



Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration

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Call for Applications: NASPAA NEXT 2026–2027

Building the Bench: Cultivating the Next Generation of Public Service Leaders

NASPAA invites applications for the 2026–2027 NASPAA NEXT cohort, a yearlong leadership development program designed for **early career faculty (Assistant Professors)** in public service education. This initiative supports the 2026–2027 Presidential Vision to **build a bench of leaders** who will shape the future of NASPAA and the field of public service education.

PROGRAM THEME

This theme reflects NASPAA's commitment to strengthening leadership pipelines across generations. Through mentorship, collaboration, and strategic learning, participants will explore how to:

- Develop a plan for a sustainable path to leadership in public service education.
- Foster inclusive and ethical leadership practices.
- Engage with global and intergenerational perspectives.
- Contribute to the future governance and strategic direction of NASPAA.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Duration	October 2026 – October 2027
Format	Four required virtual webinars + in-person panel at NASPAA 2027
Cohort Size	10–15 early career faculty

Key Components

- Orientation at the October 2026 global conference (1 hour)
- Four interactive webinars focused on building leadership pipelines
- Peer learning and cross-institutional collaboration
- Mentorship and leadership development
- **Culminating Experience:** Cohort-led lesson-learned: "What's next" for NASPAA Next 2027 cohort at the 2027 NASPAA Conference in **Kansas City, Missouri**

PROGRAM TIMELINE

October 2026	Kickoff & cohort orientation; co-design webinar series at the Seattle, WA Conference (1 hour), led by Chair Dr. Jill Gordon, Cleveland State University
November 2026	Webinar Series Session 1 — Building the Pipeline
January 2027	Webinar Series Session 2 — Building the Pipeline
March 2027	Webinar Series Session 3 — Building the Pipeline
May 2027	Webinar Series Session 4 — Building the Pipeline
April–May 2027	Planning topic area; convene workshop/charette for the NASPAA Next 2027 cohort
October 2027	Present at NASPAA 2027 Conference — Kansas City, MO

PARTICIPANT EXPECTATIONS

Participants are expected to:

- Attend and actively engage in all four webinars
- Participate in peer learning and activities
- Collaborate with the cohort to design and deliver a charette or workshop at the 2027 NASPAA Conference
- Commit approximately 3–5 hours per month to the program

ELIGIBILITY

- Assistant Professors in their fourth, fifth, or sixth year, or Associate level (recently received first promotion within the last year) at NASPAA member institutions
- Strong interest in future leadership, inclusivity, and innovation in public service education
- Commitment to full participation from October 2026 to October 2027
- Preference will be given to applicants from **small, comprehensive, and minority-serving institutions**

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Submit a single PDF including:

- A statement of interest (max 500 words) outlining your leadership goals and alignment with the call for applications and program requirements
- A current CV

APPLICATION DEADLINE

August 17, 2026

Submit to: Lily Mullen at mullen@naspaa.org

Accepted applicants must attend orientation at the 2026 NASPAA Conference in Seattle, WA