March 1, 2011

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Dear Carrie:

Happy National Purchasing Month!

As we begin the 2011 edition of this annual celebration, allow me to take this personal opportunity to thank you for your leadership and contributions to public procurement as we work together to develop, support and promote our profession. I firmly believe that we have life choices...to either be passive, disengaged, and disenfranchised, or be proactive and committed. At the international offices in Herndon, we are honored that you have chosen the more difficult but rewarding path which affords you the opportunity to utilize your talents and skills in leadership to the Central Florida Chapter of NIGP. Thanks for your commitment – and thanks for being a champion for public procurement.

I also want to thank you and your membership for your engagement with our Principles and Practices project. As an official supporting organization, you have joined with us and many other procurement and stakeholder associations that share a deep desire to shape our profession. At NIGP, we believe that three essential components must be in place in order to be recognized as a true profession:

- There needs to be a rigorous body of knowledge that defines a comprehensive, working knowledge of public procurement policies and practices (as currently examined through the CPPO and CPPB certifications issued by the UPPCC)

- There needs to be an academic infrastructure where higher education embraces both applied research and curriculum as a means to prepare college students for a career in public service and public procurement. (For the past decade, NIGP's partnership with Florida Atlantic University and the Public Procurement Research Center has been focused on this objective.)

- There needs to be generally accepted principles and standards of practice that emulate from values and guiding principles (hence, this strategic initiative).
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Now that the Values and Guiding Principles have been developed and circulated, our plan is to develop ten procurement-based standards of practice each year for the next ten years. As these standards evolve, we hope that your membership will continue their awareness and support of the project. View updates on the NIGP website regularly, include this project as one of your Board’s initiatives, and consider intentional ways to contribute to the project’s success. We are always looking for professionals who are willing to review draft documents as they are released to the public for comment. Your collective voice and opinions will enrich the final product.

Thanks again for all you do to advance the integrity of public procurement and the incredible value we bring to the bottom line of public sector budgets. Happy National Purchasing Month!

Rick Grimm CPPO CPPB
NIGP Chief Executive
VALUES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Accountability
Taking ownership and being responsible to stakeholders for our actions...essential to preserve the public trust and protect the public interest.

**PRINCIPLES:**
- Apply sound business judgment.
- Be knowledgeable of and abide by all applicable laws and regulations.
- Be responsible stewards of public funds.
- Maximize competition to the greatest extent practicable.
- Practice due diligence.
- Promote effective, economic, and efficient acquisition.
- Support economic, social, and sustainable communities.
- Use procurement strategies to optimize value to stakeholders.

Ethics
Acting in a manner true to these values...essential to preserve the public’s trust.

**PRINCIPLES:**
- Act and conduct business with honesty and integrity, avoiding even the appearance of impropriety.
- Maintain consistency in all processes and actions.
- Meet the ethical standards of the profession.

Impartiality
Unbiased decision-making and action...essential to ensure fairness for the public good.

**PRINCIPLES:**
- Be open, fair, impartial, and non-discriminatory in all processes.
- Treat suppliers equitably, without discrimination, and without imposing unnecessary constraints on the competitive market.
- Use sound professional judgment within established legal frameworks to balance competing interests among stakeholders.

Professionalism
Upholding high standards of job performance and ethical behavior...essential to balance diverse public interests.

**PRINCIPLES:**
- Be led by those with education, experience, and professional certification in public procurement.
- Continually contribute value to the organization.
- Continually develop as a profession through education, mentorship, innovation, and partnerships.
- Develop, support, and promote the highest professional standards in order to serve the public good.
- Seek continuous improvement through on-going training, education, and skill enhancement.

Service
Obligation to assist stakeholders...essential to support the public good.

**PRINCIPLES:**
- Be a crucial resource and strategic partner within the organization and community.
- Develop and maintain relationships with stakeholders.
- Develop collaborative partnerships to meet public needs.
- Maintain a customer-service focus while meeting the needs, and protecting the interests, of the organization and the public.

Transparency
Easily accessible and understandable policies and processes...essential to demonstrate responsible use of public funds.

**PRINCIPLES:**
- Exercise discretion in the release of confidential information.
- Maintain current and complete policies, procedures, and records.
- Provide open access to competitive opportunities.
- Provide timely access to procurement policies, procedures, and records.

Adopted by

NIGP
Excellence in Public Procurement

October 23, 2010