

Alumnisurvey1

May 15 2002

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Since your graduation from the MSPA program, it has been more difficult for faculty to keep in touch with you. But we do remain concerned about your progress, and would like to know from time to time how and what you are doing, and whether the MSPA has made a difference in your career.

We should be very grateful if you would participate in the attached short survey, which is designed to help us to find out the actual outcomes of the MSPA program, in terms of its usefulness to our graduates. It should only take a few moments of your time. All information will be treated as strictly confidential. We should, however, be delighted if you were willing to write a narrative about your career.

As part of this project, we are also surveying local employers and potential employers to find out the knowledge and skills they expect from graduates in public administration. We have left a space on the questionnaire, in which we should be happy if you would provide the name of a current or past employer, including a contact address. Your cooperation is of course entirely voluntary, but is very important to us. A sample questionnaire for employers is enclosed, and in no case would there be any discussion of your job performance or any other personal matter.

Information from the survey will be used to help us in adapting the MSPA program to current needs, and also to provide individuals now taking or thinking about the MSPA degree, information regarding available careers.

Could you please return the survey in the preaddressed stamped envelope, attention Dr. Naomi Caiden. If you have any questions, or simply would like to talk, please do not hesitate to contact me at 323-343-2237 or [ncaiden@calstatela.edu](mailto:ncaiden@calstatela.edu).

Sincerely,

Naomi Caiden  
Department of Political Science

## SURVEY OF MSPA ALUMNI

1. What year did you graduate from the MSPA program at CSULA?  
(Circle one)  
1998  
1999  
2000  
2001
  
2. Could you name the organization you worked for at the time you began the MSPA program?
  
3. What was the title of the position you held at the time you began the MSPA program?
  
4. Could you name the organization you worked for at the time you graduated?
  
5. What was the title of the position you held at the time you graduated?  
  
If this position was not the same as the one you held when you started the program, would you regard it as a promotion?
  
6. Could you name the organization you work for now?
  
7. What is the title of the position you now hold?  
  
If this position is not the same as the one you held when you graduated, would you regard it as a promotion?
  
8. Do you think that the MSPA degree has helped you in your career so far?  
  
A little                  Somewhat                  A great deal

9. Which elements of the MSPA degree have helped you the most? Could you rank them in order, placing 1 in first place.
- Networking with other students
  - Contacts with faculty
  - Skills in analyzing data
  - Skills in writing short papers
  - Skills in conducting and writing up research
  - Skills in using computers
  - Understanding of organizational structure and behavior
  - Knowledge about public and non-profit budgeting
  - Knowledge about human resources administration
  - Knowledge about policy analysis
  - Knowledge of intergovernmental relations
  - Understanding of the philosophy of public service
  - Other (please explain)
10. May we contact your employer? If so, could you please provide a contact name and address?
11. Would you be willing to describe more details of your career? If so, please use additional sheets or the back of this questionnaire to amplify the information in the survey. Or, if you are willing to participate in a more detailed follow up, could you please fill in the attached sheet.

**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES**

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**SURVEY OF MSPA ALUMNI AND EMPLOYERS**

**YES I should be happy for you to contact me to discuss careers in public administration for graduates.**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Day time phone:**

**E-mail**

**We greatly appreciate your participation.**