



The Global Standard in Public Service Education

# Year in Review 2013-14 and a Look Ahead to 2014-15

NASPAA is committed to offering an increasing variety of services to our member schools, and to connecting our MPA/MPP graduates to employers with interesting and challenging jobs. We have had an active and productive year. Here are some of the highlights:

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

- Autonomous University of Nuevo Leon [Mexico]
- Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po) [France]
- International Institute of Public Administration and Management [Russia]
- National Institute of Development Administration [Thailand]
- Presidio Graduate School
- Shanghai University of Finance and Economics [China]
- Stanford University
- University of Colorado-Colorado Springs
- Victoria University of Wellington [New Zealand]
- University of Houston Hobby Center (Associate member)

## Congratulations newly-accredited schools!

- **Columbia University:** MPA and Master of International Affairs
- **Jacksonville State University:** MPA
- **James Madison University:** MPA
- **Portland State University:** Executive MPA
- **Texas A&M International University:** MPA
- **Tsinghua University:** MPA \*
- **University of New Orleans:** MPA

\* First NASPAA-accredited program outside the US

## Data Center

This year NASPAA's Data Center launched a new online school search tool along with new school profiles! The search is database-driven, powered by schools' responses to the Annual Program Survey. The new tool enables users to search by school name, or to filter by program length, enrollment size, availability of evening/weekend and online courses, specializations, and other fields!

The new search also includes unique PDF profiles of programs, based on the program's Survey responses. NASPAA, in cooperation with APPAM, now has the most comprehensive and authoritative source of information for prospective students, the public, and for programs themselves.

Our 2011-2012 Annual Program Survey – which is currently feeding the search – had an 80% participation rate! We look forward to hitting that same participation rate for the 2012-13 survey.

## Accreditation

### CHEA Recognition Achieved!

NASPAA's Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation (COPRA) was successfully re-recognized by the Council of Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) in April 2014, in a process very similar to accreditation. CHEA also approved a requested change in scope to permit international accreditation. COPRA achieved a positive result at the first decision meeting. The recognition period lasts for 10 years.

### COPRA accredits first program outside the U.S.

In summer 2013, COPRA accredited a program outside the U.S. for the first time, paving a new strategic direction for NASPAA. The MPA program at Tsinghua University in China went through the same rigorous process as U.S. applicants. This spring COPRA conducted a second site visit outside the U.S., and is working with five international applicants in the Eligibility process.

### Value vs. Burden of Accreditation Addressed

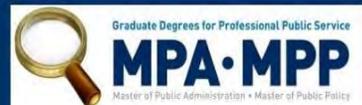
At the 2013 NASPAA Annual Conference, COPRA announced a slower implementation pace for new competency-based accreditation standards. The Executive Council also appointed a special task force to



Burden-Pace-Tone Taskforce

## New Search is Live!

SCHOOL SEARCH



In addition to the Survey, NASPAA's Data Center is working on these exciting projects:

- A "universal" alumni survey that will ease the burden of programs in collecting graduates' employment information, and allow us to have comparable data across the field. NASPAA piloted the Alumni Survey this spring and will be launching the survey in 2015.
- An improved user interface for the Annual Program Survey and Accreditation Maintenance Report. NASPAA will be creating a central entry form for its annual data collection efforts—one form, one due date. This will help alleviate the confusion between the reports and make it easier for programs to complete them.



make specific recommendations for maintaining an appropriate balance between the value and burden. COPRA is collaborating with NASPAA's Data and Standards Committee on streamlining data requirements across accreditation, including exploring merging data forms, reducing data points in the Self-Study Report, and facilitating reporting for schools with multiple degree programs.

### Public Data about Accredited Programs Released

In October 2013, COPRA released its second *Annual Accreditation Data Report*, which gives an overview of the accreditation universe, describing the attributes of the 180 accredited programs. It highlights the characteristics of students, graduates, and faculty, and details aggregate program conformance to the 2009 Standards. This report is an integral part of NASPAA's emphasis on accountability and public transparency.

### NASPAA Diversity Report Published

The *NASPAA Diversity Report 2013* is an in-depth look at the growth in diversity in NASPAA-accredited programs over the last decade, detailing trends in the faculty and student populations. The report also presents multiple best practice case studies from a range of U.S. and international universities.

# Communications and Membership support

Last year NASPAA redesigned our newsletter and began using software that allows us to feature more member news and enables more frequent, monthly publication. NASPAA tweets from @naspaa daily, to send news alerts and reminders, share member news, and to highlight MPA/MPP student and faculty accomplishments.

- In the past year NASPAA has responded to recent attacks on public affairs education and on public service generally. In January, NASPAA president Ethel Williams promoted public affairs education in an interview on Federal News Radio. This spring NASPAA

launched a “Public Service Matters” spotlight contest to recognize contributions graduates and faculty have made to solve public sector problems, showing the world the difference our schools make.

- NASPAA organizes annual meetings for professional staff at member schools, which have been growing in size and scope every



year. The 2013 Career Professionals Conference, hosted by the University of Washington, was the largest to date, with nearly 60 attendees, including program directors from schools without dedicated career services staff. George Mason University hosted the 2013 Admissions Directors Meeting, which brought together 44 attendees.

- NASPAA supported and publicized conferences of interest to our members, such as the Social Equity Leadership Conference, and the second conference for student public affairs journals, organized by MPP students at the University of Virginia.

## Pi Alpha Alpha



Last year marked a milestone for Pi Alpha Alpha, the global honor society for public affairs and administration. The first chapter outside the US was established, and NASPAA launched a PAA website, at PiAlphaAlpha.org, where chapters can share news and submit their annual report online.

The first international chapter is at Zayed University in the United Arab Emirates. PAA welcomed 6 other new chapters last year: Barry University, Bowling Green State University, California State University San Bernardino, Governors State University, University of Central Oklahoma, and West Chester University. Join us in welcoming them!

### MPA/MPP Interns

Each year NASPAA is fortunate to be able to hire outstanding MPA and MPP students from member schools as graduate interns. In the past year, NASPAA benefited from great work from interns from American, Georgetown, Harvard, and Pepperdine Universities, and from the University of Maryland.

## NASPAA is the Global Standard

In the past year NASPAA greatly strengthened its position as the global standard in public service education:

NASPAA was officially recognized as an international accreditor, and awarded the first accreditation to an MPA program outside the US. A number of other schools are now in the accreditation pipeline. Additionally, the first Pi Alpha Alpha chapter outside the US was established.

NASPAA signed an MOU with CAPP, the Canadian Association of Programs in Public Administration, to share best practices in accreditation and to engage in joint research

projects, which will begin this summer with an international comparison of countries' “high flyer” talent recruitment programs.

President Ethel Williams, of the University of Nebraska Omaha, represented NASPAA at international meetings, and NASPAA hosted delegations from China, South Korea, Russia, and the Republic of Georgia.



Chinese delegation visits NASPAA



### Redesigned PublicServiceCareers!

NASPAA redesigned the PublicServiceCareers.org career website this spring. New features include profiles of alumni; custom-filtered feeds of federal positions for recent graduates; Twitter feeds from NASPAA and the other sponsoring organizations, ASPA and APPAM; and updated content throughout!

# Annual Conference

The NASPAA Annual Conference continued to grow in 2013! We had over 500 attendees and more than 70 breakout sessions.

Building on last year's overwhelming success, NASPAA is creating another strong conference agenda and securing dynamic speakers for the 2014 conference in Albuquerque. We received a record-setting number of panel proposals: more than 400 of your colleagues expressed interest in presenting during a breakout session!

During the conference we will have sessions that continue the rich conversations started last year, including ones focused on multicultural collaboration, writing skills, and the value of accreditation. Additionally, sessions will cover all topics related to public service education with a focus on increasing diversity and inclusivi-

ty, affirming the global role of public service education, and highlighting excellence.

There are many changes to the conference structure this year:

- Later dates: November 4-6
- New days of the week: Tuesday through Thursday
- Accreditation Institute has a new one-day format on Tuesday November 4 (Election Day; remember to vote early or absentee!)
- Conference dates overlap with the APPAM Fall Research Conference

We encourage you to stay in Albuquerque through Friday November 7 to join local excursions to learn about the rich New Mexico history and culture.



For more details, view the conference website [www.naspaa.org/AnnualConference](http://www.naspaa.org/AnnualConference), and mark your calendar to join us in Albuquerque **November 4-6, 2014!**

# Human Capital Agenda

Last year NASPAA expanded its initiative to strengthen relationships between schools and US federal agencies, and began important projects to develop opportunities for faculty and student research and Capstone projects.

- NASPAA began an initiative to press federal agencies to use data analysis and research to improve federal hiring of students and recent graduates.

We organized a "Data Summit on Entry-level Federal Hiring" in February, convening 30 agency leaders, researchers, and faculty to examine how agencies and academics can work together to improve strategic human capital planning. NASPAA will continue this work through active involvement in a new federal "data users group".

- NASPAA launched the "Fed Café" online community to support collaboration between schools and federal agencies. It's a "dating site" for research, data, and Capstone projects! In the next year, we plan to expand the Cafe to make it easier for faculty and students to use and to support a wider range of Human Capital Agenda activi-

ties, including offering the site as the home of the data users group.

- This summer, working with Canada's CAPP, we are starting an international research project to compare nations' "high flyer" talent recruitment programs. The research will result in a set of best practices and recommendations for the improvement of the Presidential Management Fellows and other programs.

This work was possible due to the support and advice of the Policy Issues Committee, chaired by Don Kettl of the University of Maryland.



NASPAA's Data Summit

## NEW SCHOOL SEARCH!



NASPAA's new online school search tool, with school profiles, is live! Database-driven and powered by schools' responses to the Annual Program Survey, it's the most comprehensive and authoritative source of information for prospective students.

# A Look Ahead to 2014-15



- The *Journal of Public Affairs Education* will celebrate its 20th year this fall, and a new host school will assume the editorship in January.  

- Later this year NASPAA will begin piloting resource-sharing for small programs at North Carolina schools, reducing the administrative and cost barriers facing students taking online courses from other programs.
- The Accreditation Institute during the Annual Conference is being redesigned for 2014. It will be a comprehensive, single-day curriculum on Tuesday, November 4.
- COPRA and NASPAA's Data and Standards Committee will be working to streamline data reporting requirements for accredited programs.
- The 2014 Career Conference will be hosted by the George Mason University School of Public Policy in Arlington, VA, December 11-12.
- The NASPAA Student Competition, a one-day simulation held simultaneously at 5-8 regional competition sites, will launch in early 2015.
- Also launching in early 2015 is a universal alumni survey, which will ease schools' burden in collecting graduates' employment information.
- The 2015 Doctoral Workshop will be held February 27-28 at the University of La Verne in California.
- And mark your calendars for NASPAA's 2015 Annual Conference, October 14-17, at the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge, in New York City!



*The Global Standard in Public Service Education*



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1029 Vermont Avenue NW, Suite 1100

202-628-8965

[naspaa@naspaa.org](mailto:naspaa@naspaa.org)

[www.naspaa.org](http://www.naspaa.org)

## Contact NASPAA

If you have questions or need help with any NASPAA initiative, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our number is 202-628-8965, and individual staff can be reached at the following addresses:

- **Major issues and initiatives:** Executive Director Laurel McFarland - [Mcfarland@naspaa.org](mailto:Mcfarland@naspaa.org)
- **Membership or finance:** Peter Green - [Green@naspaa.org](mailto:Green@naspaa.org)
- **Accreditation:** Heather Gregory - [Gregory@naspaa.org](mailto:Gregory@naspaa.org)
- **Data center and annual program survey:** Stacy Drudy - [Drudy@naspaa.org](mailto:Drudy@naspaa.org)
- **Communications and newsletter:** [communications@naspaa.org](mailto:communications@naspaa.org)
- **Meetings or Pi Alpha Alpha:** Emily Reineke - [Reineke@naspaa.org](mailto:Reineke@naspaa.org)