



American Society for Public Administration

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Nebraska ASPA Chapter Newsletter

ASPA To Review The State of Public Service in Nebraska

"Focus groups from a cross section of government employees will be utilized to "take the pulse" of the public service sector across the State of Nebraska."

Mary R. Hamilton Ph.D. CAE
School of Public Administration
University of Nebraska-Omaha

ASPA's Nebraska Chapter is in the early planning stages of a project that will review the state of public service in Nebraska, 'taking the pulse of public service' in terms of what helps and hinders public employees' doing their jobs to serve the citizens of the state. The project will have four components:

Compare Nebraska's Public Service to Other States:

Analyze available data to determine how Nebraska's public service compares to those in the other 49 states.

Address Public Service at the Local Level:

Conduct focus groups with a cross-section of local government employees (e.g., city administrators, city clerks, economic development coordinators, planners, public works managers in each of the

state's seven Economic Development Districts (EDDs).

ASPA Nebraska will work with relevant organizations to identify participants for these focus groups, including the University of Nebraska Omaha College of Public Affairs and Community Service (UNO/CPACS), the National Management Association (NMA), the Nebraska City Management Association (NCMA), the Community Development Society (CDS), the Rural Development Commission, the Nebraska Planning and Zoning Association, and the Nebraska Economic Development Association. Focus group participants will be asked to address questions such as:

-What helps you do a good job of serving the citizens of your community in your current situation?

-What gets in the way of you doing the best possible job in your current situation?

--What change(s) in your situation or organization, if feasible, would make all the difference in terms of helping you be as effective in your job as you and Nebraska's citizens would like?

Address Public Service at the State Level: ASPA will work with relevant State officials, agencies, and associations to determine how to approach State employees in order to gain a representative response.

For out-state employees, focus groups will be held within the area's economic development districts. For Lincoln-based employees, the focus

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A Message from your ASPA-Nebraska Chapter President

Happy Fall !

I am looking forward to serving as your ASPA-Nebraska President during the 2005-2006 year. The ASPA Council is excited to welcome three new Council Members: Jodie Drapal-Kliver, Heidi Loos and Patricia Owen. You can read their bio's on page four of this issue. Each of these individu-

als bring a lot of energy and great ideas to the ASPA Council.

At our first Council meeting of the year we discussed upcoming events and activities for members and potential members during 2005-2006. Some of these are highlighted throughout the newsletter. If you have any ideas for other

projects or programs you would like to see, or would like to help with an upcoming event, please feel free to contact any of the Council members. We are looking forward to a great year and look forward to hearing from you!

Best,
Sheri



■ Public Service Review

group sessions will be held in Lincoln. Results will be apparent themes that cut across agencies. There will be no agency-specific themes reported.

Outreach to Other Public Employees: The focus groups for local and state employees will involve a small percentage of the more than 100,000 public employees in Nebraska. To obtain input from other public employees, ASPA Nebraska will email public employees throughout the state requesting their responses to the questions used in the focus and breakout groups. Members of ASPA Nebraska will be solicited. In addition, ASPA Nebraska will work with all of the organizations listed above to broadcast information about the project and request input from their constituents.

Results of the Project: A three-part report addressed to the Governor, State Senators, County Commissioners, Mayors, City Councils, officials of the University of Nebraska system, and officials of the NMA, and all other partner organizations will be prepared. The report will also be made available to state and local news media. The report will include:

-**Public Service Context**—A brief description of public service in Nebraska in terms of location, functions served, levels of government and a comparison of Nebraska public service with other states.

--**Results of Survey**--What we learned from our review about what helps and hinders public employees' doing their jobs and serving citizens well (No individual agencies or localities will be identified)

-**Recommendations**—actionable items that could be 'easy fixes', and areas of support that should be maintained and strengthened

Follow-up: ASPA Nebraska will follow up on recommendations periodically and report on progress to the same people and organizations outlined above. ASPA Nebraska will also repeat the review every 5 years.

What Can you Do to Help?

This is a totally volunteer effort currently being planned by members of ASPA and NMA. If you would like to volunteer to be on one of the teams—Local Government, State Government or Outreach—please contact **Mary Hamilton at 402-315-9509 or mrhamilton@mail.unomaha.edu**. The Outreach Team needs a Coordinator, and we would welcome an ASPA member in that role.

You can also help by:

- Suggesting better ways to implement this project
- Identifying other organizations to approach about partnering
- Passing on information about the project to your public employee colleagues

“Public confidence in the integrity of the Government is indispensable to faith in democracy; and when we lose faith in the system, we have lost faith in everything we fight and spend for.”

Adlai E. Stevenson

ASPA Code of Ethics

- I. Serve the Public Interest
- II. Respect the Constitution and the Law
- III. Demonstrate Personal Integrity
- IV. Promote Ethical Organizations.
- V. Strive for Professional Excellence

2004-2005 Program Highlights

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Resume Feedback and Mock Interviews *David Osborne Presentation, luncheon, & panel discussion with Mayor Fahey, ASPA Members/UNO Faculty John Bartle, Carol Ebdon, chaired by Dean BJ Reed (co-sponsored with the | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNO Public Administration Department) *Proclamation Signing for Public Service Week with Governor Dave Heineman *Annual Luncheon & Awards Ceremony-Keynote by Dr. Doug Christensen, NE. Commissioner of Education (partnership with | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pi Alpha Alpha and American Humanics) *'Lincoln Lunches' with speakers Mitch McCartney, Unicameral Information Office, Steve Owen, City of Lincoln *Networking Reception with Public Officials |
|---|---|--|

5th Annual Social Equity Leadership Conference Set

Omaha has been selected by the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) as the site for the 5th Social Equity Leadership Conference on February 2-3, 2006. The College of Public Affairs and Community Service will be hosting the conference and the ASPA Nebraska Chapter will be a sponsor. Previous conferences have been held in Indianapolis, Dallas, Cincinnati, and Cleveland.

The conference will bring together thirty to forty national leaders and experts on social equity with thirty to forty Omaha

area leaders representing different parts of the community. Participants in the February event will have a chance to:

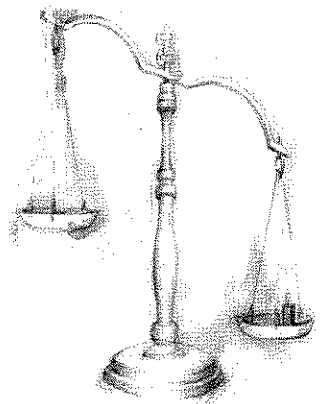
- Describe progress made on social equity issues in the Omaha area
- Hear about progress made on social equity issues in other parts of the country and at the federal level
- Participate in dialog with their peers and with NAPA panel members that may directly strengthen local and national programs

- Launch new collaborative initiatives inspired by the national-local discussions.

The focus of the conference will be on national and local indicators of disparities in health and criminal justice and ways to work together to improve equity in the implementation of public policies and the delivery of public services.

This conference is an opportunity to contribute to Omaha's capacity to address equity issues and to showcase Omaha as the progressive, caring community that it is.

We encourage ASPA Nebraska members to attend this conference and contribute to the dialog. Registration will be \$50, student conference rate will be \$25, and will include attendance at the conference sessions beginning Thursday afternoon through Friday. Registration will also include a reception and dinner on Thursday, and a lunch and reception on Friday.



SAVE THE DATE

2005

Oct. 18, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Nebraska Methodist College,
Domestic Violence & Sexual
Assault of Women Who are
Elderly or Disabled: Myths and
Realities Seminar.

Nov. 10-12, Association for
Budgeting & Financial Mgmt.
(ABFM) Conference. Wash D.C.
Washington D.C.

Nov. 11-13, ASPA Midyear
Leadership Mtgs. Wash D.C.

2006

Feb.2-3, 5th Annual Social
Equity Conference.
Omaha, Nebraska

Feb. 22-26, Annual Conference
of Minority Public Administra-
tors (COMPA). Winston-Salem,
North Carolina

Apr. 1-4, 67th Annual ASPA
National Conference, Denver,
Colorado

Future ASPA National Conferences-Tentative Sites:

2007-Omni Shoreham Hotel,
Washington, D.C. March 24-27

2008-Fairmont Dallas, Dallas,
Texas, March 8-11

2009-Hyatt Regency, Miami,
Florida, March 21-24

Inside ASPA-Nebraska

Carl Ekstrom :

Is currently serving as a Visiting Associate Professor of Public Administration at the Hugo Wall School of Urban and Public Affairs at Wichita State University for the current academic year.

Carol Ebdon :

Has resigned her position effective August 15th, 2005 as Associate Professor with UNO to serve as the City of Omaha's Finance Director.

Congratulations to our ASPA members who have completed their MPA degrees:

Fall of 2004

Jeffrey Fiegenschuh
Patricia Owen

Spring of 2005

Jordon Fuller
Ronald Neal

WELCOME to our newest ASPA members:

Eddie Arceneaux
Pamela Buethe
Doug Christensen

Lorenzo Claxton
Melissa Foulk
Lee Ann Heflebower
Governor Dave Heineman
Brian Kirchhoff
Andrew Lenz
Lawrence Runana
Alicia Swanson
Kori Taylor
Judi Thornburg
Erin Tomaso
Mary Jane Uher
Regina Winters

A Tip of the Hat to Public Service !

*The National Institutes of
Health began in a single attic
room with one doctor searching
for a way to prevent the spread
of cholera.*

*Courtesy of:
The Council for Excellence
in Government*



**Nebraska ASPA Chapter
Newsletter**

For Submissions, Comments or Information:

Nebraska Chapter ASPA
3350 Prairieview Drive
Lincoln, NE 68504

Phone: 402-441-7488
Fax: 402-441-8728
E-mail: trisho@neb.rr.com

The ASPA Nebraska Chapter Newsletter is published quarterly. The newsletter is distributed to all Chapter members and is posted on the Chapter's website.

We're on the Web!

www.aspaonline.org/nebraska

2005-2006 ASPA Nebraska Board

President:

Sheri Larsen, City of Elkhorn

President-Elect:

Scott Bovick, City of Nebraska City

Secretary-Treasurer:

Maura Kelly Tolzin, Lancaster County

Council Members

Heidi Loos, University of Nebraska-Omaha

Patricia Owen, Lancaster County

Jordon Fuller, Infinitia Health Care

Maggie Oldham, US Army Corps of Engineers

Dr. Joseph (Mike) Stefkovich, NE Dept. of Education

Jodie Drapal-Kluver, University of Nebraska-Omaha

Dr. Mary Hamilton, University of Nebraska-Omaha

UNO MPA ALUMNI MEMBERS AND FAMILY !

Saturday, October 22nd

UNO vs. St. Cloud State Football Game

(Meet by the MPA office building-west side of campus at 12:30)

General Admission Tickets \$10.00

**Violence Against The
Elderly Seminar Set**

On Tuesday, October 18th, 2005, Nebraska Methodist College will be hosting a presentation titled, "Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault of Women Who are Elderly or Disabled: Myths and Realities". The program will focus on the problem of domestic violence as it relates to older victims and those who have disabilities. Program participants will learn to identify signs of abuse and be given information on how to respond to these kinds of issues.

The program is free of charge. To get more information on the program or to register please call Health Touch One at (402) 331-1111 or (800) 273-3737.

**MPA Alumni Group
Organizes**

In 2004, the UNO MPA Alumni Association was formed to provide a variety of benefits to graduates who lived in the Metro Omaha area. The Association strives to provide a way to keep alumni informed about other graduates and the department. Hosting social events to foster a network of peers, offering continuing education opportunities, and providing career assistance are some of the ways the association hopes to meet these goals.

If you would like to attend a social event or be added to the alumni email list to be informed of upcoming events, please contact Denise Ibsen Cole at ibsend@girlsandboystown.org.

Meet Your New ASPA Council Members

Three new members were elected in May 2005 to serve on the ASPA Board replacing outgoing members, Wes Blecke, Angela Eikenberry and Doug Rix.

Heidi Loos, currently an MPA candidate at the University of Nebraska-Omaha, is employed as a Services Coordinator for the Medicaid Waiver program at the Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging in Omaha.

Patricia Owen, was appointed Chief Deputy Lancaster County Clerk in 2001. Prior to moving to Lincoln she was employed by the City of Columbus, Nebraska, heading the City's Division of Health and Solid Waste. Patricia received her BA in Organization-

Management from Concordia University and her MPA degree from the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

Jodie Drapal-Kluver is an MPA graduate and PhD Candidate in Public Administration at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Her current research interests include neighborhood governance, citizen participation, and organizational behavior. Jodie has been published in PAR, ATP, PA Times and in Public Manager. She is currently working as an independent consultant for the YWCA, a Copy Editor for the journal Administrative Theory & Praxis, and is a visiting instructor for UNO.