



The Global Standard in Public Service Education

Statement on the U.S. Federal Government Shutdown

(updated October 17)

Washington, DC (October 17, 2013) – *The Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) has issued the following Statement:*

Now that the U.S. federal government shutdown has ended and federal employees have returned to work, it is essential that the nation's leaders start to address the lasting impact that the shutdown may have on the future of public service and on confidence in public governance.

The reputation of public service is at stake for the next generation of public servants. For more than 10,000 students who receive master's degrees in public policy, affairs, and administration each year, public service is the highest calling. The U.S. is at risk of losing current as well as future public leaders.

President Obama spoke to this concern in remarks on October 17:

"I've got a simple message for all the dedicated and patriotic federal workers...Thank you. What you do is important....Especially the young people, who come to this city to serve and believe that it matters....You're right. It does."

Similarly, Jim Nussle, Office of Management and Budget Director in the George W. Bush administration, said on October 16:

"We may have lost a generation of public servants, who have watched this process over the past [few] years, and have just said, 'Forget it. Why would I choose public service as a vocation when it should be an admirable calling?'"

Therefore, NASPAA calls upon U.S. government leaders to demonstrate a commitment to public service. They must work to ensure that the nation encourages – not discourages – today's and tomorrow's students to pursue public service. The United States' continued position as a global model of democratic governance is in jeopardy. The country's future rests on its ability to attract and hire the best and brightest graduates.

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NASPAA, the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration, is the global standard in public service education. It is the membership association of 285 schools of public policy, public affairs, public administration, and public & nonprofit management, located across the U.S. and in 13 countries around the globe. NASPAA is also the recognized accreditor of master's degree programs in these fields. NASPAA's twofold mission is to promote excellence in education and training for public service and to promote the ideal of public service.

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