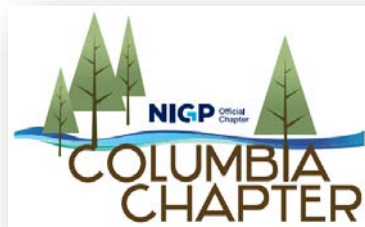
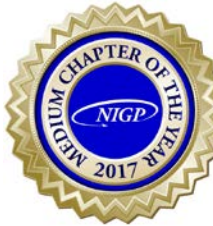


# COLUMBIA CHAPTER NEWS – MARCH 2023



## Message from the President:

I am honored to have been asked to step into the President's position for Columbia Chapter in 2023. I have been a Columbia Chapter member, probably longer than any current active member! I first joined Columbia Chapter in 1988 as a relatively new Buyer for the City of Portland. Since then I have served various committees, as well as on the Board, including Chapter President during the 1998-99 fiscal year. This is not my first rodeo!

I am looking forward to a year of increased member participation, more learning opportunities, and fun events. We are already in the process of planning our Columbia Chapter/OPPA joint conference for March 8, 2023, so please mark your calendars! It will be ½ day virtual for the event and at no charge to the membership. The agenda is in the process of being finalized, but I can tell you the speakers we are lining up are top notch. Remember, March is Procurement Month and March 8<sup>th</sup> is Buyer's Day.

I wish you all a healthy, prosperous, and memorable (in a good way!) new year!

Craig Johnsen, President

To read the Professional Buyer's Day Proclamation, please visit the [Columbia Chapter website!](#)

## Meet the 2023 Columbia Chapter Board



**Craig Johnsen, CPPO, President**  
Term: January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023  
E-Mail: [crgjohnsen@gmail.com](mailto:crgjohnsen@gmail.com)



**Anthony Blackmon, Vice President**  
Term: January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023  
E-Mail: [tony.blackmon@c-tran.org](mailto:tony.blackmon@c-tran.org)  
Phone: 360.906.7310

**Mahn Saechao, Secretary**  
Term: January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023  
E-Mail: [Mahn.Saechao@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:Mahn.Saechao@portlandoregon.gov)  
Phone: 503.846.3585



**Dawn Martin, MPA, CPPB**  
Term: January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023  
E-Mail: [dawn.martin@multco.us](mailto:dawn.martin@multco.us)  
Phone: 503.988.9287



**Travis Allison**, Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchasing Director  
Term: January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023  
E-Mail: [tallison.pps.net](mailto:tallison.pps.net)



**Xylia Guzman Torres**, Logistics Director  
Term: January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023  
E-Mail: [xylia.guzmantorres@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:xylia.guzmantorres@portlandoregon.gov)  
Phone: 503.823.6151



**Tessa Paul**, Membership Director  
Term: January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023  
E-Mail: [tessa.paul@multco.us](mailto:tessa.paul@multco.us)  
Phone: 503.988.7535



**Lynn Faulkenberry, CPPB, NIGP-CPP,**  
Professional Development Director  
Term: January 1, 2023 – December 2023  
E-Mail: [lynn.faulkenberry@multco.us](mailto:lynn.faulkenberry@multco.us)  
Phone: 503.988.7544

### **2022 REVERSE VENDOR TRADE SHOW (RVTS) by Kristin Shorey**

The Columbia Chapter of the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP) and the Oregon Public Purchasing Association (OPPA) have partnered in each Reverse Vendor Trade Show (RVTS), and they continued this partnership for the 16th annual RVTS, Oct 19, 2022 in the Salem Convention Center. A switch on a traditional Trade show, a RVTS puts the participating public agencies behind the tables showcasing and sharing upcoming opportunities to attendees. One hundred and five agency participants from more than 20 public agencies from across Western Oregon hosted tables to connect with over 200 attendees. The participating public agencies were wide ranging: from large and small Cities, Higher Education, First Responders, to state and county governments.

“It is such a great way for public agencies to showcase opportunities for attendees,” said Lynn Faulkenberry, one of the RVTS organizers. “RVTS offers a way to authentically engage with your supplier community and amplify your outreach to small businesses.”

The next RVTS is scheduled for fall of 2023. If your agency is interested in hosting a table, please reach out to Lynn Faulkenberry at [lynn.faulkenberry@multco.us](mailto:lynn.faulkenberry@multco.us). Join us in this fun and innovative way to connect with fellow public agencies while meeting new or reconnecting with existing vendors and businesses.



Local supplier MARCO Ideas Unlimited engaging with Portland Community College (PCC).



Front Row: Emilie Schulhoff, Multnomah County; Lynn Faulkenberry, Multnomah County; Christy Tran (you guessed it), Multnomah County.  
Back Row: Anthony Blackmon, C-Tran; Craig Johnsen, Retired; Kristina Ulm, Marion County; Jun Zhu, Multnomah County; Thomas Lunsford, Port of Portland.

### 2022 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON By Bryanne Grafton-Conrad and Sara Leighton

December 8th 2022, Columbia Chapter held their annual Holiday Luncheon at the Portland City Grill, with Anthony Blackmon (C-Tran) as our host for the festivities. As always, a fun time was had by all. Beautiful table displays, smiling faces, and the impressive collections of silent auction baskets shone brightly against an ever gray Portland skyline. Golden candlelight flickered against the dark paneled walls as the sounds of laughter lightly danced about the spacious room. As welcome gave way to longer conversations, slowly attendees chose their seats, and the familiar procession of this grand Columbia Chapter tradition began.

After a round of introductions, the Chapter business kicked off with the adoption of the proposed budget, the swearing in of the new board, a call for nominations, the chapter audit and other relevant news. With the announcements out of the way, we Wined or Whined with Jun Zhu (Multnomah County) into the festivities. Between Wine or Whine, the 50/50 Raffle, the Mystery Box and silent auction, Columbia Chapter raised \$1,371.00 for the chapter's scholarship fund. The lucky drawing winners of the table top decorations, skillfully created by Kathi Braeme-Burr (Multnomah County) is as follows:

Mark Ariza – City of Portland  
Rachel Beane – City of Portland  
Yassamin Alayan – Washington County  
Donna Dubois – Multnomah County  
Nicholas Thibodeau – City of Hillsboro  
Lucas Hoelter – Multnomah County  
Elizabeth Smith – Beaverton School District  
Barry Zimmerman – Multnomah County  
Julia Fraser – Port of Portland  
Valentine Hellman – City of Portland  
Jeff Harbaugh – Multnomah County  
Mahn Saechao – City of Portland



Jun Zhu takes pictures of members enjoying the festivities

### OUR MISSION

To promote the public procurement profession and efficient public procurement while maintaining the public trust by providing educational opportunities, networking, and technical support to its members.

### CHAPTER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The Mentorship Program is a volunteer program, coordinated by the Chapter Mentoring Committee, pairing experienced procurement professionals (mentors) with members who are looking to develop themselves professionally (mentees).

For more information, please contact Emmanuel Amunga (Mentorship Program Chair) @ [Emmanuel.Amunga@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:Emmanuel.Amunga@portlandoregon.gov)

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

In December 2022:

Nusrat Ahmed, Beaverton School District

David Boe, Beaverton School District

Peter Madaus, Beaverton School District

Alesha Siebe, Beaverton School District

Machelle Stephens, Beaverton School District



In January 2023:

Rashelle Meeks, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office

Dallas Monaco, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office

Dan Spero, City of Hillsboro

Connie Wilson, Washington County



## SIGN UP FOR NIGP MEMBERSHIP



[Join NIGP](#)  
Choose the Membership that  
is right for you!

[VIEW AGENCY MEMBER BENEFITS](#)

[VIEW INDIVIDUAL MEMBER BENEFITS](#)

## Q & A PAGE – ASK A QUESTION

Visit the Chapter's Q&A page where you can post questions, share your insights, strategies and innovations as well as help answer question posted by other Chapter members.



Check it out: <http://columbiachapternigp.org/dwqa-ask-question/>

## NIGP – 2023 NATIONAL FORUM



The Future of Procurement Starts Here...Together

[Forum 2023 | August 19-23 | Louisville, KY](#)

**VIRTUAL**

[Forum 2023 | August 21-23 | Louisville, KY](#)

Registration is not open yet. Please continue to monitor NIGP's webpage for updates.

### FORUM 2023 SCHOLARSHIPS

[Apply by March 7, 2023](#)

Thanks to our government partner, Sourcewell, we're offering NIGP Forum 2023 scholarships to cover registration fees for those who lack the funds.

Applicants can choose to apply for one of the following scholarships:

#### [Attend Forum In Person in Louisville, Kentucky](#)

August 19 – 23, 2023

The scholarship covers the early registration fee of **\$897**.

Or

#### [Attend Virtual Forum](#)

August 21 – 23, 2023

The scholarship covers the registration fee of **\$299**.

[APPLY NOW](#)

## CHAPTER COMMITTEES AND PROGRAMS

### Chapter Committees and Programs

The most valuable contribution you can make to an organization is your time and commitment. An organization is only as strong as those members who support its goals. Through our committees, we continue to serve our members by promoting the public procurement profession. We encourage you to take the time to review the committees listed below and let us know if you could help. To join, contact the Committee/Program Chairperson below or the [Chapter President](#).

### Audit Committee

The Audit Committee shall consist of not less than two members appointed by the President. The audit shall be performed no later than July 30 of each year. At least two of the members serving on the committee shall also be members of the Board. This committee shall report its findings to the membership at the next meeting of the members. This report will give a statement of accounts based upon actual expenses incurred and income received for the prior year.

Lynn Faulkenberry, Chair  
Lynn.faulkenberry@multco.us

Members: Bethany Demello, Julie Hoffman, Diane Seaton, Christy Tran, Dawn Martin

### Board Nominating Committee

The Board Nominating Committee shall consist of not less than three members appointed by the President. At least two of the members serving on the committee shall also be members of the Board. The Chair of the committee shall be appointed by the President.

- The committee shall receive and evaluate recommendations from the members regarding individuals suggested for candidacy for a position as a regular director or director-at-large.
- The committee shall select at least one candidate for each position on the Board for which a term is expiring. This slate of nominees will be turned over to the President no later than five days prior to the meeting at which Board members are to be elected.
- No changes in nominees on this slate may be made after submission to the President except at the request of the nominee.
- Nominations may be made from the floor at the annual membership meeting, but only if the nominee has given express permission that his name be placed in nomination.

Mahn Saechao, Chair  
mahn.saechao@portlandoregon.gov

### Budget Committee

The Budget Committee is chaired by Chapter President. Committee members shall include, but not be limited to, the Past President and the Treasurer. This committee reviews Columbia Chapter's revenues and expenses to propose an annual budget to the Board for adoption.

Dawn Martin, Chair  
dawn.martin@multco.us

Members: Craig Johnsen, Anthony Blackmon and Tessa Paul

### Procurement Specialist and Procurement Manager of the Year Committee (Formerly Buyer and Manager of the Year)

The Buyer & Manager of the Year (BOY/MOY) Committee consists of 2 Board members and the Buyer and Manager of the Year from the previous year. The committee calls for nominations for the BOY/MOY from Chapter members. The committee reviews and verifies the accuracy of the criteria forms and required documentations submitted by the nominees. Recommendation to award a Buyer and Manager of the Year is given to the Board for final decision.

Diane Seaton, Chair  
diane.seaton@multco.us

Members: Brian Smith, Anthony Blackmon, Kathi Braeme-Burr, Thomas Lunsford



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**Chapter of the Year Application Committee**

The Chapter of the Year Application Committee is a new committee chaired by the Vice President. Members shall include but not limited to the President, Past President and Secretary. With the Vice President taking the lead, the committee compiles, drafts and reviews the application for Chapter of the Year. The Vice President submits the completed application to NIGP each year.

Anthony Blackmon, Chair  
tony.blackmon@c-tran.org

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**Handbook Committee**

The Handbook Committee maintains the Chapter's Handbook for Directors and Directors at Large. This committee reviews the Handbook and makes recommendations to the Board if needed. The Handbook is intended as a resource to enable members and Directors to provide consistent leadership of the Chapter and encourage future leadership within the Chapter. It contains the duties and responsibilities of the Chapter's Board of Directors.

Mahn Saechao, Chair  
mahn.saechao@portlandoregon.gov

Members: Julie Hoffman, Kathi Braeme-Burr, Anthony Blackmon

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**Legislative Committee**

The Legislative Committee plays a central role in creating a presence and increasing the influence of the practitioners' voice in the Oregon legislative process. Committee goals include: educating members on the legislative process, distributing proposed legislation impacting public procurement, providing timely bill tracking reports during legislative sessions, and promoting active involvement of public procurement professionals in the legislative process.

The Legislative Committee maintains a presence with individuals and groups who are significantly influential in Oregon's legislative process. This includes the State's Departmental Purchasing Officers and specific lobbyists who work with cities, counties, schools, and special districts. These contacts lead to greater information sharing, coordination and inclusion of practitioner voices in legislative bill drafting, committee testimony, and a positive impact in the legislative process.

Brian Smith, Chair  
brian.r.smith@multco.us

Members: Linda Niman, Nick Thibodeau

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**Marketing Committee**

The Marketing Committee will assist with coordinating and facilitating marketing and communications for the Chapter including researching, purchasing, promoting, advertising, selling and distributing Chapter branded merchandise/items to increase visibility and growth of the Chapter.

Tessa Paul, Chair  
tessa.paul@multco.us

Members: Anna Hathorne, Anthony Blackmon, Kathi Braeme-Burr, Xylia Guzman Torres

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**Mentorship Program**

The Mentorship Program is a volunteer program, coordinated by the Chapter Mentoring Committee, pairing experienced procurement professionals (mentors) with members who are looking to develop themselves professionally (mentees).

Vacant

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**Scholarship Program Committee**

The Scholarship Committee is chaired by the Past President. The committee evaluates scholarship applications received from members of the Chapter. This committee is good for any volunteer who wants to learn how they might qualify for and utilize Chapter Scholarship funds made available by the Chapter.

Christy Tran, Chair  
christy.tran@multco.us

Members: Anthony Blackmon, Dawn Martin

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#### **Social Media Committee**

The Social Media Committee was established to facilitate Columbia Chapter communication via social media outlets. This committee oversees the primary social media outlets of Facebook and LinkedIn. The content produced by this committee is official representation of the organization. Content on social media outlets are updated frequently.

The purpose of the Social Media Committee is to:

- To foster and facilitate Columbia Chapter community-building among its members through social media.
- To grow and maintain Columbia Chapter's online presence in order to keep current members informed with communication and to attract potentially interested members in joining our community.
- To maintain the Columbia Chapter Social Media pages.
- To raise awareness and make it easier for newcomers and current members to understand how and where to interact with Columbia Chapter online.
- To promote training opportunities hosted by our own Chapter or other related organizations that may interest public procurement professionals
- To promote and let people know about Columbia Chapter branded items available such as clothing and pens.

Anthony Blackmon, Chair  
tony.blackmon@c-tran.org

Members: Elvis Carter, Shawn Postera, Xylia Guzman Torres

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#### **Student Outreach Program**

The Student Outreach Program is a volunteer program, coordinated by the Professional Development Director designed to promote career paths in public procurement. Representatives of the Chapter attend student functions – job fairs, career discussions, etc. to introduce public purchasing to students at the high school and college levels. As a part of this discussion, the program will promote and encourage interested students to become a student member of the Chapter.

Kathi Braeme-Burr, Chair  
kathi.braeme-burr@multco.us

Members: Anthony Blackmon, Tessa Paul

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#### **Website Committee**

The Website Committee maintains the Chapter's website and works with the Chapter President, Chapter Board Members, and Chapter Committees to update content and resolve issues involving the website as the first points of contact.

Shawn Postera, Chair  
ccnigpweb@googlegroups.com

Members:

Shawn Postera: Green+ section, general updates.

Suzi Fulcher: Member user profiles, Employment Opportunities, general updates.

Christy Tran: Scholarship program, Chapter Committee and Programs page, and general updates.

Lynn Faulkenberry: Pro-D section

Xylia Guzman: Upcoming events (Meeting registrations)

Mahn Saechao: General and Board meeting minutes

Travis Allison: ICP section

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Love BBQ? Love to volunteer?

If you answered yes to either question, here's a sweet (or smoky) deal for you!

We're starting to plan a summer BBQ in the park event for our Chapter members, and we'd love it if you'd like to help make this a success.

If you're interested, please contact Tessa Paul at [tessa.paul@multco.us](mailto:tessa.paul@multco.us).

## SUNFLOWER FARM

The Marketing Committee is seeking volunteers to help Sunflower Farms remove invasive weeds and spread bark chips along their creek in preparation for planting native plants. In addition to nurturing wildlife through habitat restoration, Sunflower Farms also grows vegetables and produces eggs to help reduce food insecurity for homeless youth and low income seniors and families.

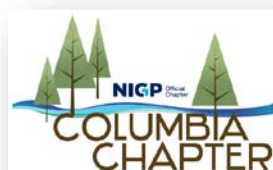
To learn more about this farm and all the wonderful things they do, please visit their website.

When: Saturday April 22nd from 9:00am to 12:00pm

Where: Sunflower Farms located in the Portland area

If you are interested in participating, please email Tessa Paul at [tessa.paul@multco.us](mailto:tessa.paul@multco.us) by April 1st. More information about this event will be coming soon.

## QUICK LINKS - LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH



## UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

