

## **University of Texas at El Paso, MPA**

### **MPA Alumni Profile**

#### **Name of alumni:**

Noah S. Ward

#### **Where are you currently working?**

City of El Paso, Texas

#### **What is your job title?**

Senior Financial Research Analyst

#### **What inspired you to pursue your MPA degree?**

My decision to pursue an MPA degree was inspired by a strong desire to make a meaningful impact on public policy and organizational efficiency. Working in administrative and financial roles, I witnessed how effective public management and resource allocation directly influence community outcomes. I wanted to deepen my understanding of public administration principles to drive positive change in areas like financial stewardship, policy design, and organizational improvement.

The MPA program offered an opportunity to build on my professional experience, refine my leadership skills, and expand my ability to contribute strategically to the public sector.

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

My MPA degree has been instrumental in advancing my career by equipping me with critical tools for leadership, financial analysis, and policy-making. It provided me with a deeper understanding of organizational management, public finance, and strategic planning.

The program also enhanced my ability to address complex challenges in the public sector, such as budget development, process innovation, and stakeholder collaboration. The knowledge and skills gained during my time in the program have allowed me to fulfill my current role with the City of El Paso in the most positive and impactful way, contributing effectively to organizational growth and community impact.

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

What I love most about being an MPA alumnus is the opportunity to stay connected to the program through initiatives like serving on the Alumni Advisory Board. The network established by the MPA program offers alumni a collaborative and engaging environment.

Being part of this network has also provided meaningful collaborations and ongoing learning opportunities. I truly enjoy engaging with other alumni who are passionate about public service and finding innovative ways to create a lasting impact in their communities.

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

My advice to those pursuing a career in public service is to approach it with a mindset of continuous learning, collaboration, and adaptability. Public service is both rewarding and challenging, requiring innovative solutions to complex societal issues while balancing the needs of diverse stakeholders.

Building strong relationships with mentors, peers, and community members can provide valuable guidance and opportunities. Staying focused on creating meaningful impact and aligning efforts with community needs is essential. It's also important to remain resilient and adaptable in a dynamic environment and to continually invest in developing skills like leadership, communication, and problem-solving.

Most importantly, always stay connected to your purpose and the reasons you chose public service. This connection will help maintain your motivation and drive, even through challenges.