



Spring 2017

Happy Spring! We want to thank all of the alumni who completed our online survey in November. There were 106 respondents, which is the highest number we've ever had. Here are a few highlights from the results:

- 42% of responding alumni work in government; 31% in nonprofits; 12% in the private sector; and 15% in other types of organizations.
- 67% said they work in "chief executive" or other management-level positions; others work as project supervisors, "street level" officials, or technical support.
- 92% of respondents indicated they are very satisfied or satisfied with their MPA experience; and 91% with the program's full-time faculty.
- More than half indicated the MPA degree helped increase their annual salaries; nearly 30% said it increased their salary by \$10,000 or more per year (i.e., \$100,000 over 10 years).
- 91% said they are likely to recommend the MPA program to others.

Speaking of recommending the MPA program, more than 30% of respondents said they originally learned of the MPA program from students or alumni. So please continue to "talk up" the program, forward this e-newsletter to colleagues and friends, and invite them to our events. The next big one is the MPA Spring Banquet on April 12 (details below).

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Donate

Make an online
donation to the **MPA
Foundation** or the
**MPA Diversity
Scholarship** [here](#).

Connect

Also, if anyone is interested in a full report of the alumni survey, send an email message to olberdingj@nku.edu or gishm@nku.edu, and we'll get it to you.

Thanks again!

Julie Olberding
olberdingj@nku.edu

MPA Events

MPA Fall Reception in November 2016

The MPA Fall Reception took place on November 3 in the Student Union Ballroom. It featured a lively discussion with the theme of "Surviving and Thriving as Young Public-Service Professionals in an



'Old Boy' Government Network." Elishia Chamberlain (NKU MPA 2008), City Administrator of Ludlow; Drew Tilow (NKU MPA 2011), Budget Analyst for the City of Cincinnati; and Sharmili Reddy, City Administrator of Fort Mitchell led the evening's engaging discussion with MPA students, alumni, faculty and staff and advisory board members.

Fall Commencement

Congratulations to the Fall 2016 MPA graduates! From right to left: Christina, Emily, Petey, Derrick, Nate, Steve, Sopheap and Josh. We know you will all do great things with your MPA degrees and we look forward to seeing you at alumni events! Spring Commencement for MPA students will be on Sunday, May 7 at 4 p.m. Come celebrate with us!



MPA-ASP A Dinner in February 2017



[Visit Our Website](#)

The annual MPA-ASPA dinner was held on Tuesday, February 21 in NKU's Student Union. The guest speakers were Kevin Wright, Executive Director of Walnut Hills



Redevelopment Foundation, and Joe Nickol, Senior Associate at MKSK. They presented information and ideas from their new Neighborhood Playbook, which is “a step-by-step guide to public space activation and real estate development.”

We appreciate the ongoing collaboration with the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) Greater Cincinnati Chapter to organize this annual event. MPA students, alumni, faculty and staff – along with ASPA members – really enjoyed the evening with Kevin and Joe.

MPA Alumni Gathering

Following the MPA-ASPA dinner at NKU, a group of MPA alumni, students and faculty met at Hofbrauhaus in Newport. It was great catching up! The MPA program and ASPA will host another happy hour on Friday, March 3, starting at 5:30 p.m., at Woodburn Brewery in Walnut Hills (2800 Woodburn Ave., 45206).



In addition to socializing, it will be an opportunity to learn more about activating space in urban neighborhoods. Kevin Wright, Executive Director of Walnut Hills Redevelopment Foundation, will be in attendance to talk about the work there.

MPA Spring Awards Banquet

Save the date for the annual MPA Spring Awards Banquet! This event will take place on Wednesday, April 12 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in Student Union 104. We will honor the 2017 graduating MPA students and award winners. (Our 2016 award winners are pictured here – Kelly Brockman and Paula Brehm-Heeger.)



Our guest speaker will be the Distinguished MPA Alumnus/Alumnae Award winner. Please consider sending a nomination for this award to Dr. Julie Olberding at olberdingj@nku.edu.

MPA Alumni in the News

High-End Development in Deerfield Township

Eric Reiners (MPA 2011) is the new Chief Administrative Officer of Deerfield Township, Ohio. As CAO, Eric is now responsible for leading and managing the township, which has more than 80 full-time employees and 65 part-time employees who provide services to more than 38,000 residents.



Eric has been overseeing the administrative processes to create a [high-end development in Deerfield Township](#). The vision is that it will be "reminiscent of the historic town square" with a mix of housing options, office space, retail, hotels, and entertainment venues.

Prior to his role as CAO, Eric was Director of Public Works for Deerfield Township for five years. This department deals with planning, facility construction and maintenance, street maintenance, storm water management, and other infrastructure improvements. Eric also had served an Administrator in the Deerfield Regional Storm Water District for six years.

Silver Grove Community Garden Capstone Project Presented to City Council

The NKU MPA Capstone class involves a final project for which students engage with government agencies and/or nonprofit organizations to create positive impacts “beyond the classroom.” For his Capstone project in the Fall, Josh Tunning (MPA 2016) explored the idea of creating a community garden in Silver Grove, Kentucky. Silver Grove is a city of about 1,100 residents that runs along the Ohio River in northern Campbell County.



Josh presented his project at the Silver Grove City Council meeting in January 2017. For more information on this project, check out this story in [River City News](#).

Ludlow Yards

Kudos to Elishia Chamberlain (MPA 2008) for exciting progress on a new project in the City of Ludlow! [Ludlow Yards](#) is "a vibrant mixed-use development proposed at the gateway to the community's main business district with a design inspired by (the city's) railroad heritage."



Elishia has been serving as the City Administrator of Ludlow for the past two years. Prior to that, she worked at the Northern Kentucky Area Development District (NKADD) on community development and brownfield reuse, which are great experiences to bring to the Ludlow Yards project.

In the Classroom

Service Learning

This semester, Charles Powell and Fitzgerald Chibamu are working with Newport city officials on an effort to transform the old Southgate School into a new City of Newport Museum.

In case you didn't know, Southgate was the first and only school for African-American students in Campbell County. It operated from 1873 through 1955, when the students were integrated into the broader Newport school system.



The museum will help tell the story of Southgate School, possibly along with other key stories in the city's evolution such as its military base, early industrial development, historical floods and recoveries, thriving but illegal casinos, and recent urban renaissance. (Speaking of renaissance, the Southgate School backs up to Hofbrauhaus Newport, near Newport on the Levee.)

Charlie and Fitz's Capstone project will involve working on policies and plans related to artifact identification, acquisition and management as well as a community outreach plan. Their project is one of a number of efforts by Northern Kentucky University faculty and students to assist the City of Newport with this emerging museum.

Student Highlights

ASPA Internship

Congratulations to MPA student, Sanela Dautovic, who was awarded a paid internship position with the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) Greater Cincinnati Chapter this academic year.



In this position, Sanela is responsible for coordinating and facilitating monthly meetings, Public Service Recognition Week activities, the annual awards banquet and strategic planning sessions as well as responsible for database, website and social media management. She is looking forward to job shadowing all the ASPA-GCC board members at their places of employment in government and nonprofit sectors this spring.

Scholarship Awards from NKCCMA and KCCMA

MPA student Amy Schildmeyer-Humphrey was awarded the annual scholarship from the Northern Kentucky City and County Management Association (NKCCMA). The scholarship was created a couple years ago for MPA students pursuing a career in local government



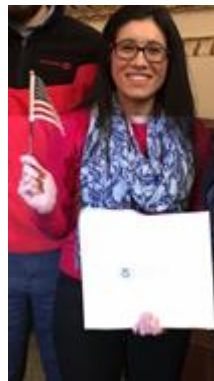
management. Amy was presented with the scholarship award at the association's monthly meeting by Elishia Chamberlain (MPA 2008), NKCCMA President and Ludlow City Administrator.

MPA student Jeremy Worley was selected as this region's scholarship recipient to the Kentucky City/Council Management Association (KCCMA) Winter Conference. The conference, which was held in Lexington on February 9-10, included sessions on economic development, community policing, enhancing lobbying skills and more. Jeremy was one of four MPA students in the state of Kentucky to receive a conference scholarship.



Making it Official

Congratulations to MPA student Mayra Sidler Guzman on becoming a U.S. citizen! As some of you know, Mayra moved from Mexico to Northern Kentucky 10 years ago, and now she is the District Interpreter for Covington Independent Public Schools. Mayra was also the first recipient of our MPA Diversity Scholarship this year. Thanks to [Northern Kentucky Tribune](#) and [The River City News](#) for sharing her great story!



Faculty Features

We welcome Dr. Jongsoo Park to the MPA faculty for the Spring semester! Dr. Park is currently teaching Organizational Behavior and Theory (PAD 602), Public Policy Analysis (PAD 603), and Executive Management and Public Leadership (PAD 632).



Dr. Park received his Ph.D. in Public Policy and Management in December 2016 from the John Glenn College of Public Affairs at The Ohio State University. Prior to his doctoral studies, he received a BA in public administration and MPA at Korea University and a second MPA at Texas A&M University.

Dr. Park's teaching reflects his interests in leadership behaviors, managerial practices, and diversity management. Recognizing the value of diversity for learning, he wants to help students understand that there are different approaches to issues of public affairs, and the best solution is achieved by greater diversity.

His current research includes investigating the effects of empowering leadership and ethical leadership on employee work behaviors, both at the individual and group levels. He is also interested in studying why, when and how public employees engage in prosocial behavior as well as diversity and dynamics in public organizations.

New Jobs and Promotions

[Petey Cautilli](#) (2016) is the new Facility and Event Manager for Saint Louis University Athletics.

[Lisa Desmarais](#) (2012) has become the Director of Information Technology for Kenton County, KY.

[Alex Kraemer](#) (2012) is the new Economic Development Manager for the City of Fairfield, OH.

[Dustin Lester](#) (2011) is now a Senior Project Consultant at Thomas P. Miller & Associates (TPMA).

[Rebecca Miller](#) (2015) became Program Coordinator of Youth Services for PathPoint in Santa Barbara, CA.

[Eric Reiners](#) (MPA 2011) is the new Chief Administrative Officer of Deerfield Township, Ohio.

[Kyle Young](#) (current student) is now a Contract Specialist at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Connect with us

To stay connected the NKU MPA program, be sure to “like” us on [Facebook](#) and connect with us on [LinkedIn](#) to stay informed on what is happening with other alumni, the program and job opportunities!

[NKU Masters of Public Administration](#)

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