



2026 BASIC INSTITUTE

APRIL 26 - MAY 1 • COMFORT INN & SUITES • MT. PLEASANT

Your Road to Success



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Jennifer Adams
Lake Charter Township
Basic 3



Valerie Agolli
City of Detroit
Basic 3



Mike Aiello
Clinton Charter Twp.
Basic 2



April Alberty
Addison Township
Basic 2



Susan Anderson
City of Sault Ste. Marie
Basic 1



Elisa Andrick
Midland County
Basic 1



Katie Arendt-Ardelean
City of Owosso
Basic 2



Heather Armstrong
Village of Stockbridge
Basic 2



Paula Arsenault
City of Marine City
Basic 1



Jennifer Ashton
Village of Dansville
Basic 3



Glorimar Ayala
Village of Middleville
Basic 3



Kate Balfourt
City of Kentwood
Basic 2



Anjee Bansal
City of Fraser
Basic 3



Jennifer Beach
City of Linden
Basic 2



Jordan Bell
City of Coldwater
Basic 1



Amy Berridge
City of Wyoming
Basic 1

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Michelle Bieri
Village of Pentwater
Basic 2



Jordan Bowers
Delta Charter Township
Basic 1



Nicole Bredeweg
City of Saugatuck
Basic 2



Amy Bromberg
City of Pinconning
Basic 3



Heather Bruno
Shiawassee County
Basic 3



Brittney Bunker
Orion Township
Basic 3



Linda Burghardt
Meridian Township
Basic 1



Renee Caithamer
City of Ludington
Basic 2



Megan Casper
Leslie Township
Basic 3



Amanda Ciaramitaro
City of Clawson
Basic 1



Marci Clancy
Village of Quincy
Basic 3



Casey Clear
City of Cheboygan
Basic 3



Marcy Collins
City of Montrose
Basic 1



Nena Costello
Holly Township
Basic 3



Nick Cousino
Delhi Charter Township
Basic 3



Jennifer Daniels
Hamburg Township
Basic 1

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Christy Davis
Bedford Charter Twp.
Basic 2



Julie Davis Long
City of Norton Shores
Basic 3



Kathy Dennings
Ottawa County
Basic 3



Dana DePalma
Brandon Township
Basic 1



Matt Dethlefsen
Clinton Area Transit System
Basic 1



Sara Dotson
Park Township
Basic 1



Susie Egbert
Conway Township
Basic 3



Chris Ekpiken
Pittsfield Charter Twp.
Basic 2



Tim Estheimer
City of Pontiac
Basic 3



Korissa Freier
Meridian Township
Basic 2



Katherine Fry
City of St. Joseph
Basic 2



Coleten Garrett
City of Alma
Basic 2



Abby Gazvoda
City of Plymouth
Basic 2



Aleigha Geiger
City of Owosso
Basic 3



Michelle Gondek
Osceola County
Basic 1



Whitney Griffin
City of Marquette
Basic 3

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Ashley Gritzmaker
Village of Vermontville
Basic 1



Gwyn Haaseth
Hartland Township
Basic 3



Lisa Halsey
Washington Ch. Twp.
Basic 2



Jia Hang
City of Sterling Heights
Basic 3



Ilona Harns
Ingham Township
Basic 3



Vickie Hauff
Village of Oxford
Basic 2



Lisa Hayward
County of Montcalm
Basic 2



Chris Hefty
City of Royal Oak
Basic 1



Jacob Hess
City of Melvindale
Basic 2



Heather Hoffman
Calhoun County
Basic 3



April Holm
City of Ishpeming
Basic 2



Chris Holwerda
Gaines Charter Township
Basic 3



Heather Holzinger
City of Midland
Basic 3



Christina Horton
City of Charlotte
Basic 2



Travis Howell
Davison Township
Basic 2



Sara Hugall
City of Muskegon
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Grand Blanc Township
Basic 2



Patty Iazetto
New Buffalo Township
Basic 1



Matthew Igl
City of Ironwood
Basic 2



Sarah Iteen
Pere Marquette Ch. Twp.
Basic 3



Bruno Ivos
Cascade Ch. Township
Basic 3



Raquel Jeffery
City of Melvindale
Basic 3



Mary Jevahirian
Bloomfield Township
Basic 3



William Jobes
Rose Township
Basic 2



Kimberley Johnson
Pittsfield Charter Twp.
Basic 1



Melanie Johnson
City of Fremont
Basic 3



Olivia Johnson
City of Jonesville
Basic 1



Tracy Jones
Village of Three Oaks
Basic 2



Erica Jordan
Otsego County
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City of Chelsea
Basic 1



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Village of Almont
Basic 1



Ryan Katz
City of Birmingham
Basic 2

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City of Plainwell
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City of Reed City
Basic 3



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City of Plymouth
Basic 1



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Monitor Township
Basic 2



Jill Koester
Whitewater Township
Basic 2



Angela Kojiro
Charter Twp. of Ypsilanti
Basic 1



Jason Kondrat
Ottawa County
Basic 3



Gail Kotajarvi-Gerard
City of Houghton
Basic 2



Danielle Kucharski
City of Westland
Basic 1



Madison Lamb
Green Oak Ch. Township
Basic 3



Latitia Lamelle Sharp
Washtenaw County
Basic 2



Emily Landon
City of Cedar Springs
Basic 3



Robert Latimer
Pleasantview Township
Basic 3



Judy Lefere
Village of Concord
Basic 2



Bridgette Lemieur
City of Petosky
Basic 1



Joseph Leone
City of Grand Rapids
Basic 3

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Green Oak Ch. Township
Basic 3



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County of Benzie
Basic 2



Julie Lonis
City of Morenci
Basic 2



Dana Lorey
Oceola Township
Basic 1



Kathy Maharas
City of Harrison
Basic 3



Katelyn Massey
Ch. Twp. of Commerce
Basic 1



Jessica Matschikowski
City of Melvindale
Basic 1



Erin Mattice
Springfield Charter Twp.
Basic 2



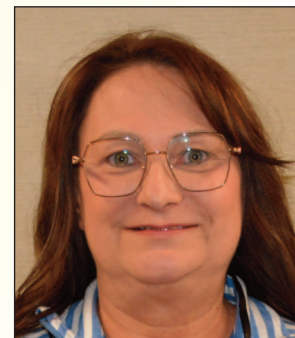
Monica McCowan
City of Coldwater
Basic 1



Kristin McKinney
Dalton Township
Basic 2



Brandee Mellentine
Village of Byron
Basic 2



Tammy Morell
City of Marlette
Basic 2



Teresa Murrish
Howell Township
Basic 2



Susan Nash
City of Livonia
Basic 1



Allie Nemecek
Village of Central Lake
Basic 3



April Niedecken
City of Mt. Morris
Basic 3

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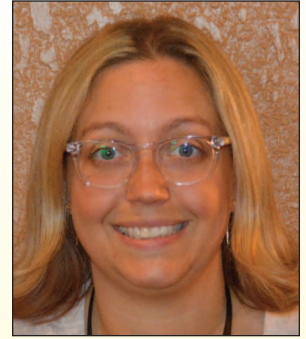
Kristina Nightingale
Village of Fowlerville
Basic 1



Amber Osha
Village of Decatur
Basic 2



Bart Patterson
Sumpter Township
Basic 2



Dawn Paul
Eaton County
Basic 3



Amanda Pelletier
City of Wyoming
Basic 3



Heidi Perry
Woodstock Township
Basic 2



Matthew Pfeiffer
Orion Township
Basic 2



Mary Phelps
Columbia Township
Basic 2



Kimber Pierzchalski
Otsego County
Basic 1



Cheryl Place
Oregon Township
Basic 2



Katy Posey
City of Marine City
Basic 3



Katherine Ralston
County of Benzie
Basic 3



Sara Ranes
City of East Lansing
Basic 3



Dawn Raza
City of Douglas
Basic 2



Lauren Reeves
Barton Hills Village
Basic 3



Kelley Regal-Weidenbach
City of Southfield
Basic 1

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Dorr Township
Basic 1



Amanda Repke
Alpena County
Basic 1



Sherry Richmond
Vergennes Township
Basic 2



Tammy Ries
City of Caro
Basic 2



Jennifer Rincon
Delta Charter Township
Basic 1



Bradley Rizzo
City of Grand Ledge
Basic 1



Dominique Savage
City of Portage
Basic 2



Dawn Sawicki-Franz
City of Imlay City
Basic 2



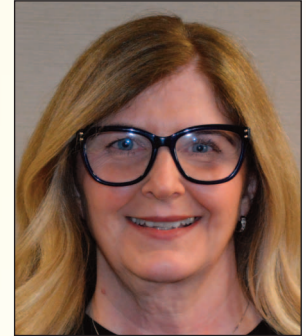
Brook Schiller
Fruitport Charter Twp.
Basic 3



Bobbi Schoon
City of Three Rivers
Basic 3



Michelle Schroeder
Marquette Charter Twp.
Basic 2



Teresa Schuler
City of Farmington
Basic 2



Nicole Schulte
Thomas Township
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Kathy Shafer
City of Scottville
Basic 2



Shannon Shepard
City of Garden City
Basic 1



Angeline Shonk
City of St. Clair
Basic 1

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City of Berkley
Basic 1



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Independence Ch. Twp.
Basic 2



Vicki Simon
City of Ypsilanti
Basic 2



Kelly Sims
Kalamazoo Charter Twp.
Basic 1



Brittany Siple
City of Charlotte
Basic 2



Jennifer Sloothaak
Kent County
Basic 3



Andrew Smith
City of Hudsonville
Basic 3



Emilie Smith
Spring Lake Township
Basic 3



Tracy Snyder
Morton Township
Basic 1



Brittin Snyder-Shinabargar
Gratiot County
Basic 2



Dyanna Solis
Blendon Township
Basic 2



Kimberly Sparks
Rose Township
Basic 2



Patty Spherhake
City of Wakefield
Basic 2



Sarah Stefanic
City of Rochester Hills
Basic 2



Pamela Stewart
City of Saline
Basic 2



Lisa Stolarski
City of Highland Park
Basic 2

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Frankenlust Township
Basic 3



Sonja Stout
Village of Lake Orion
Basic 3



Shontae Stringfellow
City of Farmington Hills
Basic 3



Audra Strom
City of Grand Rapids
Basic 2



Nancy Strong
City of Kalamazoo
Basic 2



Hilary Struck
City of Clio
Basic 1



Heather Stull
City of Crosswell
Basic 1



Lisa Sulfaro
Monroe Charter Twp.
Basic 2



Amanda Tackett
City of Trenton
Basic 1



Rebekkah Talmage
Pennfield Ch. Township
Basic 3



Nicole Tank
City of Southgate
Basic 1



Victoria Taplin
Brownstown Ch. Twp.
Basic 1



Cassidy Taylor
City of Litchfield
Basic 3



Crystal Thomas
City of Lansing
Basic 3



Amy Troff
Bedford Charter Twp.
Basic 1



Mateusz Tylecki
City of Grosse Pointe Park
Basic 3

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Nicole Van Oort
City of East Lansing
Basic 2



Jackie Vogel
City of Ithaca
Basic 1



Jamie Vos
Northville Ch. Township
Basic 3



Liz Ward
Midland County
Basic 1



Donna Weberg
City of Watervliet
Basic 1



Karen Whitley
City of Pontiac
Basic 3



Amanda Wiersma
Ross Township
Basic 2



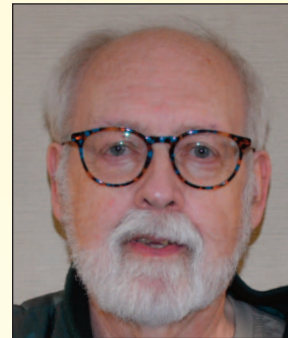
Denise Wilcox
Alamo Township
Basic 2



Jennifer Wilson
Bath Charter Township
Basic 3



Cheryl Witt
Raisin Charter Township
Basic 3



Dale Witt
Raisin Charter Township
Basic 3



Christopher Wright
City of Lansing
Basic 1



Samantha Zakovec
City of Bessemer
Basic 2



Kristen Zotter
City of Allen Park
Basic 1



Congratulations Graduates!



CLASS OF 2026





CLASS OF 2027



CLASS OF 2028



Memorable A-Ha Moments from Last Year

Just because we may have the same titles, not everyone shares the same responsibilities. Treasury/finance is very different from one municipality to another. I am excited to maintain relationships and can see the benefit for situations that arise by utilizing other people's knowledge.

I feel like in my duties I understand pieces of the pie, this training has given me a better understanding of the whole pie.

Being able to identify where I may be classifying certain staff members as slackers, when maybe they're truly a lacker, needing additional resources/ knowledge or rockets.

Goals of the public body being reflected in our budget feels like an A-Ha idea to me. It currently feels very line item based, and our function as a group feels very small individual issue based. I look forward to bringing some perspective back to my board and effecting a little shift towards being more goal driven.

A-ha moment was realizing that a lot of people have the same situations going on that you do. Take-away moment was I need to take a closer look at our investment policy.

My A-ha moment was how open most people were to help and mentor along with offering support and tools to make our jobs easier and more efficient.

I should start utilizing AI for some projects and I need to change all of my passwords.

Positive pay is the last line of defense. Our bank had mentioned us using it but now I fully understand what it is and why we need it!

The fund accounting session was one big A-ha. It explained things I didn't quite understand about fund accounting by spelling it out and explaining it.

Treasury in a Year: many Aha moments it was great to see how township and county fit together in handling taxes. I am learning a lot but still have many questions.

I'm not the only one that doesn't know everything! I am going to go to the office and find our investment policy and make a checklist of all the things I need to do and learn.... Yikes, a lot!

I have loved every minute of this. I feel very much like part of a family, and I am not alone. I have had moments all week of a-ha!

What a difference a year makes! Everyone said, give it time, and they were right. In my second year, so much is clearer and I can absorb the instruction so much better!

I have two and a half pages already of action items for when I get back.

That I can be a high flyer but also a steady glider.

