

The Buffalo-Niagara Plan-Net

Spring 2018

Recent AICP Changes

by George McKibbin

For about three years, I have reviewed AICP Advanced Specialty applications to write the examination for environmental planning. The May 2018 examination cycle was the last opportunity to write the AICP exams for advanced specialization. In August 2017, the APA staff who coordinate the examination program approached the reviewers with this information and we were asked to make ourselves available to review the last batch of applications.

The reasons given for the ending of this program were twofold: it appears that demand for advanced certification has been satisfied; and the costs associated with designing the exams were about \$100,000 for the three specializations.

Glenn Larson, AICP President, offered an official notice on the cessation of the advanced specialization program on September 1, 2017. He wrote: *On behalf of the AICP Commission, I am writing to share an important announcement regarding the status of applications for AICP's Advanced Specialty Certifications (ASC). This July, the Commission voted to no longer accept applications for the Certified Environmental Planner (CEP), Certified Transportation Planner (CTP) and Certified Urban Designer (CUD) credentials. Applications will be accepted one last time prior to the May 2018 examinations. Please rest assured that your advanced specialty credential will continue to be supported and recognized in the same way it has been, and even more so. Certification maintenance requirements will also remain in place as continued demonstration of your commitment to the value of the credential.*

Some of the ways in which the credential will be supported include the following measures:

New Opportunities for Specialty Credential Holders

ASC Webpage. *A new web page will be created, to be modeled after the existing FAICP page, listing all specialty credential holders with a professional bio.*

CPAT. *A call for communities that need help in the areas of Transportation, Urban Design, and Environmental Planning will be promoted. Certified specialty credential holders will be given priority to serve as volunteers for these CPAT projects.*

Inside this issue:

Recent AICP Changes	1
Hello My Name is.... Professional and Future Planners Meet to Mix Things Up	3
Welcome UB's New Representative on the Board	4
Upcoming Events	5

Recent AICP Changes continued from page 1

Career Reality Webinars. Certified specialty credential holders will be invited to serve as speakers/presenters in APA's Career Reality webinars. The webinars offer practical tips on job search and professional development issues for new and seasoned planners:

- o On careers in Environmental or Transportation planning or Urban Design.
- o On working in private practice.

Planner Profiles. Opportunities for certified specialty credential holders to discuss their area of expertise and career path as part of APA's Planner Profiles series online will be shared as appropriate.

Research Project Steering Committees. Preferred consideration to participate on APA research projects when topically appropriate.

Author/Review PAS Reports and Memos: Potential opportunities to serve as a Planning Advisory Service author or reviewer of a completed manuscript, when topically appropriate.

Education Subject Matter Expert: Certified specialty credential holders will be given priority to play a role in developing new online education offerings for APA within their area of expertise.

In lieu of continuation of the Advanced Specialty Certification, a new effort will be given to emphasizing the value of AICP certification, including Advanced Certification.

In September 2003, there were 33,410 APA members and 14,048 AICP members. As of September 2016, there are 37,604 APA members and 16,170 AICP members. Between those years APA membership reached a peak of 44,513 members in 2008. AICP membership peaked at 16,550 members in 2009. International membership in APA and AICP was 751 in September 2005. Membership peaked at 1087 in 2009 and is presently 860 in 2016. By contrast, there were 145 International AICP members in 2006 and 219 in 2016. It would be interesting to compare membership statistics with those in the State of New Jersey where State planning certification is required to practice our profession.

The decision may be disappointing to those who achieved the advanced specialization. Achieving the certification required considerable effort and expense. Given the membership numbers, however I can understand AICP's decision to place more emphasis on growing AICP membership. The professional certification and the membership requirements associated with AICP are integral to ensuring the public obtains the highest quality service that is possible.

Hello My Name is....

Professional and Future Planners Gather to Mix Things Up by Rocky Navarro

The Steer Restaurant generously accommodated 25 of WNY's current and future planners as they gathered to share thoughts about graduate school, current events, planning, getting a job, and everything in between. Many professional planners such as newly retired Ken Swanekamp, UB Planning Chairman Daniel Hess, and NFTA's Jeff Amplement attended the event and found it very important to spend time with future planners as they make their way through graduate school. While many of the students were both current and former UB students, students from Binghamton University like Melissa Keller, and Jessica Teng of City College of New York, enjoyed the event.



The Western New York Section of the Upstate APA Chapter hosts this event annually each winter. Thanks to the generous dues of the membership, this event was free to attend. Many thanks go out to all the professional planners and students who took time out of their schedule to attend and make this event successful!



Welcome UB's New Student Representative on the Section Board!

Mitch LaRosa is a Buffalo native and a second year graduate student in the University at Buffalo's Masters of Urban Planning program as well as the Lead Research and Planning Specialist with Shared Mobility Inc., a Buffalo-based transportation non-profit. Mitch has led many of SMI's innovative projects including leading research and site planning and model formation of bikesharing in small and mid-size communities as well as innovative transportation models in rural areas. Outside of bikesharing, Mitch works with other shared transportation modes including transit accessibility, volunteer transportation systems, transit oriented development and using shared mobility systems to reduce transportation demand.

Upcoming Events:

Monday, May 14, 2018: Annual Awards Event
5:30 p.m.
Location TBD

Late Summer/Fall Event: TBD

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Events

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