

**ACCREDITATION NATION**

NASPAA's Newsletter on Accreditation and Standards



## **DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS YEAR'S ACCREDITATION INSTITUTE!**

NASPAA Annual Conference -Kansas City, MO

Each year COPRA sponsors the Accreditation Institute, your opportunity to learn about the accreditation process and get the latest guidance from the Commission.

**Join us at the Accreditation Institute to learn more about:**

- Becoming a Site Visitor!
- Applying for Accreditation for the First Time!
- Student Learning Outcomes Assessment!
- Recent COPRA Decisions and Interpretations!



For more information please contact us at [copra@naspaa.org](mailto:copra@naspaa.org) or see [www.naspaa.org](http://www.naspaa.org).

# Schedule of The Accreditation Institute's Events

## The Accreditation Institute



The NASPAA Accreditation Institute features a series of panels designed specifically to assist programs seeking accreditation. The sessions are created and presented by current and former COPRA members at the NASPAA Annual Conference to provide guidance and give you an inside look into the accreditation process. All programs should attempt to send a representative to these sessions before applying for accreditation.

► **Wednesday, October 19, 2011**  
4:30 pm-7:30 pm

### **Site Visitor Training Workshop**

This session is for experienced public sector professionals and academics who are interested in participating as a site reviewer under NASPAA's new accreditation standards. NASPAA accredits Master of Public Administration and similar degrees through a peer-review process, following an on-site visit of an evaluative team. This workshop is a prerequisite step in participating and interested reviewers are encouraged to attend. The session is free and open to academics as well as public service practitioners with 7+ years of experience and who hold an MPA or similar graduate degree. Please remember to indicate that you are planning on attending the session when completing your conference registration.

*Jack Meek*

*Mohamad Alkadry*

*Rex Facer II*

*Michelle Piskulich*

*Michelle Saint Germain*

*Kurt Zorn*

*Crystal Calarusse*

*Stacy Drudy*

University of La Verne

Florida International University

Brigham Young University

Oakland University

California State University, Long Beach

Indiana University, Bloomington

NASPAA

NASPAA

**Convener**



► **Thursday, October 20, 2011**  
8:00-9:00 am

### **Site Visit Chairs Roundtable**

Experienced and prospective accreditation site visit chairs are invited to this open roundtable to discuss the challenges of managing a site visit under the new NASPAA accreditation standards. This session features the site visit chairs from the first round of pilot visits.

*Jeff Raffel*

*Jack Meek*

*Rex Facer II*

*Steve Maser*

*Michelle Piskulich*

*Michelle Saint Germain*

*Ethel Williams*

*Kurt Zorn*

University of Delaware

University of La Verne

Brigham Young University

Willamette University

Oakland University

CSU, Long Beach

University of Nebraska, Omaha

Indiana University, Bloomington

**Convener**



► Thursday, October 20, 2011  
2:15-3:45 pm

### **Implementing New Accreditation Standards Under Resource Constraints**

Two pilot programs and one site visit team leader that participated in the new accreditation standards review will discuss their experiences and how to implement the new standards with a small faculty. Topics will include: 1) Program assessment (approaches for addressing Standard 1); 2) Student learning assessment (approaches for addressing Standard 5); 3) Creating a data collection process that facilitates answering many of the new NASPAA self-study report questions; and 4) Incorporating the "MPA Five Universal Domains" into a university-required SACS accreditation assessment system.

The session will provide participants with sample assessment materials, and will include a discussion of issues pilot programs struggled with, including the extent of effort required to demonstrate how well students are mastering the required universal competencies.

*Jo Ann Ewalt*  
*Bruce Rogers*  
*Michelle A. Saint-Germain*  
*Rodney Stanley*  
*Megan E. Streams*

College of Charleston  
Tennessee State University  
CSU, Long Beach  
Tennessee State University  
Tennessee State University

**Convener**



► Thursday, October 20, 2011  
4:00-5:30 pm

### **White Papers Panel**

COPRA members will discuss recent white papers dealing with COPRA's early accreditation case law and emerging views on topics central to the new accreditation standards, such as academic and professional qualifications, thresholds for competency assessment, and diversity efforts.

*Rex Facer II*  
*Mohamad Alkadry*  
*Michelle Piskulich*  
*David Powell*

Brigham Young University  
Florida International University  
Oakland University  
CSU, Long Beach

**Convener**



► Friday, October 21, 2011  
11:00-12:30 pm

### **Preparing Public Professionals for Working in Diverse Environments and Dealing with a Diverse Citizenry**

Public affairs professionals deal with a diverse public, work in diverse workplace environments, and learn from a diverse faculty. The new NASPAA accreditation Standard 5.1 acknowledges these realities of both dealing with a diverse citizenry and working in diverse environments. One of the universal competencies is to "prepare students to communicate and interact productively with a diverse and changing workforce and citizenry." This panel will feature three presentations that deal with the above issues, supplemented by a practitioner perspective: (1) the reality of a diverse citizenry though looking at administrative actions in different contexts and administrative actions, (2) institutional climate and the challenges facing women in the workplace; and (3) the opportunity presented by Standard 5.1 to develop curricula that would prepare public affairs students for diverse environments and citizenry.

*Palmira N. Rios*  
*Mohamad Alkadry*  
*Brandi Blessett*  
*Jesus Nava*  
*Nadia Rubaii*

University of Puerto Rico -Rio Piedras Campus **Convener**  
Florida International University  
University of Central Florida  
International Hispanic Network  
Binghamton University



► **Saturday, October 22, 2011**  
8:00-9:30 am

### **Accreditation First-Timers Panel**

This panel is geared towards first time accreditation applicants and new program directors. The panel will cover the basics of the accreditation process, from eligibility (for new applicants), to the submission of your self-study report, and the site visit. This session will also cover the basics of the new standards and what is expected of programs going through the accreditation process.

*Michelle Piskulich*  
*Rex Facer II*  
*Steve Maser*  
*Ethel Williams*  
*Barton Wechsler*

Oakland University  
Brigham Young University  
Willamette University  
University of Nebraska, Omaha  
University of Missouri-Columbia

**Convener**



► **Saturday, October 22, 2011**  
9:30 am-12:00 pm

### **Student Learning Outcomes and Competency Assessment Workshop**

NASPAA Accreditation's new competencies-based approach takes into greater account the knowledge and skills that MPA students need to be successful in the public service after graduation. In this session participants will be broken into groups by specialty/ interests (budgeting, local government, state or federal government, nonprofit management, etc.) and will be asked to identify competencies that students graduating from MPA programs should have for that specialty/ interest. Once the groups have completed this task the session will focus on one such competency and demonstrate how it could be operationalized through learning objectives and how to measure student's mastery of those learning objectives. Attendees will learn:

- How to identify competencies that relate to specific aspects of being a Public Administration Professional.
- How to operationalize competencies through specific learning objectives.
- How to measure student's mastery of those learning objectives.

*Nadia Rubaii*  
*Michelle A. Saint-Germain*  
*Steve Maser*  
*Michelle Piskulich*  
*Ethel Williams*

Binghamton University  
CSU, Long Beach  
Willamette University  
Oakland University  
University of Nebraska, Omaha

**Co-Convener**  
**Co-Convener**



## **Highlighted Conference Sessions:**

The NASPAA Conference will feature a variety of sessions related to the topic of accreditation. The following sessions *are not part of the Accreditation Institute* but may be of strong interest to those seeking accreditation and how programs are addressing the new competencies standard.

► [Thursday, October 20, 2011](#)  
[10:45am-12:15 pm](#)

### **Public Service Values Across the Curriculum**

Public service values provide a moral compass and find expression in leadership decision-making, the wise exercise of authority, and collaborative processes, all of which conveys respect for others and determination to act for the common good. This panel examines the growing necessity for public service values across the curriculum in graduate education. This need is especially relevant in our government-bashing culture during times of relentless global and technological change. Topics include: Why public service values matter; the theoretical logic behind them; how they can be taught; the use of learning outcomes and assessment; and how MPA faculty manage their programs to meet this accelerating need. The application of public service values to governing will also be discussed.

<i>Laurie N. DiPadova-Stocks</i>	Park University	<b>Convener</b>
<i>Kay Barnes</i>	Park University	
<i>Richard C. Box</i>	University of Nebraska at Omaha	
<i>Mary R. Hamilton</i>	University of Nebraska at Omaha	
<i>Steven M. Maser</i>	Willamette University	
<i>Rebekkah Stuteville</i>	Park University	

### **Budgeting & Financial Management Competencies with a Federal Government Focus**

This panel will present the progress of the federal working group of the Section on Budgeting and Financial Management. Presentations and discussion will focus on the conversations with practitioners and competencies of various types already in place in different federal organizations.

<i>Kurt Thurmaier</i>	Northern Illinois University	<b>Convener</b>
<i>Philip G. Joyce</i>	University of Maryland College Park	

► [Thursday, October 20, 2011](#)  
[2:15-3:45 pm](#)

### **Roundtable on Budgeting & Financial Management Competencies with a Focus on States, Local Governments, and NGOs**

This roundtable will present the progress of the state, local and NGO groups in developing budgeting and financial management competencies. Cross-cutting themes will be discussed as well as challenges in identifying appropriate competencies for each type of organization.

<i>Kurt Thurmaier</i>	Northern Illinois University	<b>Convener</b>
<i>Dwight Denison</i>	University of Kentucky	
<i>Carol Ebdon</i>	University of Nebraska at Omaha	
<i>W. Bartley Hildreth</i>	Georgia State University	
<i>Philip G. Joyce</i>	University of Maryland College Park	

► [Friday, October 21, 2011](#)

9:15-10:45 am

### **Accrediting Executive Programs under the New Standards**

The recently adopted accreditation standards contain new language regarding the "competencies unique to" the Executive MPA. How have the new standards changed accreditation for the EMPA? How should the new standards bear on an institution's decision to accredit their EMPA independently or in a single review together with the "traditional" MPA? Or for that matter, to seek EMPA accreditation at all? This panel will include perspectives from COPRA and from a program that has undergone reaccreditation under the new standards.

*David Birdsell*

Baruch College/City University of New York **Convener**

*Steven A. Cohen*

Columbia University

*Rex L. Facer, II*

Brigham Young University

### **MPA Competency Model Design and Assessment: Findings and Future Directions**

Competency models offer potential for defining effective and/or superior performance and then aligning curriculum and other learning opportunities with individual development goals. However, barriers exist that prevent optimal use of competency models, including difficulty identifying competencies and assessing development appropriately. This panel will provide insights based on the design and implementation of a competency model for MPA students at the University of Kansas. Goals of this multi-year effort include: helping students track development as they progress through the MPA program, linking competencies to curriculum and experiential learning opportunities, and assessing progress using both quantitative and qualitative evaluation. This panel addresses competency modeling generally and the University of Kansas model specifically. The session will include discussion regarding challenges associated with competency identification, modeling and assessment, including the need to capture emerging competencies.

Heather Getha-Taylor

University of Kansas

**Convener**

Raymond J Hummert

University of Kansas

John Nalbandian

University of Kansas

Chris Silvia

University of Kansas

► **Friday, October 21, 2011**

11:00-12:30 pm

### **Developing Competencies to Guide Accreditation of Specializations in Local Government Management**

The Local Government Management Education Committee (LGME) is developing mission-specific elective competencies for programs that offer a specialization in local government management. Six meta competencies have been proposed by ICMA's Advisory Board on Graduate Education: knowledge in (1) ethics; (2) the roles and relationships among elected and appointed officials; (3) communicating with and engaging citizens in local governance; (4) managing local government core services; (5) managing financial resources; and (6) managing human resources. This panel will focus on four meta competencies to begin developing more specific measures for NASPAA programs. Panelists will identify student learning outcomes in their meta area and the types of measures used to assess the learning outcomes. The audience will be invited to provide reactions and recommendations to the LGME committee as it pursues its task of developing competencies for the local government specialization.

*Robert L. Bland*  
*Robert F. Blair*  
*Raymond W. Cox, III*  
*Carol Ebden*  
*Andrew Glassberg*  
*David Y. Miller*  
*James H. Svava*

University of North Texas  
University of Nebraska at Omaha  
The University of Akron  
University of Nebraska at Omaha  
University of Missouri-St. Louis  
University of Pittsburgh  
Arizona State University

**Convener**

► [Friday, October 21, 2011](#)  
[2:30-4:00 pm](#)

### **NASPAA and the Minority Serving Institution Initiative**

This panel will present an overview of the MSI initiative, including an analysis of HBCUs and HSIs that offer MPA/MPP programs, the extent to which these programs are accredited, and those that are institutional members. This session will provide context and purpose of the MSI initiative, targeted schools, progress to date and next steps.

*Susan Gooden*  
*Stacy Drudy*  
*Johnny Gilleylen*

Virginia Commonwealth University  
NASPAA  
Jackson State University

**Convener**