

The logo for the University of Kansas, featuring the letters 'KU' in a white serif font on a dark blue background.The logo for the Public Management Center, featuring the letters 'PMC' in a white sans-serif font on a dark blue background.

IWPA 2026

Justification packet

Inspiring Women in Public Administration Conference

August 21, 2026 | Overland Park Convention Center

Date

Friday, August 21, 2026

Venue

Overland Park Convention Center
Courtyard Level
6000 College Blvd
Overland Park, KS 66211

Registration

Register six people from your organization and receive the seventh registration free!

\$225 standard rate

Includes:

- Meals indicated below
- Book that the conference theme and content is based on: 'Mattering'

Meals included

Breakfast & lunch

- Coffee, tea, water and snacks throughout the day

Contact us

University of Kansas
Public Management Center
kupmc@ku.edu
785-864-6864

Wescoe Hall, Room 4060
1445 Jayhawk Blvd.
Lawrence, KS 66045

Why attend IWPA?

The Inspiring Women in Public Administration (IWPA) Conference is a one-day annual professional development experience designed to energize, connect, and empower public-sector professionals. While the conference is open to all, its focus reflects the unique leadership challenges and opportunities women face in public administration.

This year's theme—**"You Matter at IWPA: Creating a Community of Empowered Leaders"**—centers on leadership growth, values-driven decision-making, professional resilience, and meaningful connection across the public sector. Attendees participate in keynote presentations, facilitated panels, supported networking & tabletop discussions, and wellness-centered sessions that provide both inspiration and practical tools.

Participants leave IWPA with new perspectives, actionable strategies, and a strengthened peer network that directly supports effectiveness in their public service roles.

Who should attend?

- City, county, and state government employees
- Public administrators, managers, and supervisors
- Emerging and mid-career leaders
- Professionals seeking mentorship, coaching, or leadership renewal
- Anyone interested in strengthening leadership capacity and workplace culture in the public sector

What you'll gain

- Practical leadership and career development strategies applicable to public-sector roles
- Insights from experienced government and nonprofit leaders
- Tools to navigate change, uncertainty, and increasing workplace demands
- Techniques that support wellness, engagement, and long-term professional sustainability
- Opportunities to build relationships with peers, mentors, and subject-matter experts

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Justification letter template

Use this letter as a template and personalize as needed

Date

Dear [Supervisor's Name],

I am requesting approval to attend the **2026 Inspiring Women in Public Administration (IWPA) Conference** on Friday, August 21, 2026, at the **Overland Park Convention Center**.

The IWPA Conference is a one-day professional development event designed to support leadership growth, resilience, and connection within the public sector. While the conference is open to all, it focuses on issues and challenges frequently experienced by women in public administration. This year's theme, "**You Matter at IWPA: Creating a Community of Empowered Leaders**," aligns with our organization's commitment to professional development and effective public service.

The conference agenda includes a keynote address, panel discussions with accomplished public-sector leaders, supported networking & tabletop discussions, and wellness-focused programming. These sessions emphasize practical strategies, leadership tools, and peer learning that can be directly applied in the workplace.

Attending IWPA will allow me to strengthen my leadership and communication skills, gain fresh perspectives on public-sector challenges, and build relationships with peers across local and regional governments. The knowledge and connections gained will benefit both my professional growth and our organization.

I would be happy to share key takeaways and relevant resources with colleagues following the conference to maximize the return on this investment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Title]

[Department / Organization]

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Post-conference briefing worksheet

Use this worksheet to capture key takeaways and document return on investment.

Name:

Session Title:

Presenter(s):

Session Summary: *(briefly describe the session in your own words)*

Key Takeaways:

-
-
-

Action Items: *(what will you do differently as a result of this session?)*

-
-
-

Scalable ideas: *(what ideas or practices could be shared or implemented within your organization?)*

Professional contacts:

- 7.
- 8.

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Tips to get support to attend the Inspiring Women in Public Administration Conference

Making the case to attend

When requesting approval to attend IWPA, consider the following:

- Emphasize how IWPA supports leadership development, employee engagement, and organizational effectiveness.
- Identify skills or strategies you expect to gain and how they apply to your role.
- Highlight the value of networking with peers who face similar public-sector challenges.
- Focus on return on investment—what you will bring back and share with your organization

Feedback from past IWPA attendees:

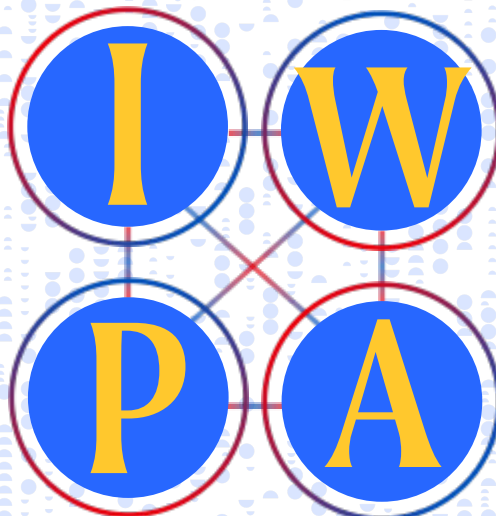
"I look forward to attending IWPA every year because I know I will leave feeling energized and inspired."

"I appreciate that the content is applicable no matter what part of the public sector you come from."

"The networking opportunity is my favorite part. I always leave with new ideas and allies."

Upon your return, consider sharing key lessons learned or resources with colleagues to extend the benefit of attendance.

**YOU
MATTER AT**



**CREATING A
COMMUNITY
OF EMPOWERED
LEADERS**