandemic's female exodus has decidedly turned back the clock by at least a generation, with the share of women in the workforce down to levels not seen since 1988."

A [Forbes article](#) from January 12, 2021 cites stunning labor statistics, specifically about women in the workplace. "One year ago, . . . BLS data showed that women held more jobs than men by a slim margin. And there's no question that women are hurting: If you compare the number of nonfarm payroll positions held by women at the start of 2020 to those held by women at the end of the year, American women lost more than 5 million jobs in the course of 12 months."

Finally, on March 8, 2021, International Women's Day, Andrea Mitchell of MSNBC [interviewed](#) Valerie Jarrett, former Senior Advisor to President Obama. They presented analysis that as recently as January 2021, 80% of working adults who left their jobs were women. And 25% of currently working women are considering downsizing their careers or leaving the workforce entirely.

### Overall economic risk

Per a Federal Reserve spokesperson, if women continue to remain out of employment, it risks "harming not only the prospects of these individuals, but also the economy's potential growth rate." Families and individuals have less to spend in all sectors of the economy.

## Let's Fix Each Other's Crowns

Christine Weber, C.P.M., CPPB

### What can I do?

Whether you are a manager, supervisor or staff procurement professional, these statistics impact us all. To support strong procurement teams, let's help empower and uplift each other - to "Fix Each Other's Crowns". Yes, there's competition in the workplace, and we learn to value the strengths that each of us brings to the table. NCMA Board President, Melissa Starinsky frames it this way: "Show that you are trying to solve issues, by raising solutions to help the team. Multitasking tends to be easier for women, often due to motherhood roles. We bring perspective to help solve problems more effectively".

During a recent NCMA "Women in Contracting" panel discussion, members shared thoughts about men and women in the workplace. Girls make emotional relationships, while boys are traditionally socialized not to be vulnerable or have emotional relationships with each other. One panel member stated that men bond with each other and women must learn to do the same. Ms. Starinsky advised everyone to be authentic and not stoic in our work relationships. Showing emotion gives others permission to be themselves. Modeling authenticity is important for so many reasons, and may help others avoid falling into the trap of the "imposter syndrome", or feeling that they need to hide much of themselves to fit in with the entity's culture.

### Leadership and Support

If you are chosen as a top leader, remember to model excellence and deliver on what you know you can accomplish. Be your own advocate. The entity has demonstrated confidence in you! Get over any guilt about highlighting your obvious abilities, while you are proving yourself in the new position. If you get moved to a new role, educate yourself on any skills gaps. Consult with more experienced peers, attend focused professional courses, and read books about areas you need to improve.

Another member shared her personal experience as a new leader and suggested that we take the time to survey the landscape. Observe the team's strengths and weaknesses. Ask the team for input - Don't change things wholesale. Ask each person to identify their strengths and what they most like to do. Ask what's most important to each person - Is a fast track to leadership their primary focus or are they more interested in maintaining work life balance? Hold Q&A sessions when change must be implemented quickly. Then, ask your team for input on the team's results and their opinion on your performance after a year.



## Let's Fix Each Other's Crowns

Christine Weber, C.P.M., CPPB

The panel offered suggestions on how to help minimize internal competition and negativity. Be the bigger person and stay out of office gossip. As an outsider then, you can call out divisive behavior. One panelist stated, “Radical Candor is an approach that we try to practice at my company - to ‘care personally, but challenge directly’ ”. Radical Candor offers a compass for candid conversations.

Where possible, give your staff permission to make tradeoffs to achieve work life balance. As workers, recognize that decisions to go part-time or adjust workload in order to meet family obligations are always personally rewarding. These intentional career adjustments do not ruin careers in the long run. They often open new doors and help us realize our true professional passions. If you are able to create a supportive environment with your team, it helps our peers make difficult decisions with more confidence.

### Next Steps – What's in it for Me?

Our day to day workload, schedule, and commitments can increase barriers to encouraging teamwork. Notice those who are struggling. Offer resources that could help smooth the path. If you are facilitating a meeting, call on the “invisible” woman to get her perspective. Such actions contribute to a supportive environment, rather than perpetuating negative competition. Perhaps coordinate an impromptu introduction of a key leader to the newbie, whether at work or within RMGPA. Typically, it's our job to make our leaders look good. It's also a win-win to actively mentor each other which can ultimately help improve the quality of our team's reputation. When we “Fix Each Other's Crowns”, we can extend our influence and effectiveness within our organization and across the procurement profession.



# Governor Polis declares the month of March, 2021 as Government Procurement Month



## Proclamation

*WHEREAS, governmental procurement organizations across Colorado are committed to the highest ideals of honor and integrity so as to merit the respect and confidence of state, municipal, county, special district, higher education, school district, or other local government agencies, as well as the public, whom they serve; and*

*WHEREAS, Colorado provides an environment where all organizations are afforded an equal opportunity to compete for business within state, municipal, county, special district, higher education, school district, or other local-area government agencies; and*

*WHEREAS, governmental procurement organizations are to be commended for their diligent pursuit of efficiency in the operation of government through their commitment to seek goods and services of the highest value in terms of quality and price so as to maximize the benefits provided to Coloradans;*

*THEREFORE, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim the month of March, 2021 as*

### **GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT MONTH**

*in the State of Colorado.*

*GIVEN under my hand  
and the Executive Seal of  
the State of Colorado,  
this first day of March,  
2021*



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

Jared Polis  
Governor



## SPOTLIGHT ON: Mandy Zila, RMGPA Awards Chair

Submitted by Kelly Wooden,  
Newsletter Co-Chair



■ **Tell us about your background.**

- *I am a Colorado native with over 35 years of experience in awkward situations (sometimes I share these special experiences on social media). I am originally from Brush, moved to Loveland in 1990, and am currently settled in Windsor. My career path started at Thompson School District in 1999, where I was the assistant Buyer for 13 years. I quickly realized that I had a passion for procurement and found it rewarding to serve the public and the community. I expanded my profession to higher education and other state agencies.*

■

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

- *I joined the State Purchasing Contracts Office in February of 2020 – five weeks later, the pandemic hit, and we were all sent to work from home. How's that for starting a new position?*

■ **How did you get into the procurement field?**

- *My love of shopping for shoes and lip gloss started at an early age which directed me towards a career in purchasing (I jest). I fell into the profession as an assistant buyer for k12 education, doing small-dollar purchases, office supply orders, and other expendables. Oprah Winfrey once said, your true passion should feel like breathing; it's that natural. Procurement has always felt natural to me. It was my passion for procurement that started me on my public service procurement path.*



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

*I have had several interesting and complex projects while I was with the Dept. of Human Services. The one that stands out to me the most is when I was charged with a project with the Colorado Traumatic Brain Injury program. The Traumatic Brain Injury program had a trust fund established by the Colorado Legislature in 2002 to provide direct services to individuals with TBI and support education and research grants to increase awareness, issues, and needs. I worked closely with the brain injury department director to publish an RFP for research in Colorado related to the treatment and understanding of TBI. It was a complex RFP because it involved medical terminology associated with brain injuries and scientific research data. I had the opportunity to learn more about TBI and meet brain surgeons, doctors, and researchers from all over the U.S.*

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

*I joined RMGPA in 1999 when I started with Thompson School District. I really enjoy the camaraderie and the long-lasting friendships I have made over the years. I am very thankful for the opportunities for growth RMGPA has and continues to provide through classes and conferences. I want to take a moment and recognize two significant people that played an important role in giving me direction with RMGPA - Terry Schueler and Traci Burtnett – without their guidance, support, and encouragement, I wouldn't be where I am today. Thank you, Terry and Traci!*



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

*I have been RMGPA's Awards Chair since January of 2019. RMGPA awards seven categories relating to procurement annually. Nominations are submitted to the Awards Committee for review and evaluation. The Awards Committee comprises six members who determine the most deserving person(s) or team for an award based on points. Committee members score each nomination individually and then send it to the Awards Chair and Co-chair, where we then combine the scores for a total and final score. Individuals or teams with the highest score are awarded in their respective categories.*

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

*I used to dance professionally with a dance company in Denver, Denver Contemporary Dance (DCD). I was Talented Teen Colorado and performed a tap dance solo at the world-famous Apollo Theater. It was an experience and opportunity that I am beyond grateful for. I am also proud of my CPPB certification that has allowed for growth and opportunities within my profession.*

**Tell us about your interests/hobbies outside of work.**

*In my spare time, I enjoy fishing, camping, hiking, and traveling. I am also a huge animal lover obsessed with Australian Shepherds, pigs, and goats in pajamas. If you haven't experienced goat yoga, I highly recommend it! Next on my list is pig yoga.*





# AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Marisa Donegon – Future Leader Award



Jon Babcock – Volunteer of the Year



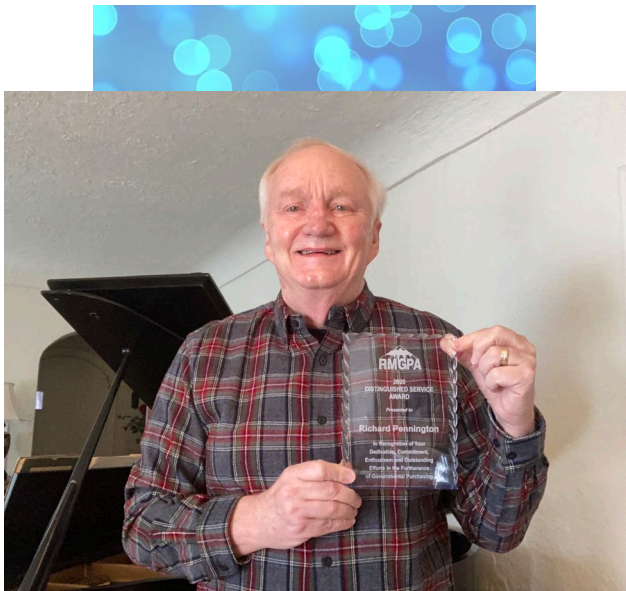
Tim Wellmann – Manager of the Year



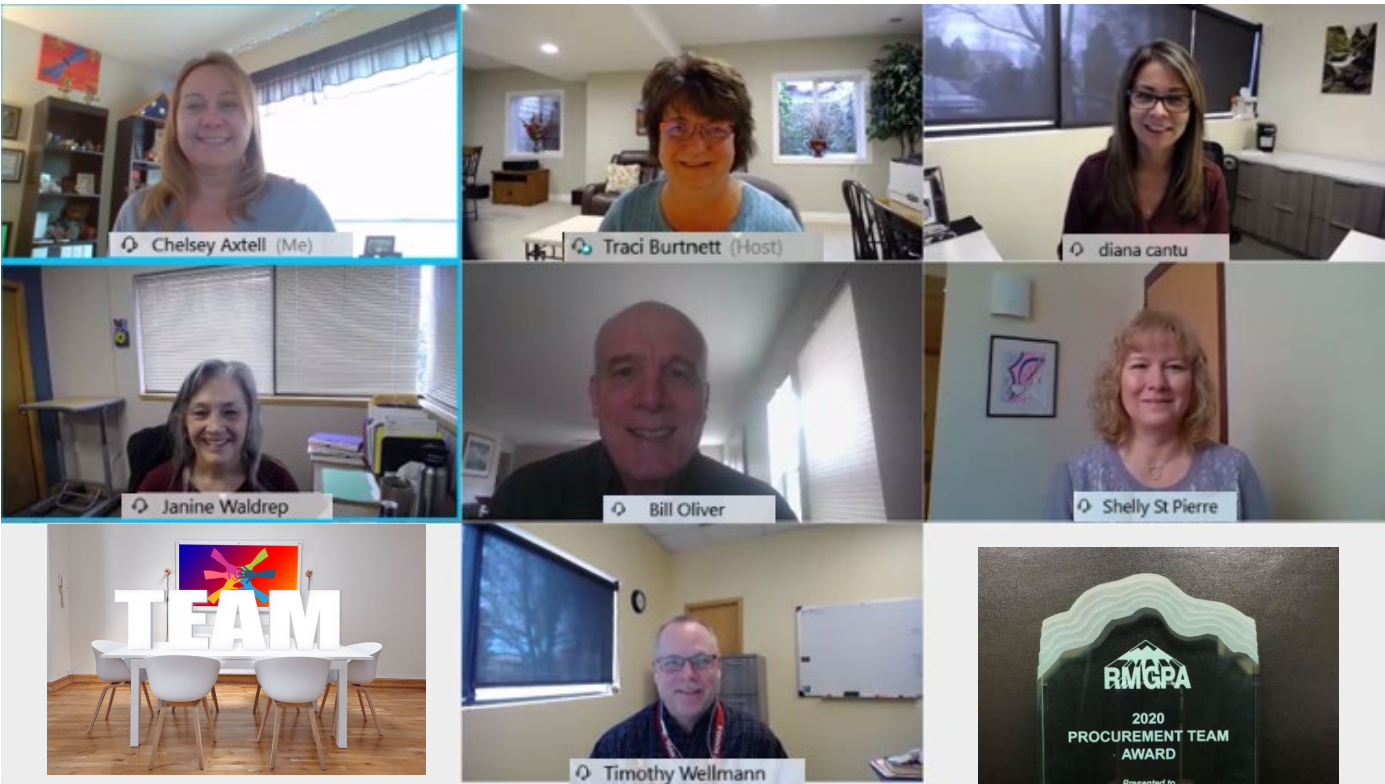
Natalie Martinez – Buyer of the Year



# AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Richard Pennington – Distinguished Service Award



St. Vrain Valley Schools ---  
Procurement Team Award





# 2021 CPP RECIPIENTS

## NIGP PRESS RELEASE

*March 17, 2021*

NIGP's Certification Commission is honored to recognize the following 6 public procurement professionals from the Centennial State of Colorado who attained their NIGP Certified Procurement Professional designation (NIGP-CPP) during the February 2021 testing period:

- Farrah Bustamante NIGP-CPP, CPPB - *Fort Collins*
- Danielle Davis NIGP-CPP, CPPB - *Golden*
- Terri Kindsfather NIGP-CPP, CPPO, CPIM, CPPB - *Lakewood*
- Valerie Scott NIGP-CPP, CPPB - *Longmont*
- Shelly St. Pierre NIGP-CPP, CPPB - *Denver*
- Tim Wellmann NIGP-CPP, CPPB - *Frederick*

These awesome leaders more than doubled the growing list of 10 Coloradans who have earned their NIGP-CPP since the first certification announcement in August 2020.

To date, there are 369 NIGP-CPP leaders across North America, representing 35 U.S. states and 5 Canadian provinces.

Registration for the next two testing windows (May 2021 and August 2021) is currently available.

Individuals holding a current CPPO or CPPB designation from the UPPCC are qualified to take an abbreviated bridge exam (aka Module B); a requisite for earning this additional competency-based, leadership certification. These individuals are reminded that the promotion of a free NIGP-CPP application and free first bridge exam ends on June 30, 2021. However, they can apply and register for the August 2021 testing period by the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline and still receive these 2 free benefits. The promotion of a free, digital NIGP-CPP Bridge Study Guide also ends June 30<sup>th</sup>. Finally, the free virtual, instructor-led Bridge Prep course continues through June 30<sup>th</sup> or until the classes are full. The May Prep classes are closed; however, the June Prep classes may be available on a first come/first served basis.

Join NIGP for monthly informative webinars on the program or learn more by clicking [here](#).

St. Vrain Valley Schools  
Purchasing Department was  
Presented with the  
Superintendent's Excellence  
in Education Award  
April 14, 2021



Do you or your team have a celebration to recognize? Please email information and pictures to : [newsletter@rmgpa.org](mailto:newsletter@rmgpa.org)

## 2021 RMGPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

POSITION	OFFICER NAME	E-MAIL	PHONE
President	Diana Cantu, CPPB	<a href="mailto:president@rmgpa.org">president@rmgpa.org</a>	303-702-7715
Vice President	Jon Babcock	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@rmgpa.org">vicepresident@rmgpa.org</a>	970-490-3545
Secretary	Jamaica Watts	<a href="mailto:secretary@rmgpa.org">secretary@rmgpa.org</a>	
Treasurer	Marisa Donegon, CPPB	<a href="mailto:treasurer@rmgpa.org">treasurer@rmgpa.org</a>	719-641-0402
Past President	Traci Gorman, CPPO, CPPB	<a href="mailto:pastpres@rmgpa.org">pastpres@rmgpa.org</a>	

## 2021 STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

POSITION	OFFICER NAME	E-MAIL	PHONE
Awards	Amanda Zila	<a href="mailto:awards@rmgpa.org">awards@rmgpa.org</a>	303-866-4005
Chapter Enhancement/ Vendor Liaison	VACANT	<a href="mailto:vendorevents@rmgpa.org">vendorevents@rmgpa.org</a>	
Communications	David Musgrave	<a href="mailto:info@rmgpa.org">info@rmgpa.org</a>	303-757-9861
Education/Professional Development	Cheryl Dye, CPPB	<a href="mailto:prod@rmgpa.org">prod@rmgpa.org</a>	303-987-7885
Elections	Skyler Thimens	<a href="mailto:elections@rmgpa.org">elections@rmgpa.org</a>	970-443-4780
Historian	Pat Johnson	<a href="mailto:historian@rmgpa.org">historian@rmgpa.org</a>	970-221-6816
Legislative	Nancy Allen	<a href="mailto:legislative@rmgpa.org">legislative@rmgpa.org</a>	720-898-7093
Marketing	Brenda Hannu	<a href="mailto:marketing@rmgpa.org">marketing@rmgpa.org</a>	720-913-8118
Membership	Doug Clapp	<a href="mailto:membership@rmgpa.org">membership@rmgpa.org</a>	970-590-9792
Newsletter	Chelsey Axtell	<a href="mailto:newsletter@rmgpa.org">newsletter@rmgpa.org</a>	303-702-7769
Programs	Cheryl Gray	<a href="mailto:programs@rmgpa.org">programs@rmgpa.org</a>	970-208-9526



## 2021 STANDING COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

POSITION	OFFICER NAME	E-MAIL	PHONE
Awards	Curt Decapite, CPPB	<a href="mailto:awards@rmgpa.org">awards@rmgpa.org</a>	
Chapter Enhancement/ Vendor Liaison	Christine Weber, C.P.M., CPPB	<a href="mailto:vendorevents@rmgpa.org">vendorevents@rmgpa.org</a>	303-828-6094
Communications	Molly McLoughlin, NIGP-CPP, CPPO, CPPB	<a href="mailto:info@rmgpa.org">info@rmgpa.org</a>	720-561-5045
Education/Professional Development	VACANT		
Elections	Tim Wellmann, NIGP-CPP, CPPB	<a href="mailto:elections@rmgpa.org">elections@rmgpa.org</a>	303-702-7734
Legislative	Farrah Bustamante, CPPB, MBA	<a href="mailto:legislative@rmgpa.org">legislative@rmgpa.org</a>	970-949-1199
Marketing	Nicol Suddreth	<a href="mailto:marketing@rmgpa.org">marketing@rmgpa.org</a>	720-865-7508
Membership	Jim Walker, CPPO, CPPB	<a href="mailto:membership@rmgpa.org">membership@rmgpa.org</a>	720-442-0708
Newsletter	Kelly Wooden, CPPO, CPPB	<a href="mailto:newsletter@rmgpa.org">newsletter@rmgpa.org</a>	970-490-3617
Programs	Traci Burtnett	<a href="mailto:programs@rmgpa.org">programs@rmgpa.org</a>	303-682-7309

