



News

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Driving Diversity Through Leadership

Agapi Mavridis, winner of IPAC's Promising New Professional Award is Championing Inclusion

Victoria, August 30, 2011 – The Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC) is pleased to present Agapi Mavridis with the *2011 Promising New Professionals Award* in recognition for her creativity and leadership in promoting inclusiveness in the Ontario Public Service.

IPAC's *Promising New Professionals Award* was created in 2010 to honour an individual who, having worked for less than five years, has already distinguished themselves in the public sector. Nominees have demonstrated that they are emerging leaders and that they represent the ideals, values and abilities of sound public administration.

To the 2011 winner, Agapi Mavridis, who is a Policy and Communications Advisor in Ontario's Diversity Office, teamwork isn't an exclusionary concept; it's inclusionary by nature. Agapi has been instrumental in ensuring that the Government of Ontario, which is one of the largest and most diverse public services in Canada becomes an organization that is accessible and inclusive.

Despite having been with the Ontario Public Service (OPS) for only three years, Agapi has led a number of highly successful initiatives which include the second round of the Diversity Reciprocal Mentoring Program. She is currently supporting the award-winning OPS Inclusion Lens Team, which was recently recognized with a prestigious Ontario Amethyst Award. "The Inclusion Lens" which is a multi-dimensional, user-friendly online educational resource includes wiki's and blogs and a framework that supports broad and inclusive thinking in the development and review of policies, programs, legislation and services. It is a catalyst for the cultural and behavioural transformation to fully integrate diversity, accessibility and inclusion into the way the Ontario Government does business to meet the needs of 13 million Ontarians.

"The quality of her work demonstrates that she is a natural leader and approaches sensitive issues with tact, diplomacy and creative thinking" states Derek Lett, Director of Diversity Program Design at OPS. He continued to say that Agapi "lives the principles of inclusive public service, by fostering the personal growth and development of everyone around her".

She has been Workforce Diversity Change Agent for the Ministry of Government Services, Corporate Services Division and shares her time and skills in a number of community organizations, such as the Board of the Cretans Association of Toronto.

“IPAC created the Promising New Professional Award because of the importance to encourage and distinguish leadership among all public servants and recognize the role new professionals can play” Denise Amyot, IPAC president states. “This annual award recognizes an individual, who demonstrates: positive attitude towards their work and learning; the ideals and values of public administration; and the initiative to improve upon the sound work of public administration and public servants in their region and/or across Canada. New professionals in the public service are at the heart of tomorrow’s public sector.”

Other finalists included Aimée Skelton, Senior Policy Advisor in the Consumer Policy and Liaison Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer Services; Chris Bohemier, Manager of Online Services, Business Transformation and Technology, Manitoba Innovation, Energy and Mines; and David Cundall, Senior Policy Analyst, Saskatchewan Labour Relations and Workplace Safety.

The Promising New Professionals Award was presented at IPAC’s 63rd Annual Conference held in Victoria. This conference has brought together public servants s from all orders of government, academics and guests from around the world to share knowledge and celebrate innovation and transformation in Canada’s public sector.

For more information, please contact:

Institute of Public Administration of Canada

Carole Humphries

Director of Membership and Marketing

416-924-8787 Ext 234

chumphries@ipac.ca / www.ipac.ca

About IPAC

The Institute of Public Administration of Canada, founded in 1947, is a dynamic association of public servants, academics, and others interested in public administration. Rooted by its Regional Groups, it is a membership-based organization that creates effective knowledge networks; leads public administration research in Canada; and fosters innovation and excellence in public administration. Since the early 1990s, it has been a major player in exporting Canadian public sector expertise around the world.