

WISCONSIN CITY/COUNTY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

Mentoring and Professional Development For Students



About

The mission of the Wisconsin City/County Management Association (WCMA) is to **develop and support professional and ethical local government management in pursuit of public service excellence** in the state of Wisconsin. While WCMA believes that the most efficient and democratic form of local government is the council-manager form, in which day-to-day operations are conducted by an appointed professional administrator, there are many communities that provide for professional local government management through local ordinance. This association is made up of hundreds of local public managers throughout Wisconsin to further develop their professional skills and knowledge, recognize best practices and services, and strategize new ways to provide services at the local level of government.

How can I get started and be more involved?

1. Contact a public manager in your area to learn more about the profession. You are welcome to contact your regional or school coordinator to seek out ways to be involved in WCMA or future career and internship opportunities. Find your regional coordinator on the WCMA website (www.wcma-wi.org). The League of Wisconsin Municipalities may also serve as a valuable resource for you with an active job board (www.lwm-info.org).
2. Become a member of WCMA. Applications are on the [WCMA website](http://www.wcma-wi.org). Students receive a significant discount, only paying \$20 per year and still receiving all the great services (i.e. full directory of WCMA members and contact information for public managers in Wisconsin, discounts for conferences, access to further professional development activities, etc.).
3. WCMA recognizes the importance of preparing the next generation of public managers. Funding is available for municipalities to create an internship position in their organization. Descriptions of the two types of internship programs are below. Go to the [WCMA website](http://www.wcma-wi.org) to read more information, review the grant criteria, and ask a municipality if they'd be interested in creating an internship opportunity.
 - Undergraduate students. The purpose is to introduce students to the public management profession. Internships give students a summer, semester, or a year-long opportunity to work directly with a public manager to learn more about the profession. WCMA will provide funding as long as it is matched by the municipality.
 - Graduate students. The purpose is to expose graduate students to more complex local government issues with the direct mentoring of a public manager. This is typically 12-24 month commitment depending on the municipality. WCMA will provide funding to the municipality in the amounts of \$4,000 the first year, \$3,000 the second year, and \$2,000 the third year.
4. When a student becomes a member, they are encouraged to participate in a WCMA committee to network with public management professionals. The Emerging Leaders Committee is highly recommended for students, but make sure to consider any of the committees listed on the [WCMA website](http://www.wcma-wi.org).
5. Feel free to contact WCMA Executive Director Dawn Peters at dpeters@niu.edu or 815-753-0923 if you have additional questions or need assistance.
6. If you want to learn more about the local public management profession, watch this two-minute video published by ICMA titled "[Life, Well Run.](#)"