

NCMA TYSONS NEWSLETTER

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February 2025



NCMA Tysons Monthly Talks

Welcome to the February 2025 edition of our chapter newsletter! This month is packed with exciting updates, highlights, and events.

We'll recap our recent get-togethers, shine a light on some of our amazing members, and share details on upcoming events. Read on to discover member achievements, upcoming events, and more!

Top News

Cultivating Leaders: Mentee Features, an article from our very own

Member Spotlight: Cristina Keating and Christian Nagel

Event Recaps, Chapter Updates, and More!





Event Recap– Winter Celebration 1/18

On January 18th, we hosted our highly anticipated Winter Celebration. The event was a resounding success, with attendees coming together in a warm, welcoming atmosphere that celebrated collaboration, growth, and excellence. From the ambience of the venue to the lively conversations, the night was a true reflection of what makes our chapter so special.

We recognized the outstanding contributions of our board members and celebrated the achievements of our chapter community. The event provided an unmatched opportunity for meaningful connections. Attendees shared ideas, discussed collaborations, and built relationships that will extend through the new year.

The Winter Celebration was more than just an event—it was a moment to pause and reflect on all we've accomplished together thus far in the program year. We're incredibly grateful to everyone who attended and contributed to the success of the evening. As we continue through the new year, we're excited to build on this momentum with even more impactful programs, events, and initiatives. Stay tuned—great things are coming!

Here's to a bright future and continued success for our chapter!



02/12

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Event Recap– Winter Celebration 1/18 contd.



03/12

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Sharing Perspectives

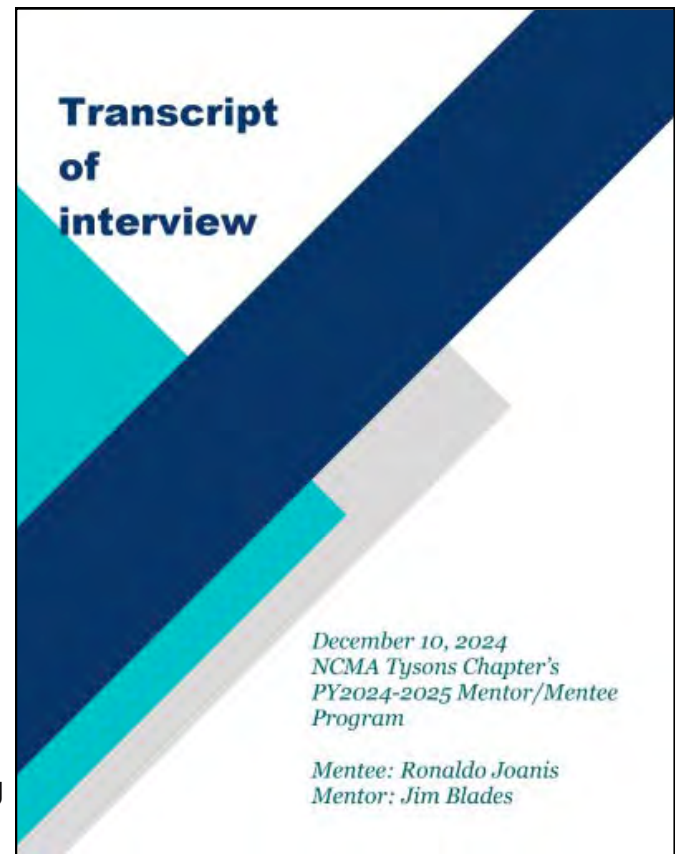
Featured : NCMA Tysons Chapter's Mentor/Mentee Program Interview

December 10, 2024 | Mentee: Ronaldo Joanis | Mentor: Jim Blades

This transcript presents an engaging interview with Mr. Jean M. Lohier, a distinguished Senior Executive Contracts Professional and a dedicated member of both NCMA and the Tysons Chapter. The discussion delves into his career journey, areas of expertise, leadership approach, and insights on the evolving landscape of contract management.

Through thoughtful inquiries, Mr. Lohier imparts practical advice, shares valuable lessons drawn from his extensive experience, and outlines strategies for success in the dynamic procurement and contracts management industry. His perspectives serve to empower professionals in the field, rendering this interview a significant resource.

This interview aims to inspire and guide professionals at all levels, from aspiring mentees to seasoned practitioners. It underscores our commitment to inclusivity by showcasing key milestones, challenges, and opportunities in procurement and contracting for all individuals in the field.



Click on the image to the right to read the full interview.

04/12

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Cultivating Leaders: Mentee Features

It's Never too Late!

Katherine Calloway, a mentee of the 2024-2025 Chapter Mentorship Program

Careers can be as adaptable as legal arguments; they evolve with your experience and creativity. Many members of GenX are planning for retirement after decades of hard work. Some of those workers carefully crafted each step of their journey, while others may have stumbled into professions. Career transitions can often seem unthinkable. For some, the idea of making a significant life change mid-career may feel riddled with societal bias and negativity, going beyond being a simple shift or evolution. From my perspective, it's never too late. Life should be lived to its fullest, and as a lifelong learner, that means embracing new ideas, including a new career path, and taking classes to keep my journey enjoyable and fulfilling.

So, here I am..., in midlife, completing my Master's in Law and delving into contract management.

With thirty years as a paralegal, I have honed skills that seamlessly transition into contract management. Invigorated by the idea of joining this robust industry and at the urging of many seasoned contract management professionals, I immediately joined NCMA and began my training. Shortly thereafter, NCMA Tyson's Chapter president, Lawrence Davies, welcomed me into the 2024-2025 mentorship program. From that moment on, my mentor, Victor Deal, has provided invaluable insight and encouragement. The NCMA Tyson's Chapter mentorship program supports career shifters like me through tailored guidance and professional development.

While I find various elements of contract management appealing, two stand out. First, I have been immensely impressed by the industry's widespread support. Professionals in government and private sectors have taken time out of their day to speak with me and offer guidance on navigating the contract management landscape. Second, the enormous amount of resources for continuing education and training is awe-inspiring and is not something I have ever experienced, even in the legal industry.

Change can be daunting, but change is a part of life. It's never too late to embrace new opportunities. With my paralegal experience and dedication to lifelong learning, I'm eager to bring my skills to a forward-thinking organization in the contract management community in 2025.

05/12

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Event Recap: Winning Proposals

Winning Proposals with Meryl Angelicola

This past January, the NCMA Tysons Chapter hosted an insightful and engaging virtual event featuring Meryl Angelicola, a seasoned expert in proposal development and strategy. Attendees were treated to an in-depth discussion on the art and science of crafting winning proposals, gaining valuable strategies to elevate their approach to government contracting and business development.

Meryl shared her expertise on what it takes to succeed in competitive environments, emphasizing key elements that contribute to a winning proposal. Topics included understanding customer needs, creating compelling narratives, and presenting value propositions that stand out. The session also delved into best practices for aligning proposal strategies with evaluation criteria, as well as tips on effective collaboration and review processes.

The event was an undeniable success, leaving attendees with actionable insights and techniques to strengthen their proposal efforts. It underscored the importance of preparation, precision, and creativity in securing opportunities in today's competitive landscape.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and contributed to the vibrant discussion. Stay tuned as we continue to bring industry-leading content to our community.



Meryl Angelicola, CF APMP
VP at GovDash | ProposalTeam Founder
APMP 40 Under 40 (2023)

06/12

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Of Interest in Federal Contracts

submitted by Tiffany Thomas

In the January 15, 2025 Federal Register, DOD, GSA and NASA published proposed rules to address the following issues:

- Organizational Conflicts of Interest: This rule proposes to move OCI issues from FAR 9.5 to a new FAR Part 3.12 and add 3 new clauses and 2 provisions. The rule introduces new examples and definitions, as well. A new definition of impaired objectivity and unfair competitive advantage, which encompasses biased ground rules and unequal access to information, are included. Comments close March 17, 2025.
- FAR Controlled Unclassified Information: Among numerous proposed changes, this proposed rule adds 2 new FAR clauses, 1 provision, a new Standard Form SF XXX titled "Controlled Unclassified Information", and changes the FAR 15.6 Proprietary markings to "Contractor Proprietary Business Information". Comments close March 17, 2025.
- Protests under "certain Multiple Award Contracts": Under this proposed rule, the Government aims to enhance opportunities for small businesses. It assists Contracting Officers in reserving Multiple Award Contract Task Orders for small businesses when they can reasonably expect two or more responsible small business offers. Additionally, it includes language specifying that a Contracting Officer's decision to set aside a task order for small businesses is not grounds for a protest. Comments on this proposal will be accepted until March 17, 2025.
- Small Business participation on "certain Multiple Award Contracts": This proposed rule intends to issue policy to increase the award of SB set aside contracts and task orders through updated market research, acquisition planning SB specialist coordination language. Additionally, the rule will "increase OSDBU and OSBP insight into acquisition planning for multiple-award contracts by requiring agencies, when contemplating the issuance of such a contract, to consider totally or partially setting aside the acquisition for small business or including a small business reserve." Comments close March 17, 2025.

Final Rules:

- Federal Travel Regulations Amends Relocation MEA Final Rule amends the Federal Travel Regulations to remove the relocation miscellaneous expenses allowance (MEA) lump sum amounts from the FTR. These lump sum amounts will be published in FTR Bulletins on an intermittent basis, much like what is done for per diem and mileage rates. 2025-00497.pdf

GAO Decisions:

- UNICA-BPA JV, LLC UNICA-BPA JV, LLC | U.S. GAO: DHS eliminated UNICA from competition under RFP 70LGLY24RGLB00001 because its registration in the System for Award Management (sam.gov) was inactive when proposals were originally submitted. UNICA was included in the competitive range and later excluded. UNICA protested that their sam.gov registration was active at the time of final proposal revisions and, since the evaluations and awards were made on those final proposal revisions, it complied with FAR 52.204-7. GAO agreed.

07/12

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Chapter Updates



Boost Your Career in 2025 with Our Winter/Spring CFCM & CPCM Boot Camps

Are you ready to take your contracting career to the next level? Our chapter is proud to offer two incredible certification boot camps designed to help you achieve your professional goals.

CFCM Boot Camp

 Start Date: February 18, 2025 - May 6, 2025

 Format: Virtual – weekly evening sessions

CPCM Boot Camp

 Start Date: February 19, 2025 - May 7, 2025

 Format: Virtual – weekly evening sessions

🔴 Spaces are limited – Register Now:

CPCM: eventbrite.com/e/1094818584859?aff=oddtcreator

CFCM: eventbrite.com/e/1094819527679?aff=oddtcreator

For more information, email certifications@ncmatyson.org or visit our website.



Stay Connected with eventbrite!

Wondering how to stay in the loop for NCMA Tysons Chapter events?

Complete the steps below to follow us on eventbrite!

1. Log in to your eventbrite account
2. Click [here](#) to open the NCMA Tysons Chapter Profile.
3. Simply click follow!

Now, you will be notified of NCMA Tysons Chapter event updates. You must have an eventbrite account to be able to follow us. Cheers!

08/12

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Chapter Updates

Recognizing Leadership: Apply for the NCMA Fellow Award

The National Contracting Management Association (NCMA) Fellow Award is one of the highest and most prestigious individual honors within the NCMA. This distinguished award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to both the contract management profession and NCMA. It is a true testament to the dedication and impact of its recipients.

First introduced on January 9, 1967, the NCMA Fellow Award was initially bestowed upon Stuart Davidson, Bert DeMars, and Sy Gottlieb. Since then, it has served as a symbol of excellence and commitment, honoring members who exemplify leadership, service, and influence within the contracting community.

This award is exclusively open to NCMA members. To ensure The NCMA Tysons Chapter members are well-prepared to apply, our Chapter is excited to announce an upcoming virtual event. This session will provide an in-depth overview of the Fellows Award, including:

- * What the Fellow Award is
- * The eligibility requirements
- * How to complete the application process
- * Key dates, including when the application opens

In order to get a head start on determining where they stand in reference to their eligibility for the award. Since the 2025 Fellow Award application process starts sometime this Spring, it would be helpful to identify any areas that members should work on to increase their eligibility.

In the interim, prior to our virtual event, interested Tysons Chapter members are strongly encouraged to review the current "NCMA Fellows Award Eligibility and Evaluation" Criteria document, which is available at:
<https://www.ncmahq.org/common/Uploaded%20files/Membership/Award%20Criteria/Fellow%20Award.pdf>

As a chapter, Tysons is committed to supporting our members through every step of the application process. Whether you're just beginning to explore the possibility of applying or are ready to submit, we're here to help you succeed.

Calling All Writers and Thought Leaders!

Do you have insights, expertise, or experiences to share with the NCMA Tysons Chapter community? We want to hear from YOU!

The Chapter Monthly Newsletter is the perfect platform to showcase your knowledge, share industry updates, or spark conversations about the topics that matter most in government contracting, program management, and beyond.

Whether you're a seasoned professional, a rising star, or someone with a unique perspective, your voice can inspire and educate our members. Don't miss this opportunity to contribute and make an impact!

✉ Submit your article today and let your ideas shine: [TYSONS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION FORM](#)

Deadline for submissions are 5 business days prior to the end of each month. Let's build a newsletter full of diverse ideas, experiences, and expertise. It starts with YOU!

Exciting Opportunity for Small Business Owners: Pinnacle's First Business Mastermind of 2025

We are excited to share this opportunity from Pinnacle, a trusted partner of our chapter's partner, Virginia Minority Chambers, Inc. Pinnacle is hosting its First Business Mastermind of 2025, designed to empower small business owners through dynamic sessions focused on growth, collaboration, and success.

This program features a combination of in-person and virtual sessions, culminating in a celebratory graduation event. Breakfast will be served at the kickoff session, and lunch will be provided at the graduation.

Kickoff Session (In-Person): February 13th, 2025 from 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. at Pinnacle's Tyson's Office Breakfast will be served.

Weekly Virtual Mastermind Sessions: February 20th, February 27th, March 6th, and March 13th, 2025 from 9 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Final Session & Graduation (In-Person): March 21st, 2025 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Pinnacle's Tyson's Office. Lunch will be served, followed by a celebration.

This is an excellent opportunity for small business owners to gain insights, network, and develop strategies for growth in 2025.

Space is limited! For more details or to register, contact Arnald George, Client Service Advisor - arnald.valentine@pnfp.com

09/12

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Member Spotlights: Cristina Keating and Christian Nagel Champions of Education for NCMA Tysons!



This month, we shine the spotlight on two remarkable leaders who are driving education and professional growth within our chapter—Cristina Keating, our VP Education, and Christian Nagel, our Director of Education Support. Their dedication and contributions are paving the way for transformative learning experiences for our members.

Cristina, our VP Education, has been instrumental in reviving and shaping the chapter's Contract Lifecycle Series (CLS). With her leadership, we successfully brought back the Fall-Winter CLS and are gearing up for the Winter-Spring CLS—offering invaluable learning opportunities to our community. Her meticulous planning and innovative ideas have not only elevated the educational offerings of the chapter but have also set a high standard for future program years. Christina's passion for education and her commitment to the professional development of our members make her an irreplaceable asset to the NCMA Tysons chapter.

Working closely with Cristina is Christian Nagel, Director of Education Support. As a dedicated member of the board and a professional at Holland & Knight, Christian plays a critical role in supporting the VP of Education. His expertise, collaborative spirit, and attention to detail have been vital in meeting the chapter's educational goals. Christian's ability to bring together resources and streamline efforts has ensured that all educational requirements are met with excellence. His contributions are a testament to his commitment to the success of our chapter and its members.

Together, Cristina and Christian form a dynamic team that embodies the spirit of leadership and collaboration. Their hard work and vision are shaping the educational future of NCMA Tysons, ensuring that our chapter remains at the forefront of professional development.

Let's take a moment to thank Cristina and Christian for their extraordinary efforts—they are truly assets to our chapter and community!

Thank you to our Partners!



Thank you to our Sponsors!



10/12

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Upcoming

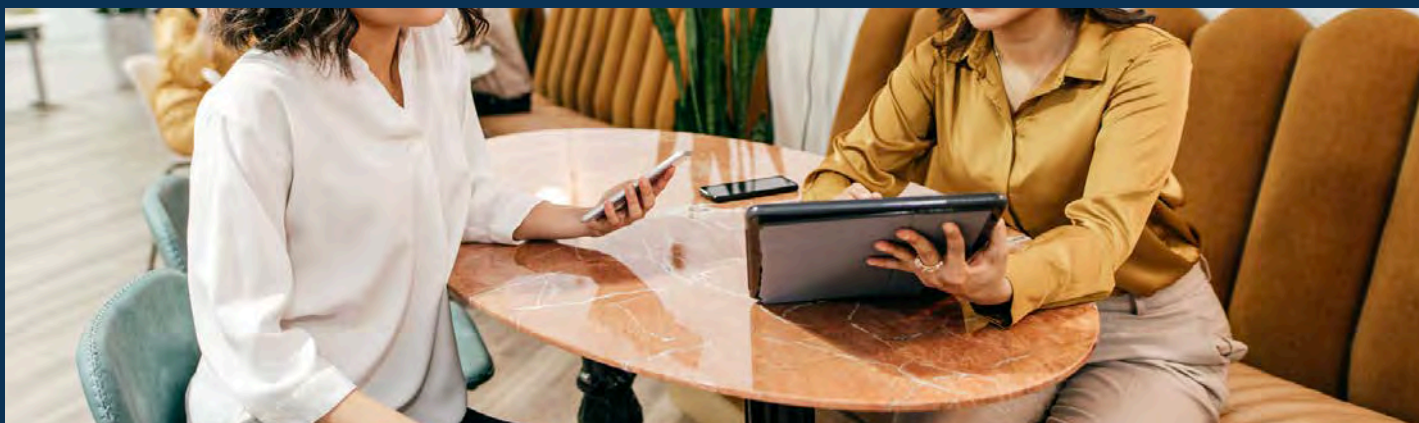
Events

- January 2025 CPCM and CFCM Bootcamp Enrollment opens
- February 2025- Date TBD - NCMA Tysons Small Business Networking Symposium
- February 18th - May 6th- Winter/Spring CFCM Certification Bootcamp(s)
- February 13th- Pinnacle's First Business Mastermind of 2025 Kick-off session
- February 20th - March 13th - Weekly sessions for Pinnacle's First Business Mastermind of 2025
- February 26th - Continuing the Government Trends Series! Virtual Event
- March 21st - Pinnacle's First Business Mastermind of 2025 Final Session and Graduation

Chapter Board Opportunities

- Become a Tysons Chapter Mentor/Mentee
- Volunteer to teach a CPCM or CFCM Bootcamp
- Submit to the NCMA Tysons Newsletter
- Director of Awards
- Director of Chapter Recognition
- Director of Mentoring
- Director of Government Relations & Regulations
- Director of Policies and Guidelines, Procedures & Guidelines

*"Move forward.
Good things are
up ahead."*



CALL TO ACTION

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Get Involved

Volunteer your time and talents to support our initiatives.

outreach@ncmatysons.org



Attend Events

Join us for our upcoming events and network with our community.

programs@ncmatysons.org



Sponsorship

Consider becoming a sponsor. Your sponsorship will enable us to continue our vital work and reach even more individual needs.

sponsorship@ncmatysons.org



Spread the Word

Repost and engage with our Social Media accounts. Share this newsletter and invite others to get involved.

Together, we can continue to make a meaningful impact on our community.
We look forward to your participation and support.