



Celebrate Procurement Month Spring Conference!

Thursday, March 28, 2024

8:30 – 12:30 PM

Please join us on **Thursday, March 28, 2024**, at 9:00 AM for the March Business Meeting which will be included as part of the 2024 MN NIGP Spring Conference.

8:30 AM: Virtual Networking – Come with a cup of coffee and a procurement-related question for the break-out session

9:00 PM – 10:00 AM: Business Meeting

Welcome and introductions

1. Secretary Report
2. Treasurer Report
3. Membership Report
4. Governance Report
5. Nominations
6. Professional Development Report
7. Communications Report
8. Programs Report
9. Vice President Report
10. Past President Report
11. President Report

Break until 10:15 AM

10:15 – 11:00 AM Speaker: Professionalism

Public Procurement Professionals need to be subject matter experts. Dave Baranek will relate his own experience as a Topgun instructor, and the professionalism required and how to use this professionalism to become a respected subject matter expert in the face of tough colleagues.

Speaker – Dave Baranek grew up in Jacksonville, Florida, and set his sights on flying Navy fighters. He attended Georgia Tech and participated in Navy ROTC.

He wasn't able to be a pilot because his eyesight wasn't 20/20, so he became a radar intercept officer (RIO), operating the weapons system in the Navy's F-14 Tomcat fighter.

After serving in an F-14 squadron he was selected as an instructor at the elite Navy Fighter Weapons School, better known as Topgun. While serving as an instructor in 1985 he helped make the film "Top Gun."

Dave enjoyed a successful 20-year career in the Navy, including command of an F-14 Tomcat fighter squadron. He retired from the Navy in 1999 and recently retired from a second career as a defense contractor.

Break until 11:15 AM

11:15 AM – 12:30 PM Speaker: Investing in Yourself and Your Career

This presentation will highlight the importance of investing in yourself as a procurement professional. There is no better time than today to be a part of the public procurement community, with each member determining their own pathway to success.

There are countless ways to make a sound investment in your career. These include attaining professional certification, completing your college degree, gaining insights from procurement mentors and peers, and taking professional training that strengthens your skills and knowledge.

A personal journey of a successful career in procurement will be shared, along with many life-lessons learned by a seasoned professional.

Speaker – Darin Matthews, FNIGP, NIGP-CPP, CPPO, CPSM, C.P.M. is the chief procurement officer for Cal Poly University in San Luis Obispo, CA. He has over 30 years of experience as a procurement leader and is past president of NIGP: The Institute for Public Procurement. Darin is the author of several books and articles on procurement and speaks throughout the world on leading procurement practices. He is a columnist for Government Procurement magazine and in 2020 and 2021 served as host of the podcast, The Evolution of Procurement.

Darin has served on the faculty of several leading universities including Florida Atlantic University, Portland State University, Cal-Berkeley, and University of Illinois. He holds a bachelor's degree in Business and a master's degree in Acquisition Management and Educational Technology.