



# News and Notices

## Performance Measurement for Wisconsin



Wisconsin local governments need to manage for the best possible results from limited resources with today's shrinking revenues and increasing demand for services. However, most local governments are confronted with either purchasing systems or paying consultants for evaluations of municipal programs and services. That is another cost challenge. There is a need for outside institutional and educational support. The Local Government Center has begun addressing that need.

UW-Oshkosh Professor Craig Maher is working with Local Government Specialist Alan Probst to develop a Performance Measurement Program this summer. Teaming with Local Government Specialist Alan Probst, the Performance Measurement Program will assist Wisconsin local government officials' finding the most effective and efficient use of diminishing financial resources; or "getting the most bang for the buck."

Over 20 communities have agreed to work with Craig and Alan this summer developing the pilot program collecting performance data for analysis. Ultimately resulting in educational materials and training for educators and local governments throughout the state.

Alan Probst authored and is currently working on the second edition of a performance measurement, benchmarking, and outcome-based budgeting handbook and has been actively teaching Performance Management to government officials, managers and extension educators around the state.

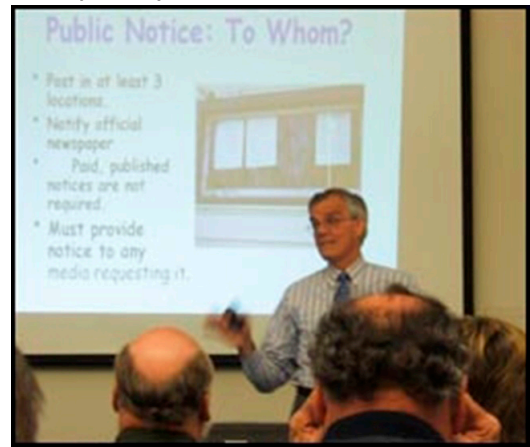
Craig Maher is an Associate Professor and Chair-elect of the UW-Oshkosh's Department of Public Affairs/MPA Program. A veteran of working with the Local Government Center, Craig is also a former city council member. Performance measurement is a systemic management tool local governments use organizing data to facilitate informed financial decision. For more information, visit the Local Government Center web site at <http://lgc.uwex.edu/Perform/Index.html>.

## 2009 Town Officials Workshops

In May, more than 1,200 town officials from around the state attended the 2009 edition of the Local Government Center's Town Officials Workshops. These officials took advantage of this opportunity to enhance their understanding of the complex roles and responsibilities that

they were elected to assume. Participants' formal evaluations indicated that they expect use some aspect of their new-found knowledge to improve the way they serve their communities.

Officials unable to attend the workshops may still order the print materials distributed at the workshops, which includes a reprint of the statutes relevant to town government. Contact the Local Government Center at (608) 262-9960 to place your order.



## G.R.E.A.T. News: Version 3.0 is Here



The Newest version of the G.R.E.A.T. software package is now available. "GREAT" stands for "graphing revenues, expenditures and taxes." Many are familiar with GREAT and know that it is a tool to automatically map out revenue, expenditure, and property value and tax information from local Wisconsin governments. GREAT

provides a basis for educational programs on various elements of public finance for local officials and citizens. Local Government Center Specialist Kate Lawton said, "It is an excellent start for local discussion and examination of local budgets and financial management, services provided, and how they are financed."

"The new version contains 2007 revenue and expenditure data and 2008 property values," Kate adds. An upgrade expected before August includes a mapping feature. Compatibility with MS Office 2007 is not yet available. Currently the software is available exclusively through UW-Extension offices. To find out more visit on the web at <http://lgc.uwex.edu/Finance/great.html>.