



**BUILDING  
A BRIDGE  
TO**

**RENEWAL &  
RESILIENCE**

**2026 ASPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
HOLLYWOOD, CA

[www.aspanet.org/annualconference](http://www.aspanet.org/annualconference)  
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DPA Program Director: Dr. Kristen Crossney, [dpa@wcupa.edu](mailto:dpa@wcupa.edu)  
MPA Program Director: Dr. Angela Kline, [mpa@wcupa.edu](mailto:mpa@wcupa.edu)



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# BUILDING A BRIDGE TO RENEWAL & RESILIENCE

**2026 ASPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
HOLLYWOOD, CA

Greetings!

Welcome to Hollywood, California for ASPA's 2026 Annual Conference. Months in the making, this event brings together more than 1,200 professionals from across the public service community—spanning sectors and transcending geographic boundaries—as we work together to *build a bridge to renewal and resilience*.

It is no secret that our profession has faced its share of challenges since we gathered in Washington, D.C. last year—many of them unseen for decades (if ever), and others that have been around for years. The federal government has been transformed in significant ways; state and local governments have grappled with monumental shifts requiring innovative problem-solving; higher education has experienced disruption among students and faculty alike; researchers have had to tap into new levels of creativity—and determination—to pursue their work; and technology has continued to push all of the boundaries in ways that are both exciting and cautionary.

This conference is where we bring our experiences together. It is where we learn from each other, hear about successes and failures, share new research, find new practices, start new books, chapters and articles, and forge new relationships. We hope you make the most of your time in Hollywood to do all of that and more.

This year's program showcases our longstanding and much valued features: plenary sessions featuring practitioners and scholars of the highest caliber; presidential panels focusing on current policy with a local flavor; concurrent sessions (more than 150 of them, so be sure

to cover all your bases); and plenty of networking events—all in a star-studded environment that offers entertainment literally around every corner. Check the agendas, look for alerts on the app and read our daily updates for program details so you can schedule a mix of work and fun throughout your time with us.

While you are here, please thank our sponsors for their generous support of our sessions, Founders' Fellows program, networking events and branded items. They make every aspect of this experience possible. We express our appreciation and gratitude to them—and to you—for being here. We know you will find value in our time together and hope you depart knowing more than ever that we are here to support you in our collective mission to *advance excellence in public service*.

Sincerely,



**John Bartle**  
*President*



**Bill Shields**  
*Executive Director and CEO*

**Officers**



**President**  
John Bartle



**Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer**  
Bill Shields



**President-Elect**  
Roger Hartley



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Juliet Musso



**Conference Honorary Co-Chairs**  
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Jessica Sowa



Chester Newland

**Conference Track Reviewers**

Octavia Abell  
Edmund Adu  
Dustin Haisler  
Alfred Ho  
Chris Koliba

Perri Leviss  
Christine Martell  
Bruce McDonald  
Chul Hyun Park  
Jason Rivera

JoAnne Speers  
Jessica Terman  
Triparna Vasavada

# TO THE 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## District I

Michael Ahn  
Hillary Knepper  
Roseanne Mirabella

## District II

Marlon Brown  
Phillip Carlisle  
Thomas Stanton

## District III

Shaoming Cheng  
Ronald Sanders  
Donovan Segura

## District IV

Tom Becker  
Alex Trembley  
Kitty Wooley

## District V

Juliet Lee  
Edgar Rameriz Cruz  
Miha Vindis

## International Director

Pan Suk Kim

## Student Representative

Linda Nathan

## COMPA Representative

S. Nicole Diggs

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
PROGRAM

**#21**

Local Government

**#23**

Public Finance  
and Budgeting

**#24**

Nonprofit Management

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COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES &  
EARTH AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

ASPA's 2026 app is the best place to find the most up-to-date information about the conference, including attendee lists, concurrent sessions and conference alerts. The app is available for iPhone, iPad and Android devices.

- 1 Search and download ASPA in the App Store in iOS or Android devices. (Scan the QR code below for easy access.)
- 2 Have your ASPA login information handy to log into the app or visit our registration desk in the Mezzanine on the second floor to retrieve it. A one-time passcode is also available.
- 3 Edit your profile with the appropriate information for all of your colleagues to see about you, including a headshot!

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# CONFERENCE SPONSORS

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*Sponsored:* Donald C. Stone Lecture



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*Sponsored:* Elliot Richardson Lecture



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# CONFERENCE SPONSORS

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*Sponsored:* Public Finance and Economics Track



## COPPER SPONSORS

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## SPONSORS

**Iowa Chapter**

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**Southeastern Conference for Public Administration**

*Sponsored:* Annual Conference



*ASPAPr expresses its sincerest gratitude to Conference Honorary Co-Chair Chester A. Newland for his most generous sponsoring gift in support of this year's program. Having joined ASPAPr as a student member in 1954 and served as its president in 1981-1982, Dr. Newland continues to serve as a model for all those dedicated to the public good.*

*As of February 20, 2026*



# FOUNDERS' FELLOWS SUPPORTERS

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## **BOOK**

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ASPA Section on Emergency and Crisis Management

Kitty Wooley

William Shields

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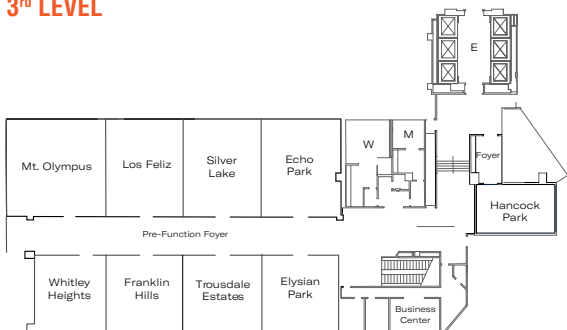
Roseanne Mirabella

Malcolm Oliver

Stephen Rolandi

Kendra Stewart

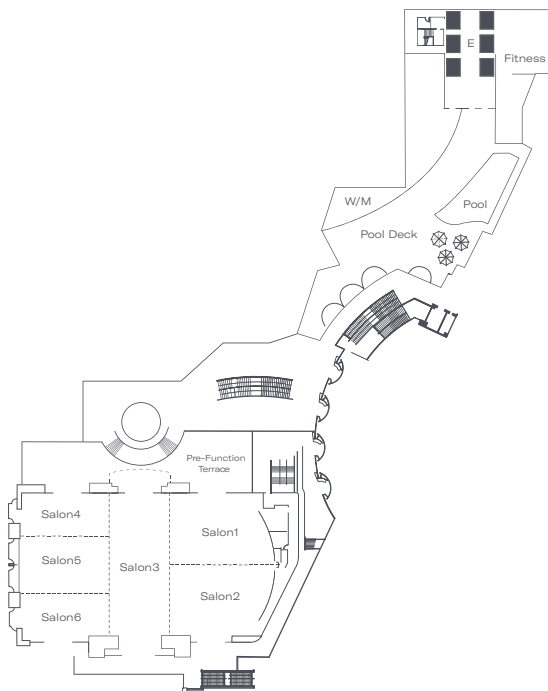
## 3<sup>rd</sup> LEVEL



## MEZZANINE LEVEL-2<sup>nd</sup> FLOOR



**5<sup>th</sup> LEVEL**





## Conference Registration

ASPA's registration desk is on the Mezzanine on the second floor. Registration badges and other conference materials can be picked up there. The registration desk will be open at the following times:

Thursday, March 19	2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Friday, March 20	7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 21	7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 22	7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Monday, March 23	7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 24	7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

A lactation room is available for those in need throughout the conference during these hours. It is locked to guarantee privacy; visit our registration desk for access.

## Badges

All conference registrants receive a badge when they check in at ASPA's registration area. **This badge must be worn at all times and will be checked throughout the conference.** If you misplace your badge, please come to the registration desk in the Mezzanine for a replacement.

## The ASPA App!

Thanks to the University of New Mexico, School of Public Affairs, for sponsoring the ASPA App! Find the app in your device's store, available for download. Use the QR code in this book for access, as well. You will need your ASPA login information to view conference details. If you do not remember those details, the app will provide you with a one-time code to help you gain access. The app is viewable on your phone and tablet.

## Security Reminder, Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices

Please be courteous to presenters and fellow attendees by silencing



## GENERAL INFORMATION

your cell phone or other electronic devices while attending educational sessions and meetings. Attendees are reminded not to leave items of value, including laptops, purses and tablets, unattended at any time. **Neither the hotel nor ASPA is responsible for lost or stolen items.**

### Continuing Education

Attendees seeking continuing education can contact ASPA at [aspaconference@aspanet.org](mailto:aspaconference@aspanet.org) for assistance. ASPA does not notify organizations on behalf of attendees, nor keep session attendance records. ASPA cannot guarantee acceptance for continuing education by individual licensing boards.

### Speaker Cancellations/Substitutions

ASPA makes every effort to offer programs of the highest caliber. In the event of speaker cancellations, ASPA reserves the right to modify session material or substitute speakers without advance notice.

### Special Assistance

ASPA is committed to making its entire conference accessible to all individuals, including those with disabilities. For further information regarding special needs, or if you have previously requested assistance, please visit the registration desk.

### Get Connected!

Connect with your fellow attendees via the app by clicking on the “Connect” button on the conference’s dashboard. (Friends must be logged into the app for connections to work.)

ASPA is on BlueSky. Connect with us and follow the chatter online to keep up with everything happening at the conference! Use **#ASPA2026** when you post!

 Bluesky: **ASPANational**

Annual Conference Website: [www.aspanet.org/annualconference](http://www.aspanet.org/annualconference)



## ★ Citizen Engagement and Participation

Public administration needs its citizens to be a part of the process. We need to build bridges to connect communities to authentic participation. We need to hear from new voices to ensure we serve them well. What does the research show, what does practice support and what can nonprofits contribute?

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## ★ AI and Digital Transformation

The work goes on and technology marches with it. If anything, the rush to deploy new and more generative technology only has increased as all levels of government look for further efficiencies. But the public isn't sold and generative AI remains error-prone, making the "human in the loop" the team's most valuable player.

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## ★ Public Workforce, HR and Organizational Culture

The public workforce has taken a beating for years and most especially throughout 2025. But public servants are critical to the work. How are long-standing human resource management methods working now? What new systems have taken over? What does the research say? Can we build a bridge to a high functioning HR process?

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## ★ Democratic Governance and Public Trust

Questions continue to swirl about the state of democracy in the United States and what it means for public service. Where do our "checks and balances" stand? What can we learn from other countries? How do we maintain trust and develop resiliency?



# 2026 CONFERENCE TRACKS

These are the questions that will push our field toward its future.

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## ★ Emergency Management, Environmental Sustainability and Crisis Response

Public administration is always necessary but especially when something goes wrong. Wildfires, hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, extreme heat, extreme cold and contagion spread. How do communities rebuild? How do you share decision-making, funding and human resources when responses are required? Where can nonprofits step in for community support?

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## ★ Public Finance and Economics

Taxation, tariffs, budgets and intergovernmental aid are not just for number-crunchers and have responsibility for a balanced budget. They set the table for policy and economic well-being. More, the questions and answers are different from one level of government to another. We'll look at current topics and promising practices.

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## ★ Global Governance and Administration

These challenges are not owned by one country or region of the globe. Populations around the world are facing a rise in nationalism, democratic backsliding, autocratic regimes, war, famine and disease. What knowledge and expertise can our field lend across borders and regions to help communities find peace, progress and stability?

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---

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*We specialize in public and nonprofit  
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solving wicked problems.*

---

Congratulations, Jerrell Cogburn!  
Recipient of SPALR's 2026 Condrey Award



**LEAD THE PACK.  
SERVE THE PUBLIC.**



## CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

### Thursday, March 19

**2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

ASPA Registration Open  
*Mezzanine Registration (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)*

### Friday, March 20

**7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

ASPA Registration Open  
*Mezzanine Registration (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)*

**7:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.**

Student and New Professional Summit  
*Solano*

**8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.**

Concurrent Sessions  
*Various Locations*

**8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

Deil Wright Symposium (SIAM)  
*Elysian Park*

**8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

Fred Riggs Symposium (SICA)  
*Runyon and Laurel*

**8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

SAPA Symposium and Business Meeting  
*Hancock Park*

**9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.**

Concurrent Sessions  
*Various Locations*

**11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.**

Concurrent Sessions  
*Various Locations*

**12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.**

Presidential Panel  
*Beachwood*

**12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.**

Concurrent Sessions  
*Various Locations*

**2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.**

Concurrent Sessions  
*Various Locations*



## CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

**3:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.**

Presidential Panel  
*Beachwood*

**3:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.**

Concurrent Sessions  
*Various Locations*

**4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.**

Student Policy Debate  
*Solano*

**5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

Chapter, Section and Journal  
Business Meetings  
*Various Locations*

**6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

Founders' Fellows Opening Reception  
*Los Feliz*

**6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

Reception & Relationships:  
First-Timers!  
*Mt. Olympus*

### **Saturday, March 21**

**7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

ASPAs Registration Open  
*Mezzanine Registration (2nd Floor)*

**7:45 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.**

Chapter, Section and Journal Business  
Meetings  
*Various Locations*

**7:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

PPMR Symposium and Business  
Meeting  
*Solano*

**8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

SENRA Symposium  
*Runyon*

**9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.**

Concurrent Sessions  
*Various Locations*



## CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

<b>10:30 a.m. - Noon</b>	Opening Plenary and Elliot Richardson Lecture <i>Hollywood Ballroom A-D</i>
<b>12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.</b>	Founders' Fellows Session <i>Whitley Heights</i>
<b>12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.</b>	NAPA Fellows Meeting <i>Laurel</i>
<b>12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.</b>	Concurrent Sessions <i>Various Locations</i>
<b>2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.</b>	Presidential Panel <i>Beachwood</i>
<b>3:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.</b>	Department Heads Roundtable <i>Laurel</i>
<b>3:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.</b>	Founders' Fellows Session <i>Whitley Heights</i>
<b>3:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.</b>	Public Management Roundtable <i>Franklin Hills</i>
<b>3:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.</b>	Concurrent Sessions <i>Various Locations</i>
<b>5:00 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.</b>	Presidential Panel <i>Beachwood</i>
<b>5:00 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.</b>	Founders' Fellows Session <i>Whitley Heights</i>
<b>5:00 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.</b>	Concurrent Sessions <i>Various Locations</i>
<b>6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.</b>	Opening Reception <i>5<sup>th</sup> Floor Pool Deck</i>



## CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

### Sunday, March 22

**7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

ASPA Registration Open  
*Mezzanine Registration (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)*

**7:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

Section on Public Performance and  
Management Holzer Symposium  
*Solano*

**7:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.**

Founders' Fellows Session  
*Whitley Heights*

**7:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.**

Concurrent Sessions  
*Various Locations*

**9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**

Presidential Panel  
*Beachwood*

**9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**

Concurrent Sessions  
*Various Locations*

**10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.**

Donald C. Stone Lecture  
*Hollywood Ballroom A-D*

**12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.**

Chapter, Section and Journal  
Business Meetings  
*Various Locations*

**12:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.**

Gloria Hobson Nordin Social Equity  
Luncheon  
*Solano*

**1:45 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.**

ABFM Symposium  
*Mt. Olympus*

**1:45 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.**

Good Governance Worldwide  
Symposium  
*Hancock Park*

**1:45 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.**

SCNS Symposium  
*Runyon*



## CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

**2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

Nesta M. Gallas Lecture  
*Hollywood A-D*

**3:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

Presidential Panel  
*Beachwood*

**3:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

Founders' Fellows Session  
*Whitley Heights*

**3:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

Concurrent Sessions  
*Various Locations*

**3:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.**

National Council Meeting  
*Solano*

**5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.**

International Assembly  
*Beachwood*

**6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.**

ASPA Past Presidents Roundtable  
*Whitley Heights*

**7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

Section on Personnel and Labor  
Relations (SPALR) Reception  
*Silver Lake*

**7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

The George Washington University  
Trachtenberg School Reception  
(By Invitation Only)  
*Echo Park*

**7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

*IJPA (International Journal of Public  
Administration)* Reception  
*Franklin Hills*

**7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

International Chapter Reception  
*Elysian Park*

**7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

Rutgers University SPAA Reception  
*Laurel*



## CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

**8:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.**

President's Reception  
*Preston's*

### **Monday, March 23**

**7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

ASPA Registration/Information  
Desk Open  
*Mezzanine Registration (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)*

**7:45 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.**

Chapter, Section and Journal  
Business Meetings  
*Various Locations*

**8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.**

SWPA National Awards Breakfast  
*Solano*

**9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.**

Presidential Panel  
*Beachwood*

**9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.**

Concurrent Sessions  
*Various Locations*

**10:30 a.m. - Noon**

Public Service Plenary  
*Hollywood Ballroom A-D*

**12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

Founders' Fellows Session  
*Whitley Heights*

**12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

Concurrent Sessions  
*Various Locations*

**1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

KAPA/SKPA Poster Session and  
Business Meeting  
*Solano*

**1:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Presidential Panel  
*Beachwood*

**3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

Presidential Panel  
*Beachwood*



## CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

**3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

Concurrent Sessions  
*Various Locations*

**4:45 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

Founders' Fellows Sessions  
*Whitley Heights*

**4:45 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

Concurrent Sessions  
*Various Locations*

**6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

Founders' Fellows Closing Reception  
*Hospitality Suite, 19<sup>th</sup> Floor*

**6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

National University of Singapore  
Reception  
*Silver Lake*

**6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

National Public Service Awards  
Reception  
*Runyon*

### **Tuesday, March 24**

**7:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**

ASPA Information Desk Open  
*Mezzanine Registration (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)*

**7:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.**

Concurrent Sessions  
*Various Locations*

**9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.**

Concurrent Sessions  
*Various Locations*

**10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.**

Concurrent Sessions  
*Various Locations*

**Noon - 1:00 p.m.**

Closing Annual Business and  
Membership Meeting  
*Hollywood Ballroom A-D*



## COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa™

### PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



Director and Professor

**HELEN H. YU**

### INVISIBLE IDENTITIES IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION: RELIGION, FAITH, AND SPIRITUALITY

**3/22/2026 (SUN) | 9:15AM - 10:30AM**



Associate Professor

**JENNIFER A. KAGAN**

### LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION PLANS: BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION

**3/22/2026 (SUN) | 7:45AM - 9:00AM**



**WELCOME OUR NEW FACULTY**

## **Reception & Relationships: First-Timers!**

**Friday, March 20**

**6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

*Mt. Olympus*

This session is dedicated to those who wish to jump-start their conference participation. There will be facilitated conversation and a cash bar. By the time you depart, you will have met colleagues whose experience of public service is like and unlike your own. That will expand your circle and increase the possibilities for good times over the next few days and lasting professional connections after everyone goes home. Academics and practitioners, introverts and extroverts—you'll encounter them all. Please join us for a heartfelt welcome to ASPA 2026!

*Sponsored by the Iowa Chapter and a National Council member*

## **Welcome Reception**

**Saturday, March 21**

**6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

*Loews Hollywood, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Pool Deck*

ASPA's 2026 Annual Conference welcome reception will take place on the fabulous (and sunny!) pool deck at the Loews Hollywood! Skip the swimsuits but plan to enjoy some great food and beverages with your colleagues while enjoying the LA weather. And, of course, views of the Hollywood sign will be readily available! What happens at our opening reception? A ton of chatting with your friends and colleagues! If you're an introvert but want some snacks before you get some dinner, you're very welcome to check out the views and soak up some sunshine around the deck.

## **President's Reception**

**Sunday, March 22**

**8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.**

*Preston's Restaurant and Foyer*

ASPA President John Bartle invites all conference attendees to join him at Preston's for some snacks, beverages and a good time! An annual tradition, this is a great opportunity to hang out with old friends, get to know new colleagues and enjoy some relaxation before the next day's agenda begins!

## **NETWORKING RECEPTIONS**

Join your conference friends and peers for a series of receptions hosted and generously supported by universities and other organizations. These networking events are open to all attendees unless otherwise noted.

**Sunday, March 22**

**7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

### **Section on Personnel Administration and Labor Relations (SPALR)**

*Silver Lake*

**7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

### **The George Washington University, Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration**

*By Invitation Only*

*Hancock Park*

**7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

### **International Chapter**

*Elysian Park*

**7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

***International Journal of Public Administration  
(IJPA)***

*Franklin Hills*

**7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

**Rutgers University School of Public Affairs and  
Administration**

*Laurel*

**Monday, March 23**

**6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**Founders' Fellows Closing Reception**

*19<sup>th</sup> Floor Reception*

**6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**National Public Service Awards**

*Runyon*

**6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**National University of Singapore**

*Silver Lake*



- Ruba Abukhdeir ..... University of Baltimore
- Afsana Alam ..... University of Massachusetts—Boston
- Nina Alvandipour..... University of Arkansas at Little Rock
- Selina Ayittah..... Georgia Southern University
- Sheldon Brennemann ..... University of Nebraska at Omaha
- Juwon Chung ..... Indiana University Bloomington
- Joseph S. Conteh..... University of New Mexico
- Riley Crain ..... CSU Channel Islands
- Jan Manuel Cubero Jiménez .... Roberto Sánchez Vilella Graduate  
School of Public Administration
- Charita Dailey ..... University of Nebraska at Omaha
- Clement Damoah ..... Arizona State University
- Ofek Edri-Peer ..... University of Haifa
- Ranya El Alaoui Moad ..... Abdelmalek Essaadi University
- Shernica L. Ferguson ..... Jackson State University
- Canyu Gao ..... Rutgers University—Newark
- Liliana Deyanira González Viveros ..... National Autonomous  
University of Mexico
- Areeba Hashmi ..... Pace University
- Meri Hovsepyan..... Florida State University
- Calais Jackson Franco ..... University of Delaware
- Sina Jangjoo..... Florida State University
- Amy Kang ..... Carnegie Mellon University



- Christopher Kaplan .....City of Colorado Springs
- Stephanie King ..... University of Central Florida
- Rebekah Lankford.....University of Georgia
- Alyssa Taylor Lavalle ..... University of La Verne
- Steve McKnight ..... Missouri State University
- Eloy H. S. Oliveira.....University of Texas at Austin
- Heather Shurtliff ..... University of Kansas
- Tomas Soto-Jara .....Rutgers University—Newark
- Ana Luiza Ferreira Terra Pinto .....Florida International University
- Rylyn Williams ..... University of Massachusetts—Amherst
- Lin Xu.....University of Hong Kong
- Isaac Kwabena Yeboah ..... Virginia Commonwealth University
- Mashal E-Zehra ..... University of Illinois Chicago
- Zane Zupan ..... University of Vermont

## **OPENING PLENARY AND ELLIOT RICHARDSON LECTURE**

**Saturday, March 21 | 10:30 a.m. – Noon**

***Hollywood A-D***



### **Welcome Remarks**

**Lisa Garrett**

*Director of Personnel, County of Los Angeles*

Lisa Garrett was appointed director of personnel for the County of Los Angeles after serving as acting director of the department of human resources (DHR) in 2021. She is a career public servant and has worked in both the City and County of Los Angeles. She was hired into the County in 1994 as deputy district attorney in the Bureau of Family Support Operations. Seven years later, she moved to the Child Support Services Department, where she served as assistant division chief in two large divisions, executive assistant to the director and chief deputy director and chief attorney before being appointed as acting director of personnel. Garrett has guided the implementation of many initiatives to strengthen the County's workforce, improve customer service and access, and "automate all things HR." She has led her team in creating a metrics program for data-based decision-making; implementing comprehensive automated systems for job application processing, leave management and performance management with report-generation capabilities and management dashboards; and developing an award-winning wellness program that has reduced rates of employee obesity, high cholesterol and hypertension.

Garrett is a graduate of the University of California at Los Angeles and holds a JD from the Southwestern University School of Law and an MBA from Pepperdine University. She is an active member of the State Bar of California, the Los Angeles Bar Association Labor Employment Law Section, the Society for Human Resource

Management and the International Public Management Association for Human Resources (IPMA).



### **Richardson Lecture**

#### **Juliette Kayyem**

*Faculty Chair, Harvard University*

In academia, the private sector, government and media, Juliette Kayyem is an international leader in crisis management and homeland security. She serves as faculty chair of the Homeland Security and Security and Global Health Projects at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. Previously, she served as President Obama's assistant secretary at the Department of Homeland Security and as Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick's homeland security advisor.

As *CNN's* Senior National Security Analyst, a Pulitzer Prize finalist and contributing writer for *The Atlantic* and Boston's local NPR station, *GBH*, Kayyem consults for governors, mayors, public and private institutions on crisis management. She is a senior advisor to global consulting firm Teneo, and founded her own consulting firm to support the preparedness needs of companies, from Fortune 500 to startups. She was named *Inc. Magazine's* top 100 Female Founders in 2019 and received the Lifetime Achievement Pinnacle Award from the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce in 2023.

Kayyem is the author or editor of six books, including her most recent *The Devil Never Sleeps: Learning to Live in an Age of Disasters*, which was described in a *New Yorker* profile as an "engagingly urgent blueprint for rethinking our approach to disaster preparedness and response." She lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts, with her husband, Judge David Barron, and has three children.

*Sponsored by*

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## **DONALD C. STONE LECTURE**

**Sunday, March 22 | 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

***Hollywood A-D***



### **Haldane Davies**

*Director, Bureau of Economic Research, Government of the United States Virgin Islands*

Haldane Davies has a distinguished career in higher education administration, leadership, business development and innovation, economic development, academic and corporate consulting, research and teaching. With a focus on driving success and growth, he serves as director of the Bureau of Economic Research, Government of the United States Virgin Islands and director of Orion Consultancy Services. He was president of the University of the Commonwealth Caribbean (UCC) and vice president for business development and innovation at the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI).

Throughout his career, Davies has achieved remarkable success in various leadership roles. As executive director of the Foundation for the University of the Virgin Islands, he led asset growth by 42 percent in one year, increased annual grants and contributions to the university and achieved a 19.2 percent annual return on invested assets in 2014. Notably, UVI received its largest grant of \$33 million in 2019 under his leadership.

In his role as president of UCC, Davies demonstrated exceptional leadership, spearheading notable accomplishments in academic, economic, financial, operational and strategic planning. Through strategic partnerships, enrollment growth and revenue generation initiatives, he expanded the institution's footprint and recognition regionally and internationally. As vice president for business development and innovation at UVI, he successfully created new

income generation opportunities through targeted program expansion, sustainability and strategic partnerships. He established the UVI Institute for Leadership and Organizational Effectiveness, developed the UVI strategic plan and played a key role in achieving the Carnegie Elective Community Engagement Classification for UVI.

Davies served as associate vice president at the H. Lavity Stoutt Community College and executive assistant to the president at the University of the Southern Caribbean. He also has led strategic planning, accreditation and institutional effectiveness initiatives and played a pivotal role in various economic impact studies and program prioritization studies.

Committed to contributing to the field of higher education, Davies serves as an accreditation evaluator and site-visit chair for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. He holds leadership positions in several prestigious organizations, including chair emeritus of the National Certified Public Manager Consortium, member of the Board of the International Economic Development Council, chair of the Virgin Islands Public Officials Compensation Commission and member of the Board of Northeast Maritime Institute.

Davies holds a PhD in educational administration with a specialization in higher education, as well as a master's degree in education and a bachelor's degree.

*Sponsored by*  University of Pittsburgh. |  School of Public and International Affairs

## **NESTA M. GALLAS LECTURE**

**Sunday, March 22 | 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

***Hollywood A-D***



### **Carolyn Bourdeaux**

*Executive Director, Concord Coalition and Concord Coalition Action Fund*

Carolyn Bourdeaux is executive director of Concord Coalition and Concord Coalition Action Fund, where she is building a grassroots movement to advocate for fiscal responsibility, including working to balance the federal budget and cut the \$38 trillion national debt.

Bourdeaux served as a Democratic Member of Congress from Georgia from 2021-2022 after winning one of the most competitive races in the country. During her time in Congress, she worked with the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus and served as co-chair of the Blue Dog Coalition Task Force on Fiscal Responsibility and Government Reform. She led bipartisan efforts to advance solutions to our nation's fiscal challenges through responsible budgeting reform and requiring Congress to pay for programs. She also led policy work on health care, small business and infrastructure. She is a contributing columnist to the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* and a senior visiting scholar at the University of Georgia.

Bourdeaux is an expert in national, state and local public finance. Prior to entering politics, she was a professor at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University. Among her many accomplishments, she served as director of Georgia's Senate Budget and Evaluation Office during the Great Recession, where she received recognition by the Senate for significant service to the State of Georgia.

## INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**Sunday, March 22 | 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.**

**Beachwood**



### **Pan Suk Kim**

*Professor Emeritus, Yonsei University; ASPA International Director*

Pan Suk Kim was dean of the College of Government and Business and is professor of public administration in the College of Government and Business at Yonsei University, South Korea. He served as minister of personnel management of the Republic of Korea (2017-2018) and secretary to the president for personnel policy in the Office of the President of the Republic of Korea (2003-2005). He has served ASPA in various capacities including as a National Council member, chair of the Section on Professional and Organizational Development and board member of the Section on International and Comparative Administration. He has (co)authored several books and published more than 200 refereed articles.

He was deputy editor of the *International Review of Administrative Sciences*; editor in chief of the *Asian Review of Public Administration*; and editor in chief of the *International Review of Public Administration and Korean Policy Studies Review*. He serves on the editorial boards of major international journals and has received several ASPA awards, including the International Public Administration Award, the Donald C. Stone Service to ASPA Award and the Section on International and Comparative Administration's Fred Riggs Award.

He received his doctoral degree from American University in Washington, DC and was on the faculties of Austin Peay State University in Tennessee and Old Dominion University in Virginia. He has been a Fulbright visiting scholar at Georgetown University, a visiting scholar in residence at American University and a visiting scholar at the George Washington University. He is an elected fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration.



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POLICY & ADMINISTRATION**



**Jessica E. Sowa**

Professor

Joseph R. Biden, Jr. School of  
Public Policy & Administration  
University of Delaware

**Congratulations on your  
appointment as co-chair of the  
2026 American Society for Public  
Administration Annual Conference.**

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**Calaia Franco Jackson**

Doctoral Student

2026 ASPA Founders Fellow



**Reidel Vichot**

Doctoral Student

2026 Student Travel Awardee,  
ASPA Section on Nonprofits



**Daniel Zorrilla**

Doctoral Student

2026 David Gould Scholar, ASPA Section on  
International & Comparative Administration



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## **PUBLIC SERVICE PLENARY**

**Monday, March 23 | 10:30 a.m. – Noon**

***Hollywood A-D***



### **Garrett Graff**

*Journalist*

Journalist and Pulitzer Prize finalist historian Garrett Graff has covered politics, government, technology and national security for two decades. His award-winning work—including magazine articles, podcasts, documentaries and books on topics like the presidency, World War II, 9/11, the Cold War, Watergate and cybersecurity—uses history to explain the story of today, illuminating where we have been as a country and where we are headed as a world.

The former editor of *POLITICO Magazine*, Graff writes the popular “Doomsday Scenario” newsletter and hosts the Edward R. Murrow Award-winning podcast, “Long Shadow.” Widely respected for his meticulous research and engaging narrative storytelling, Graff’s books have been on The *New York Times* bestseller list five times in the last seven years. The author of 10 books, including *Watergate: A New History*, he is best known for his landmark trio volumes of oral histories, *The Only Plane in the Sky: An Oral History of 9/11*, *When the Sea Came Alive: An Oral History of D-Day*, and, most recently, *The Devil Reached Toward the Sky*, about the making of the atomic bomb.

Graff will be in conversation with ASPA Executive Director and CEO Bill Shields.

## **CLOSING PLENARY AND ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**Tuesday, March 24 | Noon – 1:00 p.m.**

### **Hollywood A-D**

*This session includes the official transition of National Council leadership and oath of office.*



### **John Bartle**

*Dean Emeritus, College of Public Affairs and Community Service, and Professor of Public Administration, University of Nebraska at Omaha*

John Bartle is distinguished professor of public administration and dean emeritus of the College of Public Affairs and Community Service at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. He received two major awards from ASPA Sections: the Aaron Wildavsky Award for lifetime achievement in budgeting and financial management, and the Truitt-Felbinger Award for significant contributions to the field of transportation policy and administration. He has co-authored or edited four books: *Innovative Infrastructure Finance: A Guide for State and Local Governments*, *Management Policies in Local Government Finance*, *Sustainable Development for Public Administration* and *Evolving Theories of Public Budgeting*. He has published more than 70 articles and book chapters in both academic and practitioner outlets. He has worked with the Nebraska legislature to provide policy advice for more than 10 years. His bachelor's degree is from Swarthmore College, his MPA is from the University of Texas, his PhD is from The Ohio State University and he received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the State University of New York in 2016. He worked in city and state government in Minnesota and for state and national nonprofit research organizations on tax policy issues.

## Recognition Presentations

### *Outgoing National Council Members*

**Michael Ahn**

District I Representative

**S. Nicole Diggs**

COMPA Representative

**Pan Suk Kim**

International Director

**Juliet Lee**

District V Representative

**Linda Nathan**

Student Representative

**Ronald Sanders**

District III Representative

## **GLORIA HOBSON NORDIN SOCIAL EQUITY LUNCHEON**

**Sunday, March 22 | 12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.**

***Solano***



### **Honorable Lisa Rogan**

*Superior Court Judge, Superior Court of California*

Judge Lisa Rogan recently completed her tenure as presiding judge of the Superior Court of San Bernardino County; she now presides over small claims and unlawful detainers in the County's Fontana District.

As presiding judge, she implemented many changes to the court. Among them: Expanding civil courts to the Rancho Cucamonga and Victorville Courthouses; expanding probate to Victorville and Needles Courthouses; creating and instituting an outdoor court model to alleviate the pandemic backlog; overseeing the launch of an e-file system to improve bench officers' efficiency and flexibility; and instituting a remote county-wide traffic court and first-of-its-kind mobile court vehicle, "Justice In Motion," that took court to the community.

Appointed by Governor Edmund G. “Jerry” Brown, Jr., Rogan began her judicial career in 2013. She was elevated to the role of supervising judge due to her extensive supervisory experience. She served in this role in all of San Bernardino’s largest districts and for a wide range of case types, including criminal, family, small claims, unlawful detainers, child support, juvenile and traffic. Her deep experience in both urban and rural courthouses has addressed resource challenges and strengthened access to justice. Prior to her judicial career, Rogan was a supervising deputy district attorney for San Bernardino County and, before that, a law enforcement officer, first with the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department and then the Pomona Police Department where she was the first female sergeant in the department’s history.

Rogan has leveraged her roles in the justice system to address inequities in one of the nation’s largest and most demographically diverse jurisdictions. Her leadership has emphasized access to justice for self-represented litigants, rural residents and those facing economic and logistical barriers to court participation. Her commitment to social equity extends beyond court operations to community partners, including legal aid organizations, ensuring the justice system is responsive to the needs of low-income and vulnerable residents. She has consistently demonstrated that social equity is not ancillary to justice, but central to it.

*All sessions take place in Beachwood*

**Friday, March 20**

**12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.**

### **Transforming Public Governance Institutions**

The challenges and problems in our communities are complex and not addressed by our current governance approach, leading to dissatisfaction and loss of confidence in government. Returning to the past and even improving current programs and public agencies are insufficient. Transformation is required, shifting focus and incentives from federal organizations and program outputs to people in substate areas who use permissive authority to achieve societal outcomes, including wealth creation. This session will discuss the work and action recommendations from a year-long effort at the National Academy of Public Administration, which is beginning this journey.

#### ***Moderator***



#### **John Kirlin**

*Emeritus Professor of Public Policy, University of the Pacific*

John Kirlin was founding director (2015-2021) of the McGeorge School of Law public policy program. He has served as a consultant to the State of California on matters ranging from species protection to oversight of local government debt and the interface of energy and environmental policies. He was executive director of the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative, making recommendations to the California Fish and Game Commission for Marine Protected Areas along the California coast, and executive director of Delta Vision, reframing state water policies and ecosystem vitality in the Delta, which was foundational work for a major legislative package enacted in 2009. He was a faculty member at University of Southern California (USC) (1969-1998), where he held all ranks from assistant through professor and was appointed



to the first endowed chair in the school, the Emery E. Olson Chair (1986-98). He served as associate and interim dean while at USC (1974-76). During his university career, he secured more than \$9 million in external grants and other awards. He is an author of more than 100 articles, chapters and monographs and 13 books and is an elected fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration.

### *Speakers*



#### **James Christian Blockwood**

*President and CEO, National Academy of Public Administration*

James-Christian Blockwood was appointed president and CEO of the National Academy of Public Administration in January 2025.

The academy is a congressionally chartered, nonpartisan, nonprofit that helps leaders build more effective, efficient, accountable and transparent organizations. Most recently, he was executive vice president at the Partnership for Public Service where he helped with overall strategy and management of the organization, and oversaw its programs dedicated to improving the federal government. He is deeply committed to nonpartisanship and organizational excellence and is passionate about serving others and his country. He is a former career member of the Senior Executive Service and has broad experience in leadership and management, strategic planning, intelligence, national security and foreign affairs. He has helped transform and build new capabilities at the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs, as well as the Government Accountability Office. He is adjunct professor at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. He has earned degrees in government, business administration, strategic intelligence and international relations.



### **Jan Perry**

*Retired City Councilwoman, City of Los Angeles*

Jan Perry is a former three-term Los Angeles City Council member. She is executive director of Shelter Partnership, Inc., a leading group in Los Angeles developing housing and resources for the local homeless community.

The organization also serves as a consultant on homeless programs and policy, supporting entities like the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority as well as local and state government. She serves as executive director of the Infrastructure Funding Alliance, a national initiative to meet future infrastructure, economic development and environmental challenges. A well-known civic leader, from 2001-2013 she served as a LA City Councilperson in District 9, which includes Downtown, Little Tokyo and South LA. Her tenure oversaw projects that dramatically reshaped the downtown area. She also shepherded the development of nearly 6,000 units of supportive housing in her district. Following her role on city council, she was appointed general manager of the LA economic and workforce development department for the city, a position she held through 2018. Perry attended the University of Southern California earning her bachelor's degree and MPA. She earned a certificate in litigation from the University of California, Los Angeles Extension.



### **Mark Pisano**

*Chair, Infrastructure Funding Alliance*

Mark Pisano is professor of the practice of public administration at the University of Southern California Sol Price School of Public Policy. He serves on the board of the National Academy of Public Administration and co-chairs

the standing panel on intergovernmental relations. He is co-chair of the Infrastructure Working Group of California Forward. He is chairman of the Infrastructure Funding Alliance, a national nonprofit



developing an alternative funding paradigm for funding infrastructure and public goods. For 31 years, he served as executive director of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), the nation's largest regional planning agency. In that role, he contributed greatly to implementing the Alameda Corridor Plan. Before joining SCAG, he served as director of the Environmental Protection Agency's Water Quality Planning Division. He also co-founded and held positions at various not-for-profit and governmental associations, including the California Center for Research and Development, California Federation for Energy and the Environment, California Hazardous Waste Management Authority, LINC Housing and California Leadership. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Georgetown University.

**3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.**

### **The Future of the Workforce: Talent Development**

This session will focus on talent development within the government workforce at all levels, including around the world. What skills do current government employees need to develop to step into leadership roles? What do those looking to enter the civil service need to add to their skill set to be a compelling candidate? How do U.S. needs compare to other countries? Our speakers will discuss all of these questions and more.

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#### **Moderator**



#### **Roger Hartley**

*Professor, Public and International Affairs and former Dean, University of Baltimore College; ASPA President-Elect*

Roger Hartley is professor of public and international affairs and former dean of the University of Baltimore College of Public Affairs, where he served in that role for more than 10 years. He holds several professional leadership positions and fellowships



including as ASPA's president-elect, and at the National Academy of Public Administration, the Volcker Alliance and the William Donald Schaefer Center for Public Policy at the University of Baltimore. His professional work is dedicated to improving the pipeline of talent into public service through inspiring student interest and addressing challenges in public service employment. His current project focuses on the role of coop education and degreed apprenticeships to connect college students to public service roles.

### *Speakers*



#### **Josh Diosomito**

*Executive Director, PPIA*

Josh Diosomito became executive director of PPIA in 2025, bringing 20 years of experience across public, private and nonprofit sectors as a proud PPIA alumnus and champion of emerging leaders. He began his career in public service as a Congressional investigator with the U.S. Government Accountability Office, where he led oversight audits that shaped homeland security policy, and served as adjunct faculty designing leadership courses that fostered inclusive workplaces across federal, state and local agencies. He later transitioned to the private sector, where he led global leadership development, mentoring and diversity initiatives at Capital Group and Harvard Business Publishing, impacting thousands of professionals across more than 30 global locations. Throughout his career, he has focused on empowering individuals and building high-performing, inclusive teams to drive meaningful change. Diosomito holds a BA from UC Berkeley and dual master's degrees in public administration and international relations from Syracuse University's Maxwell School.



## **Kate Driver**

*CEO, IPAA (Australia)*

After starting her career as a private practice barrister and solicitor, Kate Driver realized she was destined to follow a less “planned” but more “intentional” path, with careers and roles that better aligned with her personal and professional values. She began an eclectic career working in the public sector and was appointed CEO of Institute of Public Administration Australia ACT in 2024. She is the quintessential “accidental public servant.” After she took a six-month contract in the Australian public service, she found herself in a rewarding public sector career spanning almost 20 years. She has worked across a variety of roles as a senior executive in public policy and programs, HR and corporate services, property and security, policy implementation and national cultural institutions. In addition to her professional executive career, she is a philanthropic leader, working across a variety of Australian charities and not-for-profit enterprises, including co-founding the CoRE Learning Foundation.

**Saturday, March 21**

**2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

## **Housing Affordability: Lessons from Southern California**

Housing affordability affects all of our communities across the country and especially those in California. This session will look at the many policy and administrative issue areas that affect housing for all walks of life including zoning, urban development, privatization, fair housing, poverty and beyond. We'll look at this topic from a distinctive Southern California lens, focusing on ongoing challenges in the region and lessons learned that may be applicable in other communities.



## Speakers



### Valerie Stahl

*Assistant Professor of City Planning, San Diego State University*

Valerie Stahl is assistant professor of city planning in the School of Public Affairs at San Diego State University. Her mixed-methods research focuses on promoting more equitable housing and land use policies in U.S. cities. Increasingly, through collaborative and advocacy-based research, her work also explores planning's impact on public health. Her research has been used in campaigns on rent stabilization, the privatization of public housing and fair housing initiatives. Prior to her PhD, she worked at the Institute for Policy Integrity at NYU's School of Law and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, DC. Stahl holds a PhD in urban planning from Columbia University, a master's degree in urban affairs from Sciences Po Paris and a BA from New York University. She resides in San Diego with her husband and two small children.

**5:00 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.**

### **Subsidies Are Not Health Care Reform: The Need for Real Change**

As Affordable Care Act subsidies expire for millions of Americans, the political discussion often oversimplifies the issue. Our panel of experts will discuss why viewing subsidies as a true solution misses the bigger picture. While these subsidies have provided temporary relief, their ongoing presence has allowed important reforms addressing the root cause of cost growth such as lack of competition. Join our panel of researchers and practitioners as they break down the current state of the subsidy debate and where it fits into the larger context of health care reform. They'll explain why treating this issue as strictly a political matter limits the potential for solutions that could benefit everyone in the long run and why we're missing an opportunity to fix the health care system—once and for all.

*Thank you to APPAM for assembling this session.*



## Moderator



### **Tony Lo Sasso**

*Robert F. and Sylvia T. Wagner Professor of Public Affairs, University of Wisconsin-Madison*

Tony Lo Sasso is the Robert F. and Sylvia T. Wagner professor of public affairs in the La Follette School of Public Affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research spans multiple areas, including health and labor economics, health policy and health services and outcomes research. He is keenly interested in how government policies affect private sector decisions. He has played prominent leadership roles, including serving as executive director of the American Society of Health Economists and department chair. He has testified before Congress and other legislative bodies, advised public agencies and served as an expert on health care market issues. He is deeply committed to teaching and mentorship, with a particular emphasis on applied data analysis, policy-relevant research and experiential learning. Lo Sasso holds a PhD in economics and brings 30 years of experience as a researcher, educator and policy advisor in health economics.

## Speakers



### **Alice Chen**

*Associate Professor, University of Southern California*

Alice Chen is associate professor of public policy at the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy and the director of the value of life sciences innovation research program at the Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics. She is interested in how financial incentives affect provider behavior, the role of regulation in pharmaceutical development and market competition, and the relationship between health spending, health outcomes and labor productivity. In addition to publishing in leading economics, health policy and medical journals, she has provided congressional testimony



and presented her work at the Congressional Budget Office, the Federal Trade Commission and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation's advisory committee meetings. She serves as co-editor of the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* and associate editor of the *American Journal of Health Economics*. Chen earned her BA and MS in applied math from Harvard and her PhD in business economics from the University of Chicago.



### **Brandy Lipton**

*Associate Professor of Health, Society and Behavior, University of California, Irvine*

Brandy Lipton is an applied microeconomist specializing in health economics with additional interests in labor and public economics. Major themes running through her work include:

Medicaid program design including eligibility policies, optional benefits and payment structures; access to preventive health services including routine vision, dental and hearing health care services; and family health care decision-making, including familial spillover effects and intergenerational policy impacts. Her research seeks to identify policies that are effective in reducing health care disparities by race and ethnicity, socioeconomic status and immigration status using causal inference methods. Her research has appeared in the *Journal of Health Economics*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Health Affairs*, *American Journal of Public Health* and *JAMA Health Forum*. She has been supported as a principal investigator by the National Institutes of Health and the William T. Grant Foundation.



### **Wesley Yin**

*Professor of Economics, University of California Los Angeles*

Wesley Yin is professor of economics at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs and the Anderson School of Management. He also is a research associate at the National Bureau of



Economic Research and faculty affiliate at the Jameel Poverty Action Lab at MIT. His research focuses on health care, consumer finance and economic inequality. His recent work studies competition and market power and the links between health care financing and consumer financial health and well-being. His work has been published in such outlets as the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, the *American Economic Review*, the *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *JAMA*, *Health Affairs* and the Hamilton Project at the Brookings Institution. He has been covered by the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *New Yorker*, *Forbes*, *The Guardian*, *Bloomberg*, *The Atlantic*, *Vox* and others. He served in the Biden administration (2023-2024) as associate director for economic policy and chief economist in the Office of Management and Budget. Previously, he served in the Obama administration as acting assistant secretary for economic policy in the Department of the Treasury and senior economist in the White House Council of Economic Advisers. He was assistant professor at the University of Chicago and Boston University, and a Robert Wood Johnson scholar in health policy at Harvard University. He received his PhD in economics from Princeton University.

**Sunday, March 22**

**9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

### **LA County: Public Administration Innovation and Problem-Solving Writ Large**

This session will draw on our speakers' professional experience as leaders serving in various departments across LA County. They will discuss examples of innovations across a range of fields and disciplines, including children's protective services, public works, substance abuse prevention, finance and budgets, emergency response and disaster recovery, and law enforcement. Innovations include those that address challenges in serving approximately 10 million residents, 88 incorporated cities and more than 4,000 square miles, with a workforce of more than 100,000 employees and a budget exceeding \$52 billion. Discussions will highlight processes and mechanisms that facilitate working across departments, connecting with the public and communities,



coordinating varied expertise and building trust, as well as the impact of change.

### **Moderator**



#### **Rich Callahan**

*Professor, University of San Francisco*

Richard Callahan is professor at the University of San Francisco. He is co-director of the Master of Public Health program in Sacramento and director of the health services administration concentration in the Master of Public Administration program in the School of Management. His health and human services consulting contracts have been in the states of California, Washington and Louisiana. His research, consulting, publications and teaching focuses on leadership behaviors and strategy practices that are effective in complex, demanding and dynamic environments in the public and nonprofit sectors. He is an elected fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. He is the editor-in-chief of the *International Journal of Public Leadership*. Callahan received his undergraduate degree from Georgetown University, with an MA and PhD from the University of Southern California.

### **Speakers**



#### **Carrie Miller**

*Branch Manager for Policy Implementation and Alignment Branch, Chief Executive Office, County of Los Angeles*

Carrie Miller is branch manager for policy implementation for the County of Los Angeles. She also has served as executive director of the LA County Poverty Alleviation Initiative, assistant executive director of the Los Angeles County Office of Child Protection and manager for the Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office's Service



Integration Branch. She has overseen the integration of services for system-involved youth across multiple county departments. Miller received her PhD in clinical psychology from Howard University.



### **Luis Ramirez**

*Deputy Director, Department of Public Works,  
County of Los Angeles*

Luis Ramirez oversees infrastructure responses serving roughly 10 million residents in five core service areas: water resources, transportation, environmental services, municipal services and construction management. He manages an annual budget of more than \$4.1 billion, including more than 130 active capital projects with a construction value of more than \$3.3 billion representing a diverse workforce of approximately 4,000 employees. He has led the County's recovery efforts for the 2025 Eaton and Palisades fires and windstorm events.



### **Gary Tsai**

*Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Bureau,  
County of Los Angeles, Department of Public  
Health*

Gary Tsai is the medical director and science officer for Substance Abuse Prevention and Control, a division of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. In this role, he is responsible for data analytics and providing clinical leadership to oversee a full spectrum of substance use disorder prevention, treatment and recovery support services for the 10 million residents of Los Angeles County. He is board-certified in both general adult psychiatry and addiction medicine, and continues clinical practice at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. He is a passionate advocate for improving our behavioral health systems.



3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

## Trust and Accountability in State and Local Government

As of late 2025, only 17 percent of Americans say they trust the government in Washington to do the right thing “just about always”—a drop from 22 percent in 2024. States and localities fare somewhat better but the level of trust remains alarmingly low: About 40 percent of Americans lack a good level of trust in their states and one-third feel the same way about localities. This isn’t merely a political issue. When people lose faith in their elected and appointed officials, they are less likely to pay taxes honestly, follow public health guidance or abide by local regulations. More, implementing new policies becomes increasingly difficult as people view any change with suspicion. Low trust also impacts the public service pipeline as talented employees are less likely to see careers in government as a place for them when trust in government (and the work they do) is low. Without high quality, accountable, trusted public servants, services can diminish, which feeds into even lower trust. What causes this epidemic of mistrust and what can be done to turn the tide?

### Moderator



#### Richard Greene

*Principal, Barrett and Greene, Inc. and Executive Advisor, ASPA*

Richard Greene has analyzed, researched and written about state and local government for more than 30 years in collaboration with his wife and partner, Katherine Barrett. He is executive advisor for ASPA; a visiting fellow at the IBM Center for the Business of Government; contributor to *Governing Magazine*; editor and administrator of the website “dedicated to state and local government” at [greenebarrett.com](http://greenebarrett.com); advisor to the Government Finance Officers Association; columnist for *Government Finance Review*; commentary editor for the *International Journal of Public Administrators*; and senior advisor to the Government Finance



Research Center at the University of Illinois, Chicago. He is a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. His latest book, written in collaboration with Katherine Barrett and Don Kettl, *The Little Guide to Writing for Impact*, was published in 2024.

### Speakers



#### **Roger Hartley**

*Professor, Public and International Affairs and former Dean, University of Baltimore College; ASPA President-Elect*

Roger Hartley is professor of public and international affairs and former dean of the University of Baltimore College of Public Affairs, where he served in that role for more than 10 years. He holds several professional leadership positions and fellowships including as ASPA's president-elect, and at the National Academy of Public Administration, the Volcker Alliance and the William Donald Schaefer Center for Public Policy at the University of Baltimore. His professional work is dedicated to improving the pipeline of talent into public service through inspiring student interest and addressing challenges in public service employment. His current project focuses on the role of coop education and degreed apprenticeships to connect college students to public service roles.



#### **Ben Ho**

*Professor of Economics, Vassar College*

Ben Ho is professor of economics at Vassar College and author of the book, *Why Trust Matters: An Economist's Guide to the Ties that Bind Us*, which *New Yorker* notes "steps away from the mathematical formalisms of his subfield and writes lucidly and compellingly about the foundational concept of all social science." He applies behavioral economics, game theory and experiments to tackle topics like apologies, identity, inequality and climate change. Before Vassar, he taught MBA students



at Cornell, served as lead energy economist at the White House Council of Economic Advisers and worked and consulted for Morgan Stanley and several tech startups. He also is a faculty affiliate for the Center for Global Energy Policy at Columbia University. His research has appeared in outlets including *Management Science and Nature: Human Behavior*. Ho holds seven degrees from Stanford and MIT in economics, education, political science, math, computer science and electrical engineering.



### **Chris Hoene**

*Executive Director, California Budget and Policy Center*

Chris Hoene has been executive director of the California Budget and Policy Center since 2012. Under his leadership, the organization has grown significantly, shaped policies like the California Earned Income Tax Credit and strengthened partnerships to make the budget process more accessible to Californians. He has 25 years of experience in state and fiscal policy. He served as the director of the Center for Research and Innovation at the National League of Cities; and analyst at the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities. Hoene holds a PhD in political science from Claremont Graduate University. In 2011, he was elected as a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration.

**Monday, March 23**

**9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.**

### **Diversity and Equity in the Pipeline to Public Service**

What would it look like if we could imbue an authentic sense of mattering, belonging and inclusion for everyone who comes into the public realm (administrators, practitioners and those we serve)? These have been essential elements of the public good and social equity historically—elements we have worked diligently to achieve. Given the unrelenting assault on the public sector over the past decade, we must pause to reflect on its impact on academic institutions, government agencies and nonprofit organizations, and what that impact means for



the future. This session will bring together a diverse group of public servants to discuss and explore next steps for the public sector, as well as how to ensure a credible path exists for individuals entering these fields and how they can achieve careers of meaning and significance. Speakers will share reflections on their own journeys and offer insights about how, collectively, we can continue to support the next generation of public servants in the midst of this daunting challenge.

Sponsored by



### Moderator



#### **Jonathan Benjamin-Alvarado**

*Emeritus Professor of Political Science, Texas Christian University*

Jonathan Benjamin-Alvarado is emeritus professor of political science, nuclear policy analyst, author, speaker and social justice advocate. He is founding director of Miramar Associates Consulting LLC, a higher education consultancy and is the former senior advisor to the chancellor and the chief inclusion officer at Texas Christian University, serving from June 2022 - October 2025. He was associate vice chancellor of academic and student success at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) from 2013-2022. He was the past director of the UNO Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence Program under the auspices of the U.S. Office of the Director of National Intelligence, focusing on diversifying the workforce in the U.S. intelligence communities. He also served as chair on the Nebraska Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Benjamin-Alvarado received his PhD in political science from the University of Georgia and an MA from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey in international policy studies. He also attended the University of California Santa Barbara, UCLA and Harvard University.



## Speakers



### **Katherine Barrett**

*Principal, Barrett and Greene, Inc. and Executive Advisor, ASPA*

Katherine Barrett is executive advisor for the American Society for Public Administration and chair of its H. George Frederickson Center for Social Equity. A fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, she and her colleague and husband, Richard Greene, have analyzed, researched and written about state and local government for more than 30 years. They are contributors to *Governing* magazine and The Volcker Alliance; advisors to the Government Finance Officers Association; visiting fellows at the IBM Center for the Business of Government; columnists for *Government Finance Review*; commentary editors for the *International Journal of Public Administration*; and senior advisors to the Government Finance Research Center at the University of Illinois. Barrett and Greene also publish their own website, [Greenebarrett.com](http://Greenebarrett.com), which is dedicated to management, performance, policy and policy implementation in state and local governments. Their latest book, *The Little Guide to Writing for Impact*, was published in 2024.



### **Domonic Bearfield**

*Professor and Deputy Director, The George Washington University*

Domonic Bearfield is professor and deputy director at The George Washington University's Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration. An award-winning scholar and fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, his research focuses on social equity and public sector personnel. He serves on the executive council of the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration and is a former chair of the organization's Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation. He holds a PhD from



Rutgers University-Newark, an MPA from the University of Delaware and a BA from Norfolk State University.



### **Roger Hartley**

*Professor, Public and International Affairs and former Dean, University of Baltimore College; ASPA President-Elect*

Roger Hartley is professor of public and international affairs and former dean of the University of Baltimore College of Public Affairs, where he served in that role for more than 10 years. He holds several professional leadership positions and fellowships including as ASPA's president-elect, and at the National Academy of Public Administration, the Volcker Alliance and the William Donald Schaefer Center for Public Policy at the University of Baltimore. His professional work is dedicated to improving the pipeline of talent into public service through inspiring student interest and addressing challenges in public service employment. His current project focuses on the role of coop education and degreed apprenticeships to connect college students to public service roles.



### **Shannon Portillo**

*Director and Lattie and Elva Coor Presidential Chair, Arizona State University*

Shannon Portillo is director and Lattie and Elva Coor presidential chair in the School of Public Affairs at Arizona State University, where she leads a dynamic faculty and staff overseeing seven academic programs and six research centers, serving more than 1,500 majors and thousands of students across the university. Her scholarship explores how formal policies and rules and informal social norms shape the work of public organizations. She specifically is interested in how racism and sexism impact organizations and workers' experiences. Her work helps scholars and practitioners



understand how inequities have been institutionalized in public organizations. Her research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, Women's Foundation, Army Research Institute and other entities. She has been recognized for her scholarship and service as an elected fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration and winner of the Hobby Prize for Ethics, Leadership and Public Policy and the Steeples Service to Kansas Award. She served as co-chair of Governor Laura Kelly's Commission on Racial Equity and Justice and was elected Chair of the Douglas County Board of County Commissioners.



### **Stacy Rodgers**

*Retired, Baltimore County*

Stacy Rodgers has more than 35 years of experience working at every level of government and nonprofit organizations. In March 2019, she became the first African-American and second woman appointed as the Baltimore

County chief administrative officer. She was responsible for directing the county's day-to-day operations and providing oversight for its \$4.5 billion operating budget and oversaw its 10,000-member workforce. Previously, she was director of the Baltimore City Department of Social Services; deputy director of program operations for the District of Columbia's child and family services agency; and deputy secretary for programs for the Maryland State department of human resources overseeing the state's 24 local departments of social services. She also served as chief of staff for the U.S. Social Security Administration during the Obama Administration. Rodgers is a graduate of the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government Executive Leadership Institute, the National Forum for Black Public Administrators' mentor program and Executive Leadership Institute. She holds a BA from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and an MPA from the University of Baltimore. In 2022, she was selected as one of Maryland's Top 100 Women



business leaders and inducted as a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration.

**1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

### **Strengthening Regional Collaboration and Governance: Lessons from the Academy for Local Elected Officials (ALEO) at San Diego State University**

The Academy for Local Elected Officials, established at San Diego State University in 2024, was created to enhance collaboration, leadership and effective regional governance among local elected officials. This panel will describe the vision, curriculum and lessons learned from our conference and workshop programs. These included issues facing local government leaders such as transitioning from campaigning to governing, building collegial working relationships, emergency management coordination and communicating with the media. Panelists will share their experiences and insights on current local government issues, building critical regional networks before and during emergencies and developing effective communication and media strategies.

#### ***Moderator***



#### **Dominika Bukalova**

*Assistant Professor, San Diego State University;  
Director, Academy for Local Elected Officials*

Dominika Bukalova is assistant professor in the School of Public Affairs at San Diego State University. Her research interests include local governance, public sector leadership and leader development. Prior to joining the faculty, she worked at the City of San Diego where she served as chief of staff and director of policy in the offices of two council presidents and other policy and advisory roles. A certified leadership coach, she has worked with private and public sector clients to provide strategic planning and leadership development services, which informs her approach



to research, teaching and student mentoring. Bukalova earned her PhD in leadership studies at the University of San Diego. She is a graduate of San Diego State University (MA in political science) and received her bachelor's degree from The George Washington University.

### Speakers



#### **Ratna Dougherty**

*Assistant Professor, University of South Florida*

Ratna Dougherty is assistant professor in the School of Public Affairs at the University of South Florida. Her primary research expertise is on local government management issues, emergency management response and interorganizational networks. Her work has been published in *Natural Hazards*, *Public Administration Quarterly*, *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction* and others, as well as in edited volumes of books. She has studied topics ranging from planned vs. implemented disaster response networks, public alerts and warnings, hurricane preparedness perceptions, gender and leadership in public service and smart and connected communities. She is a member of several academic and practitioner associations including the Florida City and County Management Association, the International City/County Management Association, ASPA and the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management. She is a member of several committees for these professional organizations and won the Raymond C. Sittig Academic Scholarship in 2021. She was a 2023-2024 ASPA Founders' Fellow and recipient of the 2024-2025 APPAM Equity and Inclusion Young Professional Fellowship. Dougherty obtained her PhD in public affairs from the University of Central Florida.



### **Alysson Snow**

*Mayor, City of Lemon Grove; Professor in Practice, University of San Diego School of Law*

Alysson Snow is mayor of Lemon Grove (San Diego County) and law professor at the University of San Diego School of Law. She teaches housing rights and leads the USD housing rights legal clinic and its eviction negotiation program. She led and directed the Consumer Protection Division at the Legal Aid Society of San Diego, Inc. and served on the firm's leadership committee. Prior to Legal Aid, she worked at DLA Piper where she specialized in pharmaceutical and securities defense litigation. In 2019, the Consumer Attorneys of San Diego awarded her Consumer Advocate of the Year for the work to save the homes of people from a predatory lending scheme that targeted socially disadvantaged communities and senior citizens. In 2020, the World Justice Project recognized her success to help secure access to justice for low-income families during the pandemic through her housing retention project.



### **Claire Strong**

*Founder, StrongHER Media*

Claire Strong is a former *BBC* broadcast journalist and the founder of StrongHER Media, a San Diego-based communication coaching company. Drawing on her experience interviewing leaders and reporting in high-stakes environments, she now coaches elected officials, executives and professional teams to communicate with clarity, confidence and authenticity. She works with public leaders and client-facing professionals to strengthen messaging, navigate challenging conversations and build trust. She also coaches TEDx speakers and delivers workshops focused on confident communication under pressure.



**3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

### **Engagement and Dialogue During Democratic Backsliding**

As democratic institutions confront growing pressures worldwide, public administrators are challenged to sustain civic trust and build resilience in polarized environments. This panel, part of the Transatlantic Dialogue series, will examine the role of community engagement and dialogue in countering democratic backsliding. Drawing on U.S. and European perspectives, panelists will share strategies for strengthening democratic culture through deliberation, civic infrastructure and inclusive governance.

#### **Moderator**



#### **Joseph Trainor**

*Interim Dean and Professor, University of Delaware*

Joseph Trainor serves as interim dean and professor of policy and administration in the Joseph R. Biden, Jr. School of Public Policy and Administration at the University of Delaware. He also is a core faculty member of the Disaster Research Center, where he has built an international reputation in disaster science and emergency management. His interdisciplinary research focuses on the human behavioral dimensions of disasters and crises and includes basic science and applied research. His public service work has included partnerships with numerous agencies related to risk and emergency management, including the National Weather Service, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Homeland Security, the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Delaware Emergency Management Agency. Trainor holds a bachelor's degree from Millersville University, a master's degree in sociology from the University of Delaware and a doctor of philosophy in sociology from the University of Delaware.



## Speakers



### **Maria P. Aristigueta**

*Professor Emeritus Joseph R. Biden, Jr. School of Public Policy and Administration*

Maria Aristigueta's research centers on organizational behavior and performance in the public sector. She has taught courses on performance management, program evaluation, organizational behavior and public management. She served as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Salerno, Italy. She is a past president of the American Society for Public Administration and a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration.



### **Eva Bordos**

*Executive Director, DemNet Hungary*

Eva Bordos is an expert in citizen engagement with nearly 20 years of experience working in international environments across public administration, diplomacy and civil society. She has a strong track record in designing, coordinating and supporting deliberative mini-publics across Europe, advancing participatory democracy in diverse contexts. Among other roles, she has provided process design and technical assistance to the Council of Europe, as well as the OSCE Presence in Albania, and has trained public officials and NGO representatives in Turkey, Ukraine, Czechia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. She is a 2025 Eisenhower Global Fellow and executive director of DemNet Hungary, an independent nongovernmental organization. Bordos holds MA degrees in law from Eötvös Loránd University and in political science from Central European University, and is pursuing a PhD in political science at the University of Potsdam.



### **Ian C. Elliott**

*Senior Lecturer in Public Administration,  
University of Glasgow*

Ian Elliott is senior lecturer in public administration at the Centre for Public Policy and co-editor-in-chief of *Public Administration and Development*. His research includes the strategic state and mission-led government, as well as teaching public administration. He has extensive consultancy and research experience and is a subject expert for public services and health care in the Chartered Association of Business Schools Scientific Committee for the Journal Quality Guide. He is the former chair of the UK Association for Public Administration (then known as the JUC). He serves on editorial boards for *Teaching Public Administration*, *Public Policy and Administration*, the *Journal of Public Affairs Education*, and *Public Administration: An International Quarterly*.



### **Matt Leighninger**

*Vice President, National Civic League*

Matt Leighninger serves as the League's vice president and directs the Center for Democracy Innovation where he leads the center's work in strengthening democratic infrastructure, organizing national engagement efforts and measuring the quality of engagement and democracy. He has been one of the central figures in democracy innovation for the past 20 years. As a network-builder, convener, author, commentator, researcher and practitioner, he has helped catalyze and connect the key developments in the recent evolution of democracy.



### **Valerie Lemmie**

*Senior Director of Exploratory Research, Charles F. Kettering Foundation*

Valerie Lemmie is director of exploratory research at the Kettering Foundation. Prior to this position, she served as city manager for Petersburg, Virginia, Dayton and Cincinnati, Ohio. She was commissioner, Public Utility Commission of Ohio; district director and acting chief of staff for Congressman Turner (Ohio's 10th District). She also served as adjunct professor at Howard University and the University of Dayton, and as a fellow at the Center for Municipal Management at The George Washington University. She is an elected fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. Lemmie holds a BA from the University of Missouri and an MA in urban affairs/public policy planning from Washington University.



### **Alisa Moldavanova**

*Associate Professor, University of Delaware*

Alisa Moldavanova's research investigates organizational sustainability in the context of public service organizations, the role of interorganizational networks and other forms of social connectedness in enabling sustainable organizations, as well as how nonprofits and other public service organizations foster sustainable development in their local communities. She also is conducting research on the role of civil society and nonprofit sector organizations in advancing democracy. She is the author of two books, including the *Overlooked Pillar: Making a Case for Cultural Sustainability* and the 2018 co-edited volume, *The Nonprofit Sector in Eastern Europe, Russia, and Central Asia: Civil Society Advances and Challenges*. Her work has been published in the *Journal of Urban Affairs*, *The American Review of Public Administration*, *Public Management Review*, *Administration and Society*, *Public Administration and Development*,



*Journal of Public Affairs Education, International Journal of Public Administration, and International Journal of Sustainability Policy and Practice.* She chaired ASPA's Section on Public Administration Research from 2023-2025.



### **Tim Shaffer**

*Associate Professor, University of Delaware*

Timothy Shaffer is the inaugural Stavros Niarchos Foundation chair of civil discourse and director of the SNF Ithaca Initiative. He also is director of civic engagement and deliberative democracy with the National Institute for Civil Discourse. He serves as associate editor of the *Journal of Deliberative Democracy* as a country expert on deliberative democracy with the Varieties of Democracy research project, and as co-director of the Deliberative Pedagogy Lab. He publishes in diverse academic journals and outlets such as *National Civic Review*, *The Good Society*, the *Journal of Deliberative Democracy* and *The Conversation*. He also has co-edited and authored seven book projects including *Deliberative Pedagogy: Teaching and Learning for Democratic Engagement*, *Creating Space for Democracy: A Primer on Dialogue and Deliberation in Higher Education* and *Teaching Democratic Ideals to Public Affairs Students: Findings and Reflections from Diverse Course Designs*.



**Friday, March 20**

*Solano*

Sponsored by



**PennState**  
Harrisburg  
School of Public Affairs

**7:30-7:40 am**

## **Welcoming Remarks**

**Michele Tantardini**

*Associate Professor of Public Administration, Penn State Harrisburg*

**7:45 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.**

## **In This Economy? Getting Started in PA During Uncertain Times**

As government hiring at the federal level grinds to a halt, many students and new professionals find themselves in search of the elusive “pivot.” Whether that means turning to state and local government, nonprofit work, going back to school or even the private sector, there are still opportunities to break into public administration. This panel will show students alternative paths into the sector that can help develop the skills they need as public servants.

### ***Presenters***

**Roger Hartley**

*Professor, Public and International Affairs and former Dean, University of Baltimore College; ASPA President-Elect*

**Valerie Lemmie**

*Senior Advisor for State and Local Government, Charles F. Kettering Foundation*

**Bill Shields**

*Executive Director and CEO, ASPA*



**8:35 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.**

## **Beyond Work Experience and Education: Expanding Your Professional and Academic Resume**

Whether you have landed a job or are still in school, there are dozens of ways to build your resumé without changing jobs or graduating. Fellowships, associations, publications and certifications provide opportunities to strengthen your resumé between transitions. This panel will discuss the different options available to public administration practitioners, students and aspiring academics to grow their skills, network and qualifications.

### ***Presenters***

#### **Marlon Brown**

*Director, Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs*

#### **Rex Facer**

*Head, Local Government Unit, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia*

#### **Debbie Trueblood**

*CEO, NIGP: The Institute for Public Procurement*

**9:55 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.**

## **The Hiring Process: What to Expect**

The hiring process for public administration jobs varies widely between level and sector. From federal to municipal, urban planning to academia, there are different requirements and expectations when it comes to timelines, interviews and even testing. This panel will provide concurrent vignettes: one into the hiring process across a range of public service professions at different levels of government, and another tailored to those pursuing careers in the academic world.

### ***Presenters***

#### **Johan Julin**

*Chief Hiring Strategist, Department of Human Resources, County of Los Angeles*

#### **Hillary Knepper**

*Professor, Pace University*



**10:45 a.m. -11:45 a.m.**

## **Career Speed Dating**

Public administration encapsulates hundreds of different careers, including public health officers, election administrators, educators and environmental program managers. For those new to the field or looking to switch career tracks, it can be difficult to get the insider information necessary to make the right choice for you. This interactive session will allow participants to engage with practitioners and academics from a variety of fields simultaneously while building their professional networks and knowledge bases.

### **Presenters**

#### **Thomas Becker**

*Instructor, Des Moines Area Community College*

#### **Marlon Brown**

*Director, Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs*

#### **Michele Tantardini**

*Associate Professor of Public Administration, Penn State Harrisburg*

#### **Alex Trembley**

*Data Analytics Manager, Hennepin County, Minnesota*

**11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

## **Lunch Break on Your Own**

**12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.**

## **International Exchanges and Fellowships**

Intercultural awareness and international experience are priceless skills in the workplace, especially in government or public service, and one of the best ways to do both is through international exchanges and fellowships. Students (and even new professionals) have many opportunities to study and work abroad that will provide new skills and perspectives that can broaden your career prospects. This panel will introduce you to some of the options to study or work abroad as public service professionals.



## **Presenters**

### **Patria de Lancer Julnes**

*Rosenthal Endowed Professor, University of New Mexico*

### **Ian Elliott**

*Senior Lecturer in Public Administration, University of Glasgow*

### **Alfred Wu**

*Associate Professor, National University of Singapore*

**1:20 p.m. – 2:05 p.m.**

## **Networking: Now What?**

There are lots of tips for how to make professional connections: attending happy hours, sending LinkedIn connection requests and introducing yourself to colleagues at the office. But what happens after business cards are exchanged? This panel examines how to use your connections for career advancement by expanding upon the networking process. Our presenters will share tips for moving beyond the introduction into productive, mutually beneficial working relationships that will take your career to the next level.

## **Presenters**

### **Phillip Carlisle**

*Director of Strategic Development, Washington English Center*

### **Paul Danczyk**

*Chief Operating Officer, CSAC Foundation*

### **Kitty Wooley**

*Founder, Senior Fellows and Friends*

**2:10 p.m. – 2:55 p.m.**

## **Using Data in Your Day-to-Day**

Analytical data plays an increasingly important role in strengthening the work of both students and practitioners in public administration. By learning how to interpret and apply data effectively, individuals can make more informed decisions, measure program outcomes or teaching techniques and improve public service delivery. This panel will examine how professionals can use data to improve their job performance and optimize institutional processes.



## **Presenters**

### **Christopher Tyler Burks**

*Assistant Professor, University of Arkansas at Little Rock*

### **Sukumar Ganapati**

*Professor and Chair, Department of Public Administration, Florida International University*

### **Alex Trembley**

*Data Analytics Manager, Hennepin County, Minnesota*

**3:00 p.m. – 3:40 p.m.**

## **Staying Up-to-Date in PA**

Public administration is a constantly evolving field with new developments occurring every day. It can be hard to keep track of the latest research; luckily, ASPA can help! This panel explores all the resources ASPA and its peer organizations provide to both the public and their members to help them keep up-to-date with the latest news and innovations. Now more than ever, it is vital for public servants to learn from each other and these tools are the best way to do it!

## **Presenters**

### **Ana Maria Dimand**

*Assistant Professor, Florida State University*

### **Chao Guo**

*Professor, University of Pennsylvania*

### **Sara Rinfret**

*Professor, Northern Arizona University*

### **Tara Sheehan**

*Executive Director, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management*

**3:40 – 3:45 p.m.**

## **Closing Remarks**

## **Presenter**

### **Younhee Kim**

*Associate Professor of Public Administration, Penn State Harrisburg*

A photograph of a Black male graduate student in blue regalia, including a cap and gown with gold trim and a gold seal on the chest. He is smiling and looking upwards and to the right. The background is a white building with many windows under a clear blue sky.

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**School of Public Affairs  
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## **WELCOME NEW FACULTY**



**Anneliese Luck**

**Assistant Professor**

*(Starting Fall 2026)*



**Raul Gutiérrez Meave**

**Assistant Professor**

*(Starting Fall 2026)*

## **CONGRATULATIONS**



**Canyu Gao**

*PhD Student*

**ASPA Founders' Fellow**

**Class of 2026**



**Tomás Soto-Jara**

*PhD Student*

**ASPA Founders' Fellow**

**Class of 2026**