



# THE PANEXUS - 2014

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Reflecting on 2013 and looking toward the future, it's hard not to think about the federal government shutdown in October 2013 and its potential negative consequences. The Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) issued a statement to express concern about the shutdown's impact on public confidence in government and on the future of public service.

A recent survey by the Pew Research Center found that 85 percent of Americans are angry or frustrated with the federal government. Only 19 percent say they trust the federal government to do what is right always or most of the time, which is down from 73 percent in 1958.

Regarding the shutdown's effect on public service, a *Washington Post* article in late October reported young workers are leaving federal government at a critical time. "The federal government is amid a retirement wave, with nearly twice as many executive branch employees leaving in the past fiscal year than did in 2009," it said.

Overall, these findings are discouraging for those of us working in and/or teaching public administration, but we can find some hope and opportunity if we dig a little deeper. Opinion polls indicate citizens make a distinction between political institutions/actors and public agencies/administrators. The Pew Research Center survey found that only 23 percent of Americans have a favorable opinion of Congress, but 62 percent have a favorable opinion of federal government employees.

Also, a majority of respondents have positive opinions regarding 12 of 13 federal agencies on the survey. In fact, 44,005,54 e fd e70cens. cs

- From the MPA Director
- Faculty Updates
- Costa Rica Study Abroad
- Alumni Association
- PASS Update
- New Graduate Assistant
- Alumni News
  - Dustin Lester & Wade Williams
  - Tori Ames
  - David Moore & Ryan Adcock
- New Jobs & Promotions
- Awards

**Dr. Shamima Ahmed**

Presented a paper on "MPA Capstone Course: Multifaceted Use and Potentialities" at the NASPAA Annual Conference.

Chaired the NASPAA site visit team for the University of North Carolina in Wilmington.

Invited by the US Embassy in Baku, Azerbaijan to offer a live one-hour virtual presentation and discussion on the role of NGOs in international politics and the challenges. This lecture is part of a series by the Virtual Student Foreign Service program, broadcasted to 50 American studies and international relations students at US embassies in

**Dr. Thomas Lambert**

Presented a paper on productivity measurements at the Annual Conference of the Association for Heterodox Economics in July 2013.

Presented a paper on casino tax revenues and a paper on state level road building efficiency at the Annual Conference on Competitiveness and Development in Lima, Peru.

Coauthored a paper with Dr. Kwon, "The Top 1 Percent and Exploitation Measures," which was accepted for publication by the *Review of Radical Economists* in August.

Worked with Graduate Assistant James Catchen to collect data for an upcoming paper about how urban sprawl impacts FEMA disaster relief spending.



---

**James Catchen** is the new graduate assistant for the MPA program. He graduated with his bachelor's degree in

**Heather Abbott**, Coordinator of Academic Support Services & Professional Development, Gateway Community & Technical College  
**Ryan Adcock**, Executive Director, Cradle Cincinnati  
**Frank Bednar**, Environmental Health & Safety Coordinator, Rotek Inc.  
**Craig Bohman**, City Clerk, Villa Hills (KY)  
**Renee Brossart**, Senior Grants and Contracts Administrator, NKU  
**Abbie Cain**, Development Coordinator, NKU  
**Jessica Tucker Chaney**, City Clerk, Elsmere (KY)  
**Tim Delaney**, Administrative Director, Volunteers of America, Northern Kentucky  
**Isaac Ferguson**, Facilities and Quality Control Manager, Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired  
**Elizabeth Fricke**, Business Development Officer, City of Covington (KY)  
**Brooke Gill**, Impact Director of Family Partnerships, Children Inc.  
**Whitney Hacker**, Grant Specialist, Trust and Foundation Administration, Disabled American Veterans  
**Jason Hecker**, Director of Workforce Development, Family and Child Empowerment Services, San Francisco (CA)  
**Bret Henninger**, Natural Resources Manager, Hamilton County Parks (OH)  
**Stephen Kelly**, Fire Chief, Miami Township (OH)  
**Alexander Kraemer**, Personal Aide, U.S. Senator Rob Portman (OH)  
**Rachel Leininger**, Management Assistant, City of Wyoming (OH)  
**Emily Lewis**, Operations Coordinator, Mathile Family Foundation, Dayton (OH)  
**Stephanie Marston**, Senior Project Manager, Every Child Succeeds (Greater Cincinnati)  
**David Moore**, Founder and Executive Director, Africa Fire Mission  
**Greg Preece**, Human Resources Officer, City of Blue Ash (OH)  
**Monica Remmy**, Manager of Volunteers, Families First of Northern Kentucky  
**John P. Scott**, Senior Specialist in Community Relations, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center  
**Keisha Steward**, Center Operations Director, Concentra, Louisville (KY)  
**Kristen Sunday**, Coordinator of Strategic Initiatives, Vision 2015 (Northern Kentucky)  
**T.J. White**, Executive Director, Center for Local Government (Greater Cincinnati)  
**Wade Williams**, Northern Kentucky Tri-Ed, Next Generation Leadership for Business and Finance, Legacy  
**Billie Jo Wood**, Hall Director, Christopher Newport University, Newport News (VA)

#### Distinguished MPA Graduate

John P. Scott

#### Outstanding MPA Student

**Tori Ames** (Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center), Forty Under 40 Award, Cincinnati Business Courier

**Brandon Edwards** (FBI), Distinguished Alumnus Award, NKU's Department of Political Science, Criminal Justice and Organizational Leadership

**Dustin Lester and Wade Williams** (Northern Kentucky Tri-County Economic Development Corporation), Excellence Award for the NKY Boost program, International Economic Development Council (IEDC)

**T.J. White** (Center for Local Government), Southwest Ohio Regional Refuse Program, Program Excellence Award, American Society for Public Administration's Greater Cincinnati Chapter (ASPA-GCC)

**Victoria Vogelgesang**, Outstanding Student Award, ASPA-GCC



## MPA alum part of "Forty Under 40"

In September 2013, MPA alumna **Tori Ames** was honored by the Cincinnati Business Courier as one of its "Forty Under 40".

Each year, the Cincinnati Business Courier selects forty young people in our region who are striving to be the next generation of leaders and innovators. They are recognized annually at a special event, and also in print throughout the year in the pages of the Courier.

Tori, graduated from the NKU MPA program in 2011. She was selected as the Distinguished MPA Graduate that year. Currently, she is working as the Community Relations

**Melanie Bates**

Development Liaison, Life Center Organ Donor Network

**Leo Calderón**

Director of Latino Student Affairs,  
Northern Kentucky University

**David Elmer**

Township Administrator, Pierce Township, Ohio

**Anthony Ficarra**

Consultant, Strategic Vision Consults

**Joan Gilmore**

Funding Support Manager, Hamilton County  
Development Disabilities Services

**Deborah Johnson**

Ph.D. Student, University of Cincinnati

**David Moore**

Founder and Executive Director, Africa Fire Mission

**Rolanda Smith**

Executive Director,  
Parents for Public Schools of Greater Cincinnati

**T.J. White**

Executive Director, Center for Local Governments

**Melissa Williams**

Director of Administration, Campbell County Fiscal Court

**Our Mission**

The MPA program at NKU provides professional managerial, communication, and human relations skills and knowledge in preparation for or advancement in a variety of public sector and related careers. The program advances public sector values of effectiveness, efficiency, honesty, accountability, fairness, diversity and public service in the curriculum, extra-curricular events and speakers, and partnerships with area practitioners through the MPA Advisory Board, the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), and other professional associations and individuals.

The goal of the program is to develop competent public service practitioners to serve governments, nonprofit organizations and citizens in the Northern Kentucky and Greater Cincinnati metropolitan region and beyond.

**NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY**

**MPA Program Office**

Founders Hall 424A

Nunn Drive

Highland Heights, KY 41099

Phone: 859-572-5326

E-mail: [mpa@nku.edu](mailto:mpa@nku.edu)

On the web:

<http://psc-cj.nku.edu/programs/public/masters/>