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Briefly Tell your Story: I'm from a blue-collar family, and no one in my family ever went to college. After high school, I joined the military like most of my friends did. I spent four (4) years in the U. S. Coast Guard and, when I returned to civilian life, I attended college at night on The G.I. Bill for 14 years. During this time, I realized the wonderful impact that a college/university had on the city/town that they were located in (this realization took place when I worked on my AA, BS, and MPA degrees from Long Beach City College and San Diego State University.

Later, after I received my MPA degree, I worked in local government, starting in Oakland, CA., and worked my way up to the Office of the City Manager, while I attended school at night, and received my MBA and PhD degrees. During my public service career, I was a City Manager in cities in CA, NJ, + CT. I worked in the largest council-manager government city in CA (Oakland), and was the City Manager of the largest council-manager cities in NJ and CT (Clifton, NJ, and Meriden, CT.).

As a City Manager I always taught at night at local public universities in neighboring communities. I realized how special it was to have a college or university in your city/town, and the mutual benefits that could be provided by working together to have a positive town-gown relationship within a community.

Every school that I taught a during my city management career, in their MPA Programs, I talked about town-gown relations, since this topic fit into most of my public administration courses. This exchange with students provided me with additional information about the mutual benefits of having a positive town-gown relationship between a city/town and a college/university.

I collected and spoke about this town-gown based on evolving best practices during the coming years, and during my City Management career, I wrote a best practices book on town-gown relations, and continued to provide lectures, give speeches, and write articles on this topic for years to come.

Also, it helped me to be a part of NASPAA, on their Site Visit Team, since I went all over the US to see how colleges and universities related to the city/town that they were located in. I learned much more during this time about the positive mutual relationships that take place in town-gown relationships between city/town and colleges/universities throughout our nation.

I believe that my experience, and resulting lectures to the students in my classes over the years, and the future professional journal articles, and my best practices book, helped to codify knowledge in the evolving and dynamic field of town-gown relationships.

My career has been a very positive experience in town-gown relations, and I hope to give more speeches, write more articles, and possibly even edit another "best practices" volume in the future on town-gown relationships.

I think that over the years both city/town and college/university officials have learned the importance of having a positive relationship in this dynamic and evolving field. ITGA does a great job in helping everyone achieve this national GOAL!!!

Also, I respect the only national organization on town-gown relations, ITGA, and I am glad that they provide the services that they do to help bring together administrators, citizens, and students, that are in college/university towns, to help educate everyone on the benefits of having positive town-gown relations in communities throughout our nation.

I hope that other college administrators, professors, and city/town managers, will do what I did during my public service career during the coming years -- since everyone benefits - the elected officials, appointed officials, administrators, as well as the citizens and students that go to school and live in the community that their school is located in.

I think that the town-gown future is very bright, and that ITGA is primarily responsible for this positive national trend. I am happy that I have helped to provide the necessary experience, research, and information, to facilitate this trend in our nation.

I am also grateful to the ITGA for posting this information on their website, soliciting information from their members about evolving best practices, and holding an annual national conference to receive and spread-the-word about such evolving best practices.

Summarize the current status of the initiative: The status of my personal effort to enhance town-gown relations is noted above. A few of my attachments did not make it, so I will send a hard-copy of them to Beth, to pass along to our the ITGA President.