



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

900 7th Street, N.W., Suite 600
Washington, DC 20001-3888

TEL (202) 347-3190 FAX (202) 393-0993
INTERNET: www.napawash.org

THE COLLABORATIVE TECHNOLOGY COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE: Working Together to Drive Innovation in Government

The challenges facing government today are unprecedented and traditional approaches will not solve our problems. Leaders in government must harness the power of mass collaboration to innovate and succeed.

America is shifting away from the static content driven website to a Web 2.0 interactive experience that focuses more on collaboration to get the job done. Government should be at the forefront of this powerful innovation as a tool for engaging people across the stakeholder spectrum in collaborative networks to solve the country's toughest challenges.

Collaboration: A Powerful Tool

Public sector responsibilities were once thought to reside only with civil servants, elected officials and military personnel. Today's government relies on a broader network that includes the private sector, nonprofit organizations, community groups, and individual citizens. Moreover, there is an urgent need for Agencies to work effectively across boundaries, including internal silos, cross-agency barriers or obstacles between levels of government.

Collaborative technology enables government to reach more people, with diverse knowledge and perspectives, in disparate parts of the world, quickly and at low cost. This type of community enables government leaders to react with the speed, flexibility and functionality required when circumstances require.

The Collaboration CoP: A Community of Innovators

As part of its Congressional Charter, the National Academy of Public Administration is charged with anticipating and examining emerging issues critical to the effective administration of public programs and formulating practical approaches to their resolution. In service of this mission, the Academy is launching a Collaborative Technology Community of Practice (CoP) to provide an independent forum for government leaders to work together to leverage collaborative technology's innovative problem solving, information sharing, and strategic planning capabilities.

With the tremendous opportunity to improve government services and empower citizens to engage their government more effectively, the time to act is now. There will be a period of trial and error, experimentation, and feedback. Concerns about privacy, authenticity, security and accountability need to be addressed, but the opportunity is too important to ignore. Success is possible if we are willing to start small and work together with others who share a common purpose.

The Collaboration CoP provides the opportunity to work with other government leaders who are committed to this exciting new approach to solving government's toughest problems. By participating, members of the CoP will be catalysts for change, leading government through the next significant wave of innovation. At the same time, our long history of convening government leaders in a trusted environment ensures that the effort will maintain an independent, non-partisan, unbiased voice.

Community of Practice members will meet at the headquarters of the National Academy of Public Administration, where they will have the opportunity to meet and discuss issues related to collaborative technology with other members of the CoP, subject matter experts, distinguished Fellows and National Academy leadership. In addition, the CoP will be supported by a virtual collaboration space.

For more information, contact:

Frank DiGiammarino
Vice President, Strategic Initiatives
frankd@napawash.org
(202) 204-3476

Lena Trudeau
Director, Strategic Initiatives
ltrudeau@napawash.org
(202) 315-5476.

The National Academy of Public Administration is a non-profit, independent coalition of top public management and organizational leaders who tackle the nation's most critical and complex challenges. With a network of more than 600 distinguished Fellows and an experienced professional staff, the Academy is uniquely qualified and trusted across government to provide objective advice and practical solutions based on systematic research and expert analysis. Established in 1967 and chartered by Congress, the Academy continues to make a positive impact by helping federal, state and local governments respond effectively to current circumstances and changing conditions.