TxPPA Member Spotlight Information Form

Name: __Kristen Torres_____ Agency: _North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG)_

Job Title: ___Purchasing Supervisor_____

Certifications: _CPPB, NIGP-CPP_____ Number of Years in Public Purchasing: _11_____

How long have you been a member of TxPPA? ___11 years_ (I joined right away; TxPPA was very helpful to me when I was just starting my procurement career!)_

Are you a member of any other Public Purchasing Associations? ___Not currently_____

Interesting facts about yourself that you would like to share: __I'm a Texan through and through, but it pains me to admit that I was not actually born here. Both parents' sides of the family were from Texas, my two older siblings were born in Texas, and I spent eight and a half months in my mother's tummy in Texas. Yet when it was just about time for me to arrive, my dad (who was in the Navy) was given orders to pack up and move to Missouri, so I was born there in St. Louis. The Navy moved us right back to Texas when I was only two and I've been here ever since, but the damage had been done! 😊 _

Worst Purchasing Experience: _Taking a 6 month break from public procurement to try procurement in the healthcare industry with the incorrect assumption that it would provide the same feeling of working in a profession that provides a service for the good of my community. I got back to government procurement just as soon as I could (which was no small feat right in the middle of Covid)! __

What would you do if you were not in Public Purchasing? I would love to work with animals in some capacity.

Advice for other Public Purchasers: _Remain curious! Don't just learn the rules and functions of the job and be content with that. Many others in the Member Spotlight feature have said to ask questions, and that's certainly an important part of it, but also poke around other entity website's Procurement pages, request examples of internal training presentations and policies from other members. What are they doing well? What ideas for innovation, improvement or greater efficiencies might that spark within you for your own entity? _____

Additional Information that you would like TxPPA Members to know: __ Whether you opt to get your certification or not, never stop learning. Information abounds! Use the resources available to continuously develop professionally with the mindset of regularly checking in with yourself to consider what more you can do to level up to benefit yourself and your entity. _