

Name of alumni:

Christine Edwards Pitkin, MPA

Where are you currently working?

Charlotte, NC

Civility Localized

What is your job title?

Chief Executive Officer - Civility Localized

Founder - Civic Impact Academy

What inspired you to pursue your MPA degree?

I was inspired to pursue my MPA after working at a housing coalition while in college. I saw firsthand the impact of policy on people's lives, and I wanted to gain the skills and knowledge to make a larger contribution to my community. My coworker at the time was applying for their MPA and was a huge influence on me.

How has your MPA/MPP degree helped you in your career?

My MPA has been invaluable. It provided me with a strong foundation in public administration and community development, which were essential during my time with the City of Charlotte and now in running my own company. The degree really helped me build a framework for understanding how to navigate complex public systems, and more importantly how to convey and communicate that complexity to everyday people.

What do you love about being an MPA/MPP alumni?

I love the network and connections I made with other students and graduates in the program. It's incredibly rewarding to see my fellow alumni making a difference in their communities and careers. I always have a friend or a connection in Charlotte who has a link to the UNCC MPA Program.

What advice would you give to persons pursuing a career in public service?

Public service is a challenging but incredibly fulfilling path. My advice is to stay true to your values and find an area you are passionate about. Don't be afraid to forge your own path and find innovative solutions to the problems you encounter - sometimes that means stepping outside of traditional government roles.