



GPA Mentor Program | 2026 Schedule

To support this year's applicants, the GPA Mentor Program Committee is sharing a detailed program schedule to encourage increased participation and ensure Mentees attend at least four of the six sessions. Some details are still in progress, and the schedule will be updated as additional information becomes available.

Session #1 | Building Bridges: Mentor Q&A & Peer Group Kickoff

Get inspired and connected! A panel of seasoned Mentors shares candid stories about their biggest challenges, proudest milestones, and lessons learned along the way. Then, meet your Peer Group and start meaningful conversations about your own career goals and hurdles.

Date: January 27, 2026

Time: 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM (Refreshments Provided)

Location: Fire Maker Brewery & Bar (975 Chattahoochee Ave NW, Ste A, Atlanta, GA 30318)

Session #2 | From Insight to Impact: Decode Your Leadership Style

What makes you a leader? In this interactive session, Suzanne Kirk of Employee Development Strategies, Inc. guides participants through an in-depth exploration of Participant's CPI260 assessment results. Gain clarity on interpersonal style, problem-solving approach, and leadership potential – while uncovering strengths and growth opportunities that shape professional success.

Date: February 25, 2026

Time: 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Location: Microsoft Teams

Session #3 | Your Next Step Starts Here: Career Coaching & Professional Headshots

Ready to take the next step in your career? This interactive session pairs expert coaching with professional headshots to help participants stand out. Dive into resume refinement or interview preparation (TBD at Session #1), then strike a pose for a polished photo that will elevate your professional profile.

Date: March 2026

Time: Afternoon – Evening (Refreshments Provided)

Location: City of Cumberland

Session #4 | Planning Power Hour: Leadership Lessons from the Top

What does it take to excel in the planning field? Three planning leaders share insights on career growth, leadership, and the power of professional certifications. Faye DiMassimo, FAICP (City of Savannah), GPA Vice President Kyethea Clark, AICP (Gwinnett County), and GPA Vice President Megha Young, AICP (Gresham Smith) discuss their journeys to leadership roles, lessons learned along the way, and why credentials like AICP and FAICP matter in shaping successful careers.

Date: April 15, 2026

Time: 11:30 PM – 1:00 PM

Location: Microsoft Teams

Session #5 | Zoning in Action: Creating Vibrant Places Through Policy & Practice

Discover how zoning isn't just about rules – it's about shaping real places! This guided walk through Avondale Estates explores how planning, zoning, and development intersect. Unpack how zoning administration and ordinance updates influence outcomes, what it takes to envision, interpret, and negotiate projects, and how diverse perspectives drive decisions that define community character.

Date: May 2026

Time: Afternoon (Lunch Provided)

Location: Avondale Estates City Hall (21 North Avondale Plaza, Avondale Estates, GA 30002)

Session #6 | Planning Paths: Exploring Careers Across the Field

Meet planners from a variety of sectors and discover the many directions a planning career can take! This session offers candid insights into diverse roles, responsibilities, and opportunities – helping participants chart their own unique path in the profession.

Date: June 2026

Time: 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Location: Microsoft Teams