

Roundtable: Governing Governance Networks Discussant Comments

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Challenge for Public Administration Education

- Diversification of policy tools: contracting, tax credits and deductions, vouchers, tax-exempt bonds, and government-based loans
- Increased complexity of organizational structures and relationships--
-i.e. public-private partnerships, collaboratives, affiliated organizations, quasi-governmental organizations, extensive contracting for services in a wide variety of fields including social services, health care, security and defense.
- New complex emergencies such as Hurricane Katrina
- Increasing interest of students in public affairs schools in working in partnerships or nonprofit organizations

Management Challenges of Policy and Organizational Diversification

- The transformation of the organizational environment in the provision of public services has created complicated management challenges for public managers, including:
 - Transparency
 - Collaborative or Relational Management
 - Institutional and Programmatic Design
 - Performance Assessment
 - Citizen Involvement and Participation

Adapting the MPA Curriculum to Meet the Challenges of Third Party Government

- MPA programs have responded to the challenges of third party government with many program changes
 - The most visible of these changes is the addition of nonprofit concentrations
- However, MPA programs need to undertake additional changes to their curriculum to reflect the realities of third party government, including:
 - Restructuring the Core Curriculum
 - Broadening the Elective Offerings
 - Developing New Case Materials
 - More Concurrent or Joint Programs
 - Expanding Executive Education

Conclusions

- Successful integration of third party government into the MPA curriculum requires an adaptation and rethinking of the current curriculum
 - Further, it requires a broadening of the disciplinary background, skill set, and expertise of the MPA faculty
- MPA programs should be open to joint appointments and individuals working at the intersection of policy and management and/or the public and nonprofit sectors
- A more diverse and broad-based faculty allow MPA programs to adapt the curriculum in ways allowing flexibility and innovation in integrating third party government

- Finally, it will be critical for MPA programs to devote more attention to the issue of governance, broadly defined
 - Programs must conduct ongoing research on governance and use this research to inform their teaching and curricular materials