

# 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 this year's Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW) in special ways. Launched in 1987, PSRW takes place annually during the first full week of May. This year, President Trump commemorated the work of those dedicated to the public good with a proclamation and the U.S. Senate issued a resolution.*

## Buffalo-Niagara Chapter Celebrates with SUNY Buffalo

On May 10, ASPA's Buffalo-Niagara Chapter teamed with SUNY Buffalo State College to celebrate PSRW, an event that had not been recognized in that area of the country in recent memory. The event provided a great opportunity for nonprofit and government officials to educate students, the public and each other about public administration, the reasons they chose a career in public service and the impact they have in society.

The celebration was a half-day conference that included four panel discussions, each exploring local and national issues ranging from the New York State two percent property tax cap to nonprofit fiscal constraints and long-term sustainability. The event featured active participation by Chapter members and the panels were moderated by Chapter President Dinash Lal, chief of staff of the Buffalo Common Council.

## Central Florida Chapter and UCF Honor Public Service, Alumni and the Community



The University of Central Florida School of Public Administration hosted its annual PSRW celebration in conjunction with ASPA's Central Florida Chapter. The event took place May 4 on the university's campus. More than 120 people attended, including community leaders and public service professionals, students, faculty, staff and alumni.

The Central Florida Chapter presented two public service leadership awards: The Young Public Service Professional Award and the Exemplary Public Service Organization Award. The honorees were:

- Chris Castro, director of sustainability, City of Orlando (Young Public Service Professional Award)
- Pulse Shooting Response Team, including City of Orlando Chief Administrative Officer Byron Brooks and Police Chief John Mina (Exemplary Public Service Organization Award)

Chief Mina also co-accepted a proclamation from UCF President John Hitt for fallen officer Debra Clayton, an alumna of the school who was killed in the line of duty earlier this year.

## Central Pennsylvania Chapter Holds Awards Ceremony, Inducts Students into Pi Alpha Alpha



The Central Pennsylvania Chapter held its 5th Annual Awards Ceremony in the Pennsylvania State Capitol on May 4. ASPA Immediate Past President Susan Gooden delivered the keynote address as eight individuals were recognized with a variety of awards and West Chester University students were inducted into Pi Alpha Alpha. Honorees were:

- Peter Marshall, municipal manager (Lifetime Achievement Award)
- The Honorable Eugene DePasquale, auditor general of Pennsylvania (Excellence in Public Service Award)
- Bing Ran, associate professor of Public Administration, Penn State Harrisburg School of Public Affairs (Public Servant Leadership Award)
- Rick Loughery, recorder of deeds, Chester County (Excellence in Local Government Award)
- Nolan Ritchie, executive director, Pennsylvania Senate Transportation Committee (Outstanding Young Professional Award)
- Laura Bleiler, MPA Student, West Chester University (Outstanding Student Award)
- Juan Bermudez Blanco, MPA student, Penn State Harrisburg (Student Paper Award)
- Tyler Sova, MPA student, West Chester University (Student Paper Award)

## GenTex Hosts Banquet to Celebrate Public Service



Annually, CenTex ASPA Chapter members celebrate PSRW with a banquet to recognize Central Texas practitioners and students. The 2017 banquet was held May 16 at The Austin Club and featured a keynote address from Jenifer Sarver, principal of Sarver Strategies, who discussed “Connecting Citizens with Their Government.” The evening included an awards ceremony, as the Chapter recognized outstanding individuals and programs of the government, education, nonprofit and advocacy sectors.

## Central Virginia Hosts Networking Event at Richmond Flying Squirrels Game

The Central Virginia Chapter’s PSRW event was a day of fun and connections as members attended a Flying Squirrels baseball game in Richmond. Members sold 36



tickets to the event, raising \$108 for the Chapter coffers while also raising awareness of public service. The early afternoon game was warm and sunny and the event provided a chance for members to connect and to meet each other’s family and friends. Promotional info on Facebook had more than 700 impressions, helping to raise awareness about public service even if readers were unable to attend.

## Evergreen Chapter Honors Outstanding Public Service Employees



Building on a long history of honoring the best in public service, the Evergreen Chapter proudly presented its 2017 Public Service Awards, which recognize the most outstanding practitioners, educators and graduate students in public service on May 2. The celebration took place at the Governor’s Residence and was hosted by Washington State’s first lady, Trudi Inslee. Former Senator Karen Fraser provided the keynote address at the event.

Honorees included:

- Peter Bloch Garcia, executive director, The Latino Community Fund of Washington State (Billy Frank Jr. Award for Race and Social Justice)
- Trevor Robinson, The Evans School of Public Policy and Governance of the University of Washington, and Kaha Arte, Seattle University (Outstanding Graduate Student in Public Administration Awards)
- Sandra Archibald, dean, The Evans School of Public Policy and Governance, University of Washington (Call to Duty Award)
- Craig Shinn, Portland State University, and the William D. Ruckelshaus Center, accepted by Bill Ruckelshaus and Center Executive Director Michael Kern (Award for the Advancement of Collaborative Governance)
- Senator Karen Fraser (International Affairs Advocacy Award)
- Mary Van Verst, program officer, Serve Washington, and secretary, Evergreen Chapter (President’s Award)

## Greater Houston Chapter Holds Award Ceremony



ASPA's Greater Houston Chapter held its awards ceremony, "Celebrating the Rise of Leadership through Public Service," honoring four individuals with service awards:

- Vince Ryan, attorney, Harris County, and Csilla Stiles, finance director, City of Nassau Bay (Texas Public Service Leadership Awards)
- Luis Guajardo, regional planner, Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council of Governments, and Paul Lopez, public works director, City of Nassau Bay, Texas (Public Interface Service Awards)

The ceremony took place May 4 at Texas Southern University. Guest speakers included Lael Keiser, professor of public administration and political science, University of Missouri—Columbia and David Robinson, member of the Houston City Council.

## Greater Kansas City Chapter Holds Awards Breakfast



The Greater Kansas City Chapter recognized public administrators from the Kansas City metropolitan area at its annual public administration awards breakfast, held May 10. With 80 people in attendance, the event provided an opportunity to not only recognize public servants for the hard work they undertake to make the Kansas City region a thriving community, but also gave public leaders an opportunity to reconnect. Former City of Lenexa Police Chief Ellen Hanson, the region's first female

police chief, was chosen as the keynote speaker to highlight the value of public service in Kansas City.

Following Hanson's address, the Chapter presented 11 awards. Honorees included:

- Nicholas Kline, Park University; Travis Rash, University of Missouri-Kansas City; Bo McCall, University of Kansas (Stanley Fisher Memorial Awards)
- Scott Helm, executive MPA and associate teaching professor of Public Affairs, University of Missouri—Kansas City (Dr. Jerzy Hauptmann Academic Leadership Award)
- Overland Park Fire Department (Crisis Management Award)
- Dean Olson, president and CEO, The Family Conservancy (Public Administrator of the Year Award, Nonprofit)
- Rob Cowan, center director, USCIS, National Benefits Center (Public Administrator of the Year Award, Federal Government)
- Phyllis Becker, director, Missouri Department of Social Services (Public Administrator of the Year Award, State Government)
- Kimikoe Gilmore, assistant city administrator, City of Kansas City (Missouri Public Administrator of the Year Award, Local Government)
- Wendy Hershberger, director of management and operations, Peace Corps (Special Contribution to the Greater Kansas City Chapter Award)
- G. Georgia Nesselrode, director of local government services, Mid-America Regional Council (L.P. Cookingham Award)

## Kansas Chapter Honors Leaders, Issues Governor's Proclamation

In April, the Kansas Chapter Awards Committee, chaired by Heather Getha-Taylor of the University of Kansas, celebrated PSRW with a luncheon and awards presentation. Two individuals were honored with outstanding leadership awards:

- Jeff Longwell, mayor, Wichita (Outstanding Public Service Leader of the Year Award)



- Johann Zacharias, county manager, Johnson County (Outstanding Public Administrator of the Year Award)

Additionally, Kansas Governor Sam Brownback proclaimed April 17-21, 2017 as Kansas Public Service Recognition Week, issuing a proclamation read at the luncheon.

## Massachusetts Chapter Annual Meeting and Public Service Awards Ceremony

On May 11, the Massachusetts Chapter celebrated PSRW with an awards ceremony and the induction of Chapter officers. It honored those dedicated to the public good across three categories, recognizing a distinguished citizen, veteran and public administrator, along with the President's Award and a Lifetime Commitment Award. Honorees were:



- Larry Finn, Coats from Ann Above Foundation (Distinguished Citizen)
- Dennis Moschella, Veterans Assisting Veterans (Distinguished Veteran)
- Aaron Mitchell and Kevin Boutlier, Massachusetts District Court (Distinguished Public Administrators)
- Ken Khirv, Lowell Housing Authority (President's Award)
- Leonard Desautelle (Lifetime Commitment Award)

The Chapter also hosted a capstone competition in May for Northeastern University, Bridgewater State University and Suffolk University MPA program students. Students honored this year for Best Student Capstone were:

- Zulekha Abu, University of Massachusetts—Amherst
- Liana Ascolese, University of Massachusetts—Amherst
- Avery Brien, Brandeis University
- Christopher McMillan, Bridgewater State University

- Lillian Quiorz-Livanis, University of Massachusetts—Amherst

## Sacramento Celebrates Public Servants with 35th Annual Dinner and Awards

ASPA Sacramento's 35th Annual Awards Dinner once again met the high standards set through its many years of hosting this celebration.



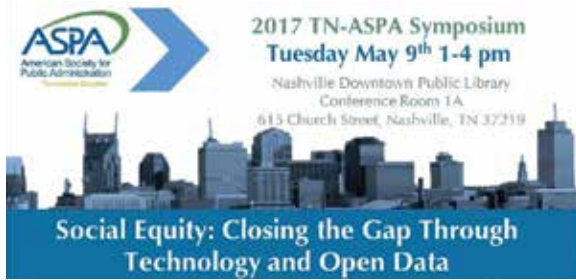
The evening included remarks from Chapter President Randi Kay Stephens, a special address by ASPA Vice President Paul Danczyk and an awards ceremony honoring eight individuals and one organization for their valuable contributions to public service. It was, as one attendee stated, "a beautiful evening."

Honorees included:

- Warren Daniels, chief executive officer, Community Recovery Resources (Grantland Johnson Intergovernmental Cooperation Award)
- Robert Wassmer, professor, California State University—Sacramento (Chester A. Newland Academic Excellence Award)
- State-Community Hiring Partnership (Government Innovation Award)
- Maureen Bauman, director, Placer County Adult System of Care (Ross Clayton Lifetime Distinguished Public Service Award)
- David De Mers and Patricia Paul, Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps (Community Service Award)
- Gina Knepp, manager, The Front Street Shelter (President's Award)
- Devin Lavelle, senior policy analyst (California Research Bureau Rising Star Award)
- Margret Kim, professor, University of San Francisco (Elizabeth Hill Public Official of the Year Award)

The event also included a presentation from Danczyk, who read a proclamation from Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg commemorating PSRW.

## Tennessee Chapter Celebrates Public Service with Technology Symposium



ASPA's Tennessee Chapter celebrated PSRW with a half-day symposium, "Social Equity: Closing the Gap through Technology and Open Data." Featuring two panels focused on open data through different lenses, seven panelists and two moderators explored ways that data can address social equity and related issues.

Participants included Jurnell Cockhren, founder of Sophicware; Eric Howell of Community Budgeting, Metro Nashville; Daynise Joseph, community impact manager, Google Fiber; Jeffrey Kriseman, chief data and informatics officer, State of Tennessee; Nick Lorenson, Code for Nashville; Robyn Mace, chief data officer, Metro Nashville; Ann-Marie Rizzo, professor and director, Institute of Government, Tennessee State University; Shelia Simpson, Governor's Office of Diversity and business

enterprise director, State of Tennessee; Jeff Yarbro, Senate District 21, Tennessee General Assembly.

## NORWICH: ACTION LEARNING

continued from page 38

*space and aviation policy and governance. A 25-year air traffic controller, experienced labor leader and policy expert, Stilwell has conducted research that has influenced key U.S. legislation and been required reading for administration officials. Her expertise spans a wide range of space and aviation, public safety, human factor, administration, financing and industry reform topics. She can be reached at ruth.stilwell@gmail.com.*

*Bill Powers, a career federal employee for a Cabinet-level department, manages policy that builds and promotes a culture of preparedness among the federal workforce and enables individual and organizational readiness and continuity. Powers served as professional staff member to Senator Susan Collins, for whom he provided key guidance on implementation of a comprehensive national security strategy to secure the United States from terrorist attacks and response to natural disasters. He co-authored the bicameral- and bi-partisan-sponsored United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008. He can be reached at bpowers1@norwich.edu.*

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