

Recipient of the IPAA WA 2024 Regional Young Professional Scholarship, Nikola Sicanica (North Regional TAFE), reviews his attendance at the 2025 IPAA WA Young Professional Conference.

To the IPAA WA Team,

I would like to express my sincerest appreciation for being selected as the recipient of the 2025 Young Professional Regional Scholarship. It was an honour to be recognised by the Institute of Public Administration Australia (WA Division), and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity including the fully funded travel to attend the IPAA WA Public Sector Young Professional Conference in Perth.

The conference was an inspiring and energising experience. Being surrounded by a diverse group of public sector professionals and emerging leaders from across Western Australia broadened my perspective on current and future challenges facing our sector. The keynote sessions, workshops, and discussions provided fresh insight into innovation, policy development, cross-sector collaboration, and leadership. Since returning, I have been actively integrating what I learned into my role as a Principal Lecturer at TAFE.

One of the most valuable aspects of this experience has been the access to the IPAA WA Young Professional Membership. This has allowed me to stay connected with a growing network of like-minded professionals, access high-quality resources, and engage in professional development opportunities that are often difficult to access from a regional location. It has also helped bridge the geographical gap between regional and metropolitan conversations around public service excellence and reform.

The knowledge and inspiration I gained from the conference and the continued access to IPAA WA resources have strengthened my commitment to delivering impactful education in the vocational education and training sector.

Thank you again for your support and for fostering inclusive opportunities that empower regional professionals like myself to grow, connect, and contribute meaningfully to the future of public service in Western Australia.