March is Purchasing Month!

The National Institute of Governmental Purchasing, Inc. (NIGP) proclaims March to be Purchasing Month. It is time to celebrate with pride the role of the public purchasing person. Per the NIGP website the values of Public Procurement are:

ACCOUNTABILITY: Taking ownership and being responsible to all stakeholders for our actions. This value is essential to preserve the public trust and protect the public interest.

IMPARTIALITY: Unbiased decision making and actions. This value is essential to ensure fairness for the public good.

INTEGRITY: Doing the right thing. This value is essential to deserve the public’s trust.

PROFESSIONALISM: Upholding high technical and ethical standards. This value is essential to balance diverse public interests.

SERVICE: Obligation to assist stakeholders. This value is essential to support the public good.

TRANSPARENCY: Easily accessible and understandable policies and processes. This value is essential to demonstrate responsible use of public funds

But the recognition for good public purchasing practices goes beyond the title of Director of Purchasing or Procurement Officer. So to all those people out there, regardless of title, who oversee the spending of taxpayers’ money by writing specifications, placing orders, justifying sole sources, receiving shipments, stocking shelves, calling for repairs, handling complaints, verifying prices, reviewing payments, etc… THANK YOU!

To everyone else – Have you hugged your purchasing person this month?

Special Note: On March 25, Governor Sam Brownback will sign a proclamation recognizing the work of purchasing professionals in the public sector. If you would like to know more about NIGP or Kansas Association of Public Purchasing Professionals (KAPPP), the local chapter of NIGP, give Purchasing a call.