

# 101: Getting to Know the Alliance for Innovation



- The History of the Alliance for Innovation
- Leadership and Staff
- Mission, Vision and Values
- Strategic Direction
- How We Are Transforming Local Government





## A Community Shaping the Future of Local Government

The Alliance for Innovation is the **platform for local governments** who are **passionate about nurturing an innovative culture** and **building the future of local government today.**

# Alliance for Innovation Partnership

We incorporate academic research (ASU), applied knowledge case studies by early adopters (The Alliance) and dissemination of information, training and technical assistance to local governments (ICMA).

The ultimate goal is to **widely disseminate knowledge and proven approaches** to innovation to local governments beyond the “early adopters.”



# Alliance for Innovation Partnership

The Alliance for Innovation is *inspiring innovation to advance communities*. As the *premier resource for emerging practices* in local government, the Alliance is *building cultures of innovation and connecting thought leaders* in the profession with the help of our partners ICMA and ASU. We are *accessible and valuable to all* levels of local government.




# A Community Shaping the Future of Local Government

Knowledge Sharing  
Organizational Development  
Networking  
Research



## Organizational Membership



**Everyone  
Belongs!**

Full and Part-Time  
All Department Disciplines  
Elected Officials

# What is Innovation?

**Fundamental**



**Incremental**



**Adoption** – incorporating practices developed in other organizations.

**Adaptation** – new approaches or practices that are created by the organization; application of new technology.

**Diffusion** - the spread of new ideas and practices through the local government sector.



Key  
Definitions

# How Does Innovation Occur?

Associating

Experimenting

Questioning

Networking

Observing



<http://hbr.org/2009/12/the-innovators-dna>

# Ski Magnet

- Manual



- Power



# Ski Magnet

- Low Budget
- Made from reused discarded materials
- Magnet from decommissioned F.O.D sweeper
- Used skis
- Construction ties
- Rope



# Alliance Leadership and Staff



**"As a local government today, we have one fundamental choice - find new and better ways to do business or fail. Individually, we don't have the answers, but through the Alliance for Innovation, we can provide our employees and our organization with the tools to enable us to obtain a clear path to success."**

*Michael Wilkes*

*City Manager, Olathe, Kansas*



**"Given the magnitude of challenges facing us today, innovative practices and solutions are essential in building sustainable communities. As local government entrepreneurs, we need to foster the exchange of progressive ideas, identify viable opportunities, replicate applications and apply the principles of successful innovation. The Alliance for Innovation is just the place to do that with practitioners, researchers and experts – working together in a network incubator for local governments."**

*Shannon Flanagan-Watson  
Assistant County Manager  
Arlington County, Virginia*



- 📌 Headquarters at Arizona State University in Phoenix, AZ
- 📌 Staff of 11 Employees
- 📌 Three Marvin Andrews Fellows
- 📌 Karen Thoreson, President
- 📌 Three Regional Directors

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# Preparing for Our Future 2016-2018



## **Mission**

To foster a community of practice shaping the future of local governance.



## **Vision**

To be the world's premier network driving innovation in local governance.

- Continuous Improvement
- Learning
- Collaboration
- Passion for Service
- Creativity
- Fun
- Community
- Research



# Strategic Objective 1:

Deliver signature content and experiences that grow innovative capacity within member organizations.



## **Strategic Objective 2:**

**Create, transform and sustain leading research and development capacity for local government.**



## **Strategic Objective 3:**

**Embed the Alliance within the culture of member organizations.**



# Strategic Objective 4:

Broaden the relationships within the community of practice across all dimensions.



# Strategic Objective 5:

Insure the sustainability of the AFI Organization.





# How Are We Transforming Local Government



# Knowledge Sharing:

**Disseminating information to accelerate the adoption of innovative practices in the profession.**

▣ Transformations

▣ Ideas Quarterly

▣ GovNews

▣ Case Studies

▣ Innovation Awards



# Organizational Development:

Engage in your continuous learning journey.

📖 eLearning

📖 Workshops/Forums

📖 Conferences

📖 Ambassador Program

📖 Innovation Academy

📖 OnDemand



# Networking:

**Connect with local government practitioners and resources needed to push beyond traditional boundaries.**

▮ Community of Innovators

▮ Face to Face Interactions

▮ Virtual Community

▮ Job Center



# Research:

**Research on emerging practices.**

▮ White Papers

▮ Forums

▮ Corporate Partners

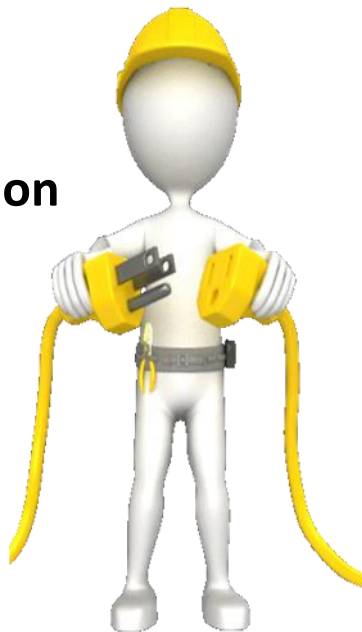
▮ Local Government Research Collaborative



# Alliance Ambassador Program

## Build a Culture of Innovation

Innovation models  
Ambassador Content  
Lead discussions  
e-learning



## Grow Engagement

Identify projects  
Take research requests  
Sign Up new accounts  
Recruit new ambassadors  
Organize events

## Support the Alliance

Share new ideas  
Answer Knowledge Network  
questions  
Key contact for other members

# Specific Examples

- ▣ Individually
- ▣ Departments
- ▣ Existing Team
- ▣ Tackle Strategic Challenges
- ▣ Innovation Teams



# Be Deliberate and Encourage Collaboration

- ▣ Time for Creativity
- ▣ Encourage Ideas
- ▣ Bring Together Diverse Perspectives
- ▣ Involve Others





# Share Your Success:

- ▮ Press Releases
- ▮ Apply for Innovation Awards
- ▮ Apply for Case Studies
- ▮ Submit an Article
- ▮ Volunteer to Serve Webinar Panel



# **Attend the TLG Conference**

**June 15-17, St. Paul, Minnesota**



**Transformation Ahead**  
**[www.transformgov.org](http://www.transformgov.org)**



**Questions?**  
**Need More**  
**Information?**

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