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## **Record Number Attend NGMA Annual Grants Training in D.C**

*Over 1,200 Attended; Sessions Focused on Compliance and Daily Operations as Industry Continues Rapid Growth*

**APRIL 13, 2023 – Washington, D.C.** – The National Grants Management Association (NGMA) hosted a record-breaking 1,200+ attendees at its Annual Grants Training (AGT) on April 10-13 in Washington, D.C. The event featured a keynote address, plenary panel discussions, sector meetings and more than 40 breakout sessions that covered a wide array of daily operations topics and the rapid growth and new challenges in the grants management field.

Agenda highlights included:

- Keynote address *The Code of Trust: Five Steps for Creating Allies*, with speaker Robin Dreeke, a former FBI Special Agent and Marine Corps Officer, who provided an overview of personality assessment and human motivations, steps to forging trust and keys to communication;
- Plenary panel discussion with a focus on ethics and conflicts of interest;
- Networking opportunities and sector breakout meetings; and
- More than 40 breakout sessions that covered new grants manager training and grants management topics including procurement, managing audits, closeouts, subrecipient monitoring and much more.

Grants managers also heard from two key regulatory government organizations: representatives from the Office of Inspector General (OIG) hosted a plenary panel discussion on recent findings and hot topics in grants management; and an official from the Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provided essential updates and highlighted activities and policy directives in grants.

Other topics of importance to grants professionals covered at AGT included:

- Current legal issues facing grants agencies and recipients
- Single audit management
- Procurement requirements
- Identifying and Managing Fraud Risks
- Managing Federal Funds
- Hidden Costs



Attendees reflected the rapid growth in grants management: more than 730 of the 1,200+ participants were first-time AGT attendees. Grants officers attended from nearly every U.S. state, U.S. territories and other countries, including Australia, Kenya and Sudan. They represented public and private sectors, including federal, state, local and tribal governments; higher education institutions; non-profit organizations; and more.

At AGT, NGMA also honored its 2023 award winners:

- **Impact Award/Public Sector:**  
Michael Brown, CGMS (Senior Grants Manager, FEMA Region 6)
- **Impact Award/Private Sector:**  
Tiffany Kessler, Esq., CGMS (Partner, The Bruman Group, PLLC)
- **Newton Award:**  
Kerry Neal (Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition, Grants and Risk Management, U.S. Department of Education)

**The National Grants Management Association (NGMA)** provides tools and resources for grants professionals to support and maintain high levels of grants management competency and to establish standards of excellence for grants managers. For more information, visit <https://www.ngma.org/>.

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