

ASPA Chapters Celebrate Public Service Recognition Week, Honor Excellence in Public Service

From a night out at a baseball game to an awards breakfast and celebratory dinners, ASPA Chapters across the United States marked Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW) in special ways. Launched in 1987, PSRW takes place annually during the first week of May. This year, President Obama commemorated the work of those dedicated to the public good with a proclamation and the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate both issued resolutions.

Centex ASPA Holds Annual Banquet, Presents Awards



Leonard Bright



Scott Sellers

Centex ASPA held its 2016 PSRW banquet, honoring students and practitioners for outstanding achievements in the public sector. This year's speakers included Lyle, Texas City Manager Scott Sellers and Leonard Bright, associate dean of graduate education at Texas A&M University. Awards were presented in the following categories:

- Emerging Leader: Courtney Debower, Texas EMS & Acute Care Foundation
- Distinguished Public Administrator: Michelle Fischer, Dripping Springs, Texas
- Distinguished Public Administration Educator: Dr. Dianne Rahm, Texas State University and Dr. David Eaton, University of Texas
- Public Service Innovation Team: City of Westlake Hills, Texas; Robert Wood, City Administrator; Linda Anthony, Mayor; Stan Graham, Mayor Pro Tempore
- James W. McGrew Research Award: Texas A&M University Bush School of Government & Public Service; Texas State University, Master of Public Administration Program; University of Texas, LBJ School of Public Affairs

Central Florida Chapter Honors Elected Officials, Public Service Professionals



ASPA's Central Florida Chapter partnered with the University of Central Florida to honor elected officials, public service professionals, nonprofit leaders and volunteers during its PSRW celebration. These select few embodied a dedication to the public service that was shared and celebrated with those in attendance.

Among those honored were U.S. Senator Bill Nelson and State Senator Andy Gardiner, who received the Exemplary Public Service Lifetime Achievement Award and Exemplary Public Service Leadership award, respectively. Other 2016 award recipients included:

- Exemplary Public Service Leadership Award (nonelected official): Ajit Lalchandani, Orange County administrator
- Exemplary Public Service Organization Award: Central Florida Commission on Homelessness
- Public Service Career Achievement Award: Pamela Landwirth, president and CEO, Give Kids the World
- Young Public Service Professional Award, Jessica Schwendeman, assistant director of Volunteer Resource Center, Heart of Florida United Way

This marks the third year Central Florida ASPA has partnered with the University of Central Florida to host this celebration.

Central Pennsylvania Chapter Holds Awards Dinner, Inducts Pi Alpha Members



The Central Pennsylvania Chapter held its 4th annual awards ceremony on May 2 at the Dixon University Center in Harrisburg. The awards ceremony continues to be the largest event coordinated by the Chapter. Among the speakers were ASPA Executive Director Bill Shields, who offered perspectives on the value of ASPA, and Dr. Sanjay Pandey of George Washington University, who delivered a keynote speech on public service motivation.

The Chapter presented seven awards:

- Lifetime Achievement Award: Dr. Terry Madonna, Franklin and Marshall College
- Excellence in Public Service Award: Sharon Minnich, Governor's Office of Administration
- Excellence in Local Government Award: Ed Knittel, Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs
- Young Professional in Public Administration Award: Terrell Martin, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
- Outstanding Student in Public Administration Award: Abigail Lombard, Allegheny College
- Student Paper Award: William Simonson, West Chester University, and Brandin McDonough, Penn State Harrisburg

West Chester University also conducted its Pi Alpha Alpha induction ceremony in conjunction with the event, welcoming 14 students to the society. The Chapter welcomes other colleges and universities in the region to hold their Pi Alpha Alpha induction with this annual event.

Central VA Chapter Heads to the Ballpark



The Central Virginia Chapter coordinated a "FUNNraiser" event with the Richmond Squirrels, the city's minor league baseball team (the farm

team for the San Francisco Giants), which was a huge success. The weather did not cooperate and the game was rained out. More than 120 people can redeem their tickets at a future game. Despite the weather, the event was a financial success and given the participation rate, it is obvious the Chapter will look forward to future networking opportunities.

Greater Chicago Chapter Hosts Awards Ceremony



The Greater Chicago Chapter held its 36th Annual PSRW Awards Program at the IIT Stuart School of Business. Chapter President Joanne Howard welcomed participants and presented Ralph Martire, executive director for the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, with the Chapter's Adlai Stevenson Public Service Award. Other awardees included:

- Louis Brownlow Outstanding Instructor Award: Joseph Schwieterman, DePaul University
- Dean F. Eitel Outstanding Student Awards: Chase Muscato, DePaul University; Grady Wheaton, Jr., Governors State University; Lavdi Zymberi, Illinois Institute of Technology; Allison Crino, North Park University; Evan Walter, Northern Illinois University; Elora Ditton, Northwestern University; Richard Goldberg, Northwestern University; Mary Andoh, Roosevelt University; Adam Young, University of Illinois at Chicago
- Model Administrator/Alumnus Awards: Nonie Brennan, DePaul University; Harley Schinker,

Governors State University; Mary McKittrick, Northern Illinois University; Joel Lundy, University of Illinois at Chicago

Delaware Chapter Hosts Lecture and Reception



Justice Strine

ASPAs Delaware Chapter celebrated PSRW by co-hosting a lecture and reception featuring Leo E. Strine, Jr., Chief Justice of the Delaware Supreme Court. The Chapter co-hosted the event with the School of Public Policy and Administration at the University of Delaware. Chapter members Edward Freel and

Angela Kline organized this well-attended event, which was free and open to the public.

Chief Justice Strine graduated summa cum laude from the University of Delaware before graduating from University of Pennsylvania Law School. He held longstanding positions at Harvard Law School and served as the chancellor of the Court of Chancery, as well as vice chancellor. Sworn in as chief justice in February 2014, Strine launched the Access to Justice Commission, a task force aimed at helping low- to moderate-income people obtain legal services for civil and criminal cases, and a committee that works to decrease racial disparities in the state's criminal justice system.

Hampton Roads Chapter Holds Public Service Awards Luncheon



Scholarship recipient Eric Schweitzer, House Award winner William Gervin, Hirst Award honoree Ron Williams and Pindur Award recipient Pam Gibson

ASPAs Hampton Roads Chapter, which serves 16 municipalities in Southeastern Virginia, held its

annual Awards Luncheon on May 5. The luncheon highlights the importance of public service and ASPAs role in the region. A scholarship and three professional service awards were presented, the Dr. Wolfgang Pindur Award for distinguished service in academia and practice; George Robert House Award for outstanding service for a public administrator younger than 40 years of age; and Julian F. Hirst Award for distinguished service for a Hampton Roads public administrator older than 40. The honorees were:

- Annual student Scholarship Award: Eric Schweitzer, Old Dominion University
- Wolfgang Pindur Award: Dr. Pamela A. Gibson, Troy University
- George Robert House Award: Sergeant William L. Gervin, Virginia Beach Police Department.
- Julian F. Hirst Award: Ron Williams, deputy city manager, City of Norfolk

Western Kentucky University's MPA Program and ASPA's Metro Louisville Chapter Hold Joint Celebration



Award recipient Kevin DeFebbo and Dr. Gary Ransdell, president of Western Kentucky University, joined the Metro Louisville Chapter at the awards ceremony honoring Mr. DeFebbo

On May 22, the Western Kentucky University (WKU) Master of Public Administration Program and the Metro Louisville Chapter of ASPA joined together to co-sponsor an annual picnic. Two weeks later, the Chapter presented an award to Kevin

DeFebbo, city manager of Bowling Green. DeFebbo was honored as the Chapter's Distinguished Public Service Practitioner. Nominations are sought each spring for this award, which recognizes sustained, outstanding achievement in and contributions to public administration and public service through applied practice. DeFebbo serves on WKU's MPA Program Advisory Committee, which provides advice and assists in the governance of the MPA program.

Massachusetts Chapter Hosts Awards Ceremony



Last year's Keough Fellowship winners and this year's Keough Best Capstone Award winner meet. (From left, Hanna Switekowski, Erin Robinson, and Jacky Bresnahan)

Students from six MPA and MPP programs received awards from ASPA's Massachusetts Chapter on April 26, 2016, during the Annual MassASPA Keough Best Capstone Competition and Award Ceremony.

Each honoree presented his or her capstone thesis and a panel of evaluators—faculty and MassASPA officers—selected the winner. All participating students received a free ASPA membership and the winning student received a plaque, scholarship and recognition as the winner of the best capstone of the year.

Presenters included Kelsey Davis, Bridgewater State University; Meg Helming, Suffolk University; Derek Krevat, University of Amherst-Massachusetts; Charles Ransdell, Northeastern University; Erin Robinson, Brandeis University; and Joshua Sager, University of Mass-Boston.

Rhode Island Chapter Holds Public Service Conference



The Rhode Island Chapter's Public Service Conference, held on May 4, marked the seventh

time it celebrated PSRW. This year's event was held at Roger Williams University-Bristol. In attendance were ASPA President Susan Gooden, Vice President Janice Lachance and Executive Director Bill Shields.

The keynote address was delivered by former Rhode Island Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Roberts. Dr. Traci Green from Boston University Medical Center also addressed the conference on the opioid epidemic plaguing the region. She was followed by a graduate student panel outlining ways to help people with opioid addictions.

High school academy students from the Tolman High School Law and Public Safety Academy and Shea High School Government and Public Administration Academy, both based in Pawtucket, Rhode Island provided presentations about social media and public service; they also received ASPA memberships, the only high school students in the nation to be so honored.

At the evening reception, graduate students who presented earlier in the day came to Roger Williams' Providence campus for an interactive Q&A covering key concepts presented during the morning sessions.

Sacramento Chapter Celebrates with Awards



California Office of Emergency Services, recipient of the Grantland Johnson Intergovernmental Cooperation Award

The Sacramento Chapter hosted its 2016 Awards Dinner to honor public servants. The 34th annual event was held May 4 at the Sterling Hotel in Sacramento. Honorees included:

- Elizabeth Hill Public Administrator of the Year: Mike Wiley, CEO/manager, Sacramento Regional Transit District
- Grantland Johnson Intergovernmental Cooperation Award: Eric Lamoureux and Charles

Rabamad on behalf of the California Office of Emergency Services-Inland Region Team for leadership and contributions across multiple jurisdictions

- Ross Clayton Lifetime Achievement Award: Diana Fuentes-Michel
- Chester A. Newland Academic Excellence Award: Dr. Robert Denhardt, USC Sol Price School of Public Policy
- Community Service Award: May is Bike Month
- Government Innovation Award: Sycamore Trail–West Sacramento, Yolo County Children’s Alliance, Washington Unified School District and City of West Sacramento
- Rising Star Award: Lindsay Buckley, public information officer and assistant to the chair, California Air Resources Board

Southern Nevada Gathers Proclamations, Public Recognition



Clark County Commissioners present ASPA’s Southern Nevada Chapter with a proclamation. Left to Right: Comm. Giunchigliani, Chairman Sisolak, Vice Chairman Brown, Board Member Amanda Dillard, President Adrina Ramos-King, Board Member Andre Wade, President-Elect Elyse Gresnick-Smith, Past President Tammy Christensen, Board Member Kathleen Walpole, Comm. Scow, Comm. Weekly, Comm. Kirkpatrick and Comm. Brager.

ASPA’s Southern Nevada Chapter celebrated PSRW with proclamations presented by mayors, council members and county commissioners throughout the Las Vegas Valley, including Clark County, City of Las Vegas, City of Henderson and City of North Las Vegas.

Chapter President Adrina Ramos-King accepted the proclamations on behalf of the organization and the many hardworking public servants committed to serving our communities.

NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENTS

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departments in a fictional city, Excelsiorville, and then build assignments from there. At the end, the students have developed their own budget for a department and conducted a budget meeting. In our technology course, students design technology plans for Excelsiorville given a limited budget. In our economics course, students make decisions about Excelsiorville’s public parks. In our HR course, students conduct mock interviews with disgruntled employees of the city.

Online Practicum

The final course—the capstone—was designed as an online practicum experience. The Excelsiorville Management Challenge is a simulation game that places students in a simulated environment where they work in teams of three to solve the problems of Excelsiorville. It is designed specifically to help them synthesize the information learned throughout the MPA program. The course includes government workplace scenarios in which students take on different roles and make evaluations and decisions according to that. They are expected to utilize skills developed in previous courses and are evaluated accordingly. Students take on a new role in each scenario (three total) and receive tasks designed to help them weigh competing public issues that need solutions. We assess the student’s knowledge and work inside the simulation—through a team “Quality of Life” score and individual “Department Effectiveness” scores—and outside the simulation, through decision memos, presentations and reports.

Excelsior College’s mission is to provide “educational opportunity to adult learners with an emphasis on those historically underrepresented in higher education. The College meets students where they are—academically and geographically, offering quality instruction and the assessment of learning.” It is a privilege to teach these students. Designing curriculum with their advantages in mind provides a richer experience for all students, no matter the age or background.

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