



NASPAA's 2012 Annual Conference will be held in **Austin, Texas, October 18 – 20**. It promises to be almost as big as the Lone Star state itself! We extend our gratitude to the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin, which is graciously serving as the host school under the leadership of Ambassador Robert Hutchings. We also appreciate the Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University and Texas State University-San Marcos for co-hosting.

Call for panel/paper submissions

The Conference Committee invites the entire NASPAA community to submit proposals for panels, research papers, roundtables, and workshops that address the conference theme of "***Horizons in Public Affairs: Visions, Innovations and Strategies***". The theme will run through three conference tracks:

- Affirming the Place of Public Affairs & Administration
- Understanding Changing Markets and Engaging Stakeholders
- Dialogues on the Status of the Profession

The deadline for submitting proposals is **April 1**. Scroll down for full information on how to submit a proposal!

Accreditation Institute

The Accreditation Institute will be held on Saturday, October 20, 9:30 am-12 pm and 1-3pm. It will include panels and presentations on preparing for accreditation, self-studies, site visits in addition to presentations on assessment.

Special Events

The conference Host Committee is planning a number of special events to take advantage of some of the unique Austin-area attractions, including receptions at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, the Texas State Capitol, and an optional trip to the LBJ Ranch for dinner. More information will be forthcoming, but please plan on staying through Saturday night!

Reserve a hotel room

The conference will be held at the beautiful [Hyatt Regency Austin, Downtown](#) on the Lake. The conference rate is \$179 single/double occupancy, which will be good through October 1, 2012.

CALL FOR PANEL/PAPER SUBMISSIONS

Conference Theme: Horizons in Public Affairs: Visions, Innovations and Strategies

The 2012 NASPAA Annual Conference Committee invites proposals for panels, research papers, roundtables, and workshops that address how we envision our future in public affairs education. We welcome proposals from the entire NASPAA community. The challenge in public affairs and in public affairs education calls upon our programs and schools to deepen our connections with public service leaders and stakeholders. The basis for our discussions has been framed by NASPAA President Nadia Rubaii, who reminds us of the association's twofold mission of **ensuring excellence in education and training for public service, and promoting the ideal of public service.**

We invite proposals to innovatively address visions and strategies that address future horizons from the point of view of either schools and programs or of NASPAA itself. The committee will invite selected presenters to offer provocative position papers to initiate our discussions and panels. In addition, we plan to invite guest speakers who can offer their unique insight into our challenges. To provide a framework for examining our visions and strategies of the future, we have established three tracks to focus papers, panels and workshops:

Track One: Affirming the Place of Public Affairs & Administration

Track Co-Coordinator: Don Kettl, University of Maryland, and Angela Evans, University of Texas, Austin

Many of our communities, government and public service are under attack. As an association and group of scholars committed to public affairs education, we face the challenge of articulating the value of public service and administration. We also face the challenge of tight hiring in the public sector labor market for many years to come, and the need to remove barriers and enhance prospects for our graduates to enter public service employment. Panels in this track will address how we reaffirm the crucial role of public education and of the value of our programs for the public, public servants and our alumni.

Track Two: Understanding Changing Markets and Engaging Stakeholders

Track Coordinator: Blue Wooldridge, Virginia Commonwealth University

Many of our programs are facing increasing pressures related to eroding state funding, increasing university emphases on business or entrepreneurial models. There is growing pressure to generate revenues to demonstrate that their programs are cost effective in dollar terms without addressing the values of public service programs and professionally trained and well-prepared public servants. In addition, programs are faced with changes in technology that are influencing the direction of educational efforts in higher education, such as the development of different kinds of program delivery to address new and emerging needs. The focus of this track of panels is to address the identification of competition in public service field for students and for program alumni competing for jobs (such as business, law, social work) so as to offer insight into program initiatives and directions that seek to secure program identity and significance among stakeholders.

Track Three: Dialogues on the Status of the Profession

Track Coordinator: Ethel Williams, University of Nebraska, Omaha

In the examination of public service horizons, we need to open up the dialogues across many boundaries—including, but not limited to, the boundaries of generations, nations, policy-administration, practitioners-scholars, and public-nonprofit sectors—and to encourage greater discussion across those conventional boundaries. The focus of this track of panels is to bring together a variety of perspectives regarding the status of the profession. The committee seeks panels to report on strategies and approaches programs practice or envision that reach across the many boundaries of the field and that seek to enhance the theory and practice of public service. The diversity of perspectives will come from a mix of experience, discipline and context.

Submission Content and Format

The conference program committee is open to ideas that offer different kinds of formats, beyond the conventional panel and paper presentation format, such as roundtable, one or two main presentations with panel of respondents, or other creative learning approaches. The track descriptions above are illustrative, not exhaustive. We are also interested in proposals on additional topics that may not be included in the suggested list.

In evaluating proposals, highest priority will be given to those proposals that directly address the overall conference theme and one of the designated tracks, and which also include: (1) practitioner/ stakeholder/ professional involvement; (2) international participation (not simply panels with an explicit "international" focus); and (3) a broad range of experience levels as reflected by a mix of new scholars and practitioners with those of long experience.

Per NASPAA practice, panelists will be required to prepare descriptive materials in advance, which NASPAA will distribute through multiple channels. Sessions should move beyond description to focus on a selected few issues.

The deadline for initial consideration of submissions is April 1, 2012. Please fill out the online form at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2012NASPAASubmissionPaper>. **We will confirm receipt within the week and notify of acceptance by May 1.**

"Rule of Two"

In order to maximize the number of conference session participants, the 2012 Conference Committee will continue the NASPAA practice of following a "rule of two," limiting panel participation to two sessions during the main conference (Thursday through Saturday). Participation includes roles as presenters, authors, chairs, discussants and/or facilitators, but each session counts only once, regardless of the number of roles played. The following are exempted from the rule: officer roles; plenaries; committee and section meetings; the Accreditation Institute; and workshops.

Questions?

For technical questions on paper or panel submission and guidelines, please contact Jackie Lewis, jlewis@naspaa.org. For questions about the conference or panel/paper suggestions, please feel free to contact Conference Committee chair Jack Meek at jmeek@laverne.edu.

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