

CENTRAL FLORIDA E-NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the 2007-2008 Year!

The Central Florida Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration is proud to welcome you to a new and exciting year for our organization. There are currently a number of efforts underway to make this organization a vital and useful tool for public administrators, and the current Board of Directors would like to utilize this newly created e-newsletter to inform you of some of the great work we have undertaken on your behalf and to keep you informed as the year progresses.

Over the summer, the Board of Directors met to develop a theme for Chapter meetings and to further discuss ways to improve our organization. As a primary result of these meetings, Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 **monthly events have been planned around the issue of property tax reform** in the state. This issue is of central concern to public administrators, and as a progressive Chapter we are taking initiatives to educate and engage public administrators to discuss the impacts these reforms will have on government.

On Thursday September 22, 2007, our Chapter held its first event of the year at the Citrus Club in downtown Orlando. **John Wayne Smith, Legislative Director for the Florida Association of Counties**, spoke about the outcomes of recent legislative sessions on property tax reform in the state and how these changes would impact public administrators. An overwhelming member turnout made this event an overwhelming success for the Chapter, and highlighted the need for active and participatory discussions between public administrators in the region on how to address budgetary constraints resulting from these current reform efforts.

We hope that you will join us for our next meeting, scheduled for October 18, 2007 from 11:30-1:00pm at the Downtown UCF Center. This meeting will be an informational exchange on strategies to help local government professionals deal with the impacts of property tax reform by becoming more creative and innovative problem solvers. Our guest speaker will be Tracy Miller, Southeast Regional Director & IT Director of The Alliance for Innovation. Space will be limited for this exclusive event, so please send your RSVP to cflaspa@yahoo.com no later than October 15, 2007. For further information on this event, please visit our [Events Page](#).

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John Wayne Smith speaking at our September ASPA meeting.

Chapter Hosting SECoPA '08 in Orlando

Dr. Korosec, President-Elect for the Central Florida Chapter of ASPA, represented the University of Central Florida and our Chapter at the Southeast Conference of Public Administration (SECoPA) in Nashville in late September. To promote the 2008 SECoPA Conference in Orlando, representatives spoke at 2 executive council meetings, the kickoff reception, and then were prominently featured at the Keynote luncheon on Thursday. A reception to promote the 2008 conference was held and over 200 guests came to learn about our sponsorship of SECoPA 2008!

Spotlight on SECoPA

SECoPA 2008 will be held on **September 24-27, 2008** at the International Plaza Resort and Spa.

The conference theme will be "**Surviving Change, Fostering Excellence, and Enhancing Innovation in Public Administration**".

Strategic Planning Efforts Offer New Opportunities, Lessons



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Jenifer Palmer, Vice-President of Student Affairs, recently developed a strategic plan for our local Chapter. Creating public value and establishing a premier organization for public administrators across the Central Florida region is of key importance for the members of this organization, and it is hoped that the commitment to a strategic plan will help engage a vision of the future: “to advance excellence in public administration in the Central Florida region through informed programs and events that support a knowledgeable exchange of ideas between professionals, academics, and the public.”

An analysis of mandates of the organization, both formal mandates and informal mandates, was conducted and key findings are detailed in the plan. A stakeholder analysis along with an evaluation of the mission to “advance excellence in public administration” was undertaken to include more specific values of the Chapter and to increase stakeholder commitment to organization values.

An assessment of organizational strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats was also undertaken to identify critical issues for the organization. A main finding of this analysis was that the organization needed to establish a stronger reputation within the community. The need for greater connectivity and visibility among our membership prompted the creation of a website and listserv. Developing better internal communication, between members and the board of directors, is important to advancing a collaborative environment for professionals in public administration.

Evaluation mechanisms and an implementation plan were developed to help steer organizational effectiveness towards its vision of becoming a premier organization in the field of public service, and outcomes and target dates for completion of action plans were detailed. **The strategic planning process will be an ongoing process for our organization over the coming years**, and member support and input into the plan are crucial to the long-term success of this organization. We hope that you will take time to read through the Chapter Strategic Plan, located on our [website](#). We welcome input and suggestions from our membership as we attempt to make this organi-