

# The Rocky Mountain Governmental Purchasing Association NEWSLETTER



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## UPCOMING:

Course Date	Course Title	Location
Aug. 2-4, 2021	Specialization Certificate: Technology Procurement	Virtual

CPPB and CPPO Fall Exams Oct 18-30, 2021	Dates
Application Submission Deadline	<b>July 12, 2021</b>
Application Submission Late Deadline	<b>July 26, 2021</b>
Exam Scheduling Deadline	<b>September 20, 2021</b>
Testing Dates	<b>October 18-30, 2021</b>

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Diana Cantu,  
RMGPA President



As the end of summer nears, we are on a path to new and exciting opportunities for all members. We started the summer with a highly attended and interactive virtual conference. For those who were not able to attend, we began with a focus on our mental and physical health by having Stephanie Miller and her team guide us through a meditation and yoga session. It was refreshing, relaxing, and it reminded us to be mindful of self-care. We also had Blind Spots coaches Kevin McCarthy & Likky Lavji, create a RMGPA team workshop series called IMPROVING TEAM CULTURE - by Design! It is a seven-month program that will conclude at our winter conference where Kevin and Likky will present live in person!

As we prepare for in-person courses and conferences, I encourage you to challenge yourself to connect with someone new at the conference and/or future class. Consider stepping out of your comfort zone and become a mentor or offer your insight and experience to someone who is interested in starting a career in procurement. My hope for you is that by taking on a challenge like this it will motivate you to think about how you can enhance, elevate, and grow as you follow your procurement journey.

Be well and take care.

# 2021 Summer Virtual Conference Workshop Series A Success!

Submitted by Traci Burtnett, Programs Co-Chair

**Congratulations RMGPA!** The programs committee is proud to report 120 registered members representing 40 governmental agencies participated in the Summer virtual conference and first-time ever workshop series "Improving Team Culture – by Design" kick-off session. The conference program included presentations on Virtual Health and Wellness Strategies providing the benefits of relaxation and stretching exercises and a panel discussion from DBIA on Collaborative Project Delivery for Capital Projects.

Additional attendees and guests included four representatives from our Sponsors – Hertz Furniture and Home Depot Pro and five individuals from other NIGP chapters representing the states of Arizona, Iowa, Ohio and Washington. 17 RMGPA members attended the conference for the first time. Awesome!

We wish to extend our gratitude and highest appreciation to our three Sponsors: BC Office Interiors, Hertz Furniture and Home Depot Pro. It is with their monetary contribution of support that we are able to provide a top-quality event for membership.



# 2021 Summer Virtual Conference Workshop Series A Success! (Cont..)

Submitted by Traci Burtnett, Programs Co-Chair

Survey responses from RMGPA agency participants:

*"Meditation and stretching was a good way to start the day." "Well done during a virtual session." "Taught me some new stretches that I will use every day while in the office." "Very helpful and refreshing."*

*"Panel really knows their stuff and session was relative to many members." "The content was fantastic and I will use it often." "It was great having more advanced content at the conference. Thank you!" "Really well laid out presentation. It was a good overview that encompassed different views of the construction process."*

*"Loved the workshop presentation. The upbeat delivery was great and kept me involved." "The way Kevin and Likky present together is highly entertaining. Very good content." "Loved the interaction between the two! Both my supervisor and I felt this would be an amazing training for the units we work with, and the agency as a whole." "This is going to be a fun process to go through and I have learned so much already. I love the dynamic bantering between Kevin and Likky. It's not only very entertaining and fun, but they are also providing valuable information and insights along the way." "Can't wait for the next session!"*

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 an event of this magnitude!

Your Programs Committee thanks you for your participation and continued support!

Cheryl Gray, Grand Junction Housing Authority – Program Chair

Traci Burtnett, St. Vrain Valley School Dist. – Program Co-Chair

Becky Schaffstein, El Paso County

Carolyn Riggs, Douglas County

Alicia Armentrout, Colorado State University

Mary Smith, Aurora Public Schools





**SPOTLIGHT:**  
Cheryl Gray, RMGPA  
Programs Chair



### **Background**

Cheryl Gray, Wayland Baptist University Business Administration alum, has been a Procurement and Contract Specialist for the Grand Junction Housing Authority (GJHA) since November of 2017.

Prior to that she served in a procurement role for a private government contractor in Oklahoma City working with companies such as Boeing and Raytheon. She was originally hired to be Accounting /HR, however, the company landed a big contract with Boeing that included procurement and she was appointed to develop and implement the procurement process.

### **Experience in Other Professions**

Before getting in the procurement field, Cheryl had experience as an elementary school teacher, as well as accounting and human resources.

### **Most Challenging Project**

The GJHA has been hit hard with Methamphetamine in some of their units. This has been the most challenging and interesting role to take on due to the language of the state mandates and complexity of the testing and remediation requirements.



## SPOTLIGHT:

Cheryl Gray, RMGPA Programs Chair

### RMGPA

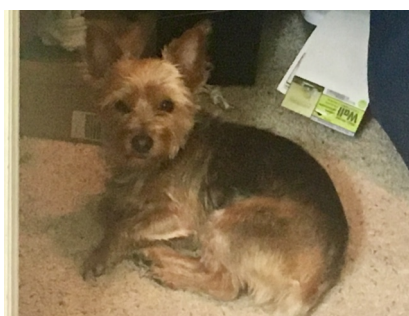
Cheryl joined RMGPA as soon as she became an employee with GJHA and has been able to attend all the in-person Winter conferences since then and has met some great people. Since becoming Programs Chair in 2021, the depth and breadth of people she has interacted with has increased tenfold. She has learned that Programs handles a wide variety of functions for conferences and meetings, to include hotel accommodations and food. What a great learning experience it has been! She has a great team and just added a few new members to the committee. She feels privileged to be part of this organization and the great things they do.

### Accomplishments

A few accomplishments Cheryl is proud of are graduating high school a year early, graduating college with honors while having a full time job and a family, and growing as a person through the life challenges. She is also proud of developing job descriptions and manuals for several created positions, including her current role as Procurement and Contract Specialist. Cheryl is working toward her Certified Professional Public Buyer (CPPB) certification and is excited to undertake this goal to add to her accomplishments.

### Outside of Work

During her spare time, Cheryl works as a part time merchandiser. She enjoys spending time with family and friends in nature camping and hiking, visiting her two children and two grandsons. She also enjoys yoga, cooking, bike riding, working on the community garden at GJHA and spending time with her two pups.



# Member Recognition

**Christal Bateman, CPPB**  
**Larimer County**  
**Purchasing**

**Melissa Lawrence, CPPB**  
**Jeffco Public Schools**

**Skylar Thimens, CPPO,**  
**University of Wyoming**

Scholarship Award:

Melissa Lawrence, CPPB  
Jeffco Public Schools

Course: Specialization  
Certificate:  
Cloud Procurement

\$425.00

HOORAY

BRAVO

GOOD JOB

AMAZING

CONGRATS

WELL DONE!



## In Other News.....

The Employee Appreciation Committee at Pueblo West Metropolitan District hosted a park day for their employees. They had a scavenger hunt, corn hole, ring toss and ball toss for prizes and the local shaved ice truck also paid a visit. But best of all, the directors willingly let the employees plant a pie of whipped cream in their faces!!



RMGPA:  
A look  
back on  
40 years



40





40 years



CHEERS TO  
**40**  
YEARS



## 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	VACANT	<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	Tina Garcia	<a href="mailto:prod@rmgpa.org">prod@rmgpa.org</a>	719-584- 0201
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>	
Programs	Traci Burtnett	<a href="mailto:programs@rmgpa.org">programs@rmgpa.org</a>	303-682- 7309

