

TCMA City Managers of Tomorrow Committee
August 18, 2021, 1:00 p.m.
Web Conference

Committee Members present: Chair Austin Bless, City Manager, Jersey Village; Vice Chair Michelle Rivera, Assistant City Manager, McAllen; Corby Alexander, City Manager, La Porte; Drew Corn, Town Manager, Northlake; Jackson Daly, Community Services Director, Georgetown; James Earp, Assistant City Manager, Kyle; Brant Gary, Interim City Manager, Bellaire; David Harris, City Administrator, Balcones Heights; Opal Mauldin-Jones, City Manager, Lancaster; Murvat Musa, Executive Director, Lubbock Reese Redevelopment Authority; Kent Myers, City Manager, Fredericksburg; Joe Price, City Manager, Canyon; Hugh Walker, Deputy City Manager, Bryan; Neal Wendele, City Manager, Todd Mission; Benjamin Williamson, Assistant City Manager, Farmers Branch

Manager in Residence (Secondary): Mike Cochran, President, TCG Group Holdings, LLC; Joey Dunn, Deputy City Manager, Bryan; Michael Goodrum, City Manager, Sugar Land; Mike Hornes, Assistant City Manager, Live Oak

University Representatives: Gina Amatangelo, Lecturer, The University of Texas at San Antonio; Dr. David Coursey, Director of Public Administration, The University of Texas at Arlington; Monica Cruz, Adjunct Professor, St. Mary's University; Dr. Cindy L. Davis, Master of Public Administration Director, Stephen F. Austin State University; Dr. Joe Gershtenson, Associate Professor, St. Mary's University; Dr. Rob Greer, Associate Professor and Director of the Graduate Certificate in Public Management, Texas A&M University; Dr. John McCaskill, Clinical Professor, The University of Texas at Dallas; Dr. James Thurmond, Director of Masters in Public Administration, University of Houston; Richard Yawn, Professor, Sam Houston State University

Student Members: Ryan Cramer, The University of Texas; Miranda Estrada, Texas A&M University; Alyssa Hedge, The University of Texas; Breanna Higgins, Texas State University; Chance Willeford, University of North Texas

Staff: Kim Pendergraft, Tristan Gideon, and Stacey Osborne

Committee Chair Austin Bless called meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. and thanked committee members and guests for participating and requested that all participants give a brief introduction.

Subcommittee Reports

Intercollegiate Bowl: Intercollegiate Bowl Subcommittee Chair James Earp requested that November dates be considered for a meeting with university representatives and student representatives to discuss the 2022 Intercollegiate Bowl. A Wednesday social/networking event will be included. In 2021, TCMA hosted a virtual roundtable since the Intercollegiate Bowl was cancelled. James concluded that the biggest issue with the event was attendance as some students who signed up to participate didn't attend.

Website Social Media: Social Media Coordinator Stacey Osborne reported that all of the TCMA social media platforms have increased in followership with LinkedIn having the most engagements. She noted that social media posts with pictures have the most engagements. Stacey also reported

that the TCMA podcast “Prospective on City Management” has aired five episodes averaging 58 to 180 downloads.

#ELGLInspire: Tristan Gideon reported that the Texas Municipal Human Resources Association and Government Finance Officers Association of Texas will co-sponsor the 2021-2022 #ELGLInspire events. Texas State University will host a virtual event on September 14, 2021, from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Kent Myers and Gina Amatangelo confirmed The University of Texas at San Antonio will host an event in spring 2022. Dr. David Coursey requested that The University of Texas at Arlington host an event in spring 2022. He suggested that undergraduate programs be included when universities market the program.

Student Membership: Tristan Gideon reported that there are 171 TCMA student members and there will be a significant decrease in December with students graduating.

Managers in Residence Program: Tristan Gideon reported that Michael Goodrum is serving with Corby Alexander as a manager in residence for Texas Southern University. Drew Corn reported that John Cabrales will no longer serve on the Committee.

Internships/Fellowships: No report was provided.

University Updates

St. Mary’s University. Dr. Joe Gershtenson reported that a new student will be taking the lead for the student chapter.

Texas A&M University. Dr. Rob Greer stated he hopes to have more participation this year with students back to in-person learning. He submitted a podcast suggestion involving social media strategies for networking and engagement for both individuals and organizations. Dr. Greer also reported a position has been approved for a practitioner in residence.

Texas State University. Gina Amatangelo asked if their fall panel could be recorded as a podcast or collaborated on in some way. James Earp shared that he hosted several workshops with various topics.

The University of Texas at Dallas. Dr. John McCaskill will share TCMA/ICMA opportunities at their upcoming student orientation. The University has seen success in virtual platforms as their annual conference nearly doubled in attendance.

University of Houston. Dr. James Thurmond reported the university will have a soft opening with half of the students meeting in-person and half online. He noted one of their struggles promoting the city management profession is because the City of Houston is a strong mayor form of government.

Student Chapter and Student Leadership Updates

Texas State University. Breanna Higgins reported they are working on a schedule for the upcoming school year and stated that engagement was low last spring.

The University of Texas. Alyssa Hedge stated she will spread the word about the TCMA podcast.

The University of North Texas. Chance Willeford stated last year it was tough to keep students engaged since they were not meeting in-person and the return of the Intercollegiate Bowl will spark more interest.

University of Texas. Ryan Cramer is recruiting incoming MPA students.

Next Steps

A meeting with MIRs and university partners will be scheduled to share ideas on how the MIR Program can continue to develop.

Meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.