



NEWS RELEASE
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NASPAA's First Student Simulation Competition Gives Students the Opportunity to Add Value to Public Service

Washington, D.C. - NASPAA will be hosting its first-ever national student simulation competition at six regional sites across the U.S. on Saturday, February 28, 2015.

Competing students will be presented with a simulation related to a current health care policy problem facing local, state and federal legislators. They will be tasked with applying the crosscutting skills they have learned in the classroom and will consider a variety of intervention tactics, stakeholder needs and financial models when devising a real-world solution. During the competition, students will implement systems thinking and gain skills that will foster their professional marketability.

The six regional host sites include:

- Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) School of Public and Environmental Affairs
- The University of Georgia School of Public and International Affairs
- The University of Texas at Dallas School of Economics, Political and Policy Sciences
- University at Albany, State University of New York, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy
- University of Maryland School of Public Policy
- University of Southern California Sol Price School of Public Policy

"The progression of public service education and the advances in technology will further enable public servants to be competitive with their business school counterparts while augmenting their classroom experiences," said NASPAA Executive Director Laurel McFarland. "The competition will spur dialog about how the system can be improved, and provide a unique learning environment for these students, our future public policy leaders."

Each regional site will have a winning team, decided by three judges, and on Monday, March 2, 2015, an overall national winner will be announced. Students on each winning team will receive prizes such as the opportunity to shadow a federal official for a day or meet with state legislatures. The students will have the opportunity to customize their prizes based on their locations and interests.

(More)

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There will also be a national winner that will also be selected by the following judges:

David Andersen, professor in the department of Public Administration and Policy at the University at Albany, State University of New York, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy
Sherry Glied, dean of Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at the New York University
Bobby Milstein, director of Rethink Health

In sharing his thoughts on the student competition, Bobby Milstein, director of ReThink Health, noted “we are poised to create a new generation of policy leaders who understand better how the health system works and who will not be content with quick fixes,” said Milstein. “They will resist partial reforms that are doomed to rebound and instead invest in sound strategies that will steer our health system in new, more sustainable directions.”

Because of this inherent nature of public problems, many public policy, administration and management schools have incorporated simulation work into their curriculum to ensure that their students are able to better understand, analyze and resolve complex issues. NASPAA is hosting the national daylong immersive competition in order to supplement innovative teaching methods in the classroom, and to showcase excellent public service education students.

There will be 181 students from 93 schools participating in the competition. In addition, 21 national judges have been trained on healthcare policy in preparation for the competition.

NASPAA, the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration, is the global standard in public service education with a twofold mission to ensure excellence in education and training for public service and to promote the ideal of public service. It is the membership organization of graduate education programs in public policy, public affairs, public administration, and public and nonprofit management. NASPAA is also the recognized accreditor of master's degree programs in these fields. Its nearly 300 members are located across the U.S. and in 14 countries around the globe.

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