ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Haylee Knowles, MPA, ‘18
Executive Assistant Senior, Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Western Michigan University, MI

“I am involved in the planning and facilitation of Integrated Leadership, Provost’s Council, and Academic Forum meetings; this affords me the opportunity to work closely alongside all Vice Presidents/senior executives at the university and provides me with ample experience with decision-making and planning at the highest level of an institution of higher education.”

Jeff Carroll, MPA, ‘14
Chief Administrative Officer, Kalamazoo Gastroenterology Hepatology Digestive Health Center, MI

“I am an administrator responsible for all staff and processes related to quality healthcare delivery. I am responsible for all financial, human resource, compliance, operations, facility, and information technology. Most rewarding: Being involved in all aspects of delivering quality outpatient care. Seeing all the departments, people, and processes come together to deliver effective and efficient care is a joy.”

Ciara Coleman, MPA, ‘15
Program Manager, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, LA

“We work with community partners to address issues in health, education, and economic security. Specifically in my role, I coordinate our grant making activities, which include identifying and vetting new projects, monitoring grant progress, and serving as a liaison amongst community partners and stakeholders.”

Javon Dobbs, MPA, ‘16
Communications Manager, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, MI

“In this role, I contribute to raising awareness and support for the foundation’s mission, vision and priorities through a comprehensive strategic communications program. I’m responsible for implementing a wide range of communications strategies, to support the execution of communications tools, tactics and activities to the foundation’s key internal and external audiences.”

For more information or advising:

Dr. Udaya R. Wagle
Director, SPAA
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Kalamazoo, MI 49008
Phone: (269) 387-8930Fax: (269) 387-8935
wmich.edu/spa

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Over 3,000 alumni have high-impact careers at government and nonprofit organizations.

Academic programs are highly flexible with concentrations and courses designed to meet a variety of student interests and career ambitions.

Courses are taught in varying modalities including face-to-face, hybrid, online, and evenings/weekends to accommodate the needs of busy professionals.

Diversity of students, faculty, and staff enhances learning through professional engagement and networking.

The core faculty has

- Served on committees, commissions, taskforces, and boards for nonprofit and public organizations locally, nationally, and internationally.
- Received research and service grants including from the Fulbright Program, National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, and United Nations.
- Accumulated research and consulting experiences in the United States and abroad.

Established in 1973, the School of Public Affairs and Administration offers accredited and award-winning academic programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels. SPAA programs blend theory and practice in order to prepare students for public service careers in such diverse areas as public management, public policy, nonprofit leadership, human resources, and healthcare.

The MPA is a premier professional degree for those aspiring to impact change in the public, nonprofit, and health care sectors. You will have an opportunity to augment the required interdisciplinary coursework with an application of analytical, managerial, and leadership skills in making decisions in order to address the emerging public service challenges. Its five concentrations prepare you to succeed in a range of public service careers, with an array of elective courses available to meet your professional interests.

Health Care Administration is designed for administrative, executive leadership, or management careers at hospitals, medical facilities, public health agencies, or other specialized health care organizations. Concentration course work: management of health care organizations, health care economics and finance, health care policies and practices, and leadership and supervision.

Human Resources Administration is designed for human resources careers including as human resource analysts, directors, managers, or specialists at nonprofit, public, or even privately-held organizations. Concentration coursework includes: legal and regulatory environment, accounting and finance, human resources administration, and leadership and supervision.

Nonprofit Leadership and Administration is designed for careers at charitable organizations, foundations, or nonprofit management or organizing focusing on arts and culture, community development, education, environment, health care, social services, and event planning. Concentration coursework includes management of nonprofit organizations, marketing and community Engagement, nonprofit accounting and finance, and leadership and supervision.

Public Management is designed for careers in administration, executive leadership, or management across the vast public sector at the federal, state, county, and local governments. Concentration coursework includes: public service management, budgeting and accounting, leadership and supervision, and program evaluation.

Public Policy is designed for careers in programmatic or public policy design, analysis, implementation, evaluation, and advocacy at various government, think tank, or nonprofit organizations regardless of the specific area of focus. Concentration coursework: public policy theory and research, public finance, program evaluation, and quantitative data analysis.

WHAT MAKES US STAND OUT?

Program and Concentrations

- From graduates of 2005-2020

Sample Career Outcomes

- Employment Sectors of MPA Graduates 2013-2018 (N = 184)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National or Central Government</td>
<td>47%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government Outside of the US</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub National Government (Including Hospitals, US &amp; Non-US)</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonprofits</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Sector</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
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Chief Executive Dir., Tri-County Head Start, MI
Chief Executive Officer, WCA of Greater Baton Rouge, LA
City Manager, City of Battle Creek, MI
Comm. Invest. Manager, Kalamazoo Comm. Foundation, MI
Contract Specialist, DTRA, Dept. of Defense, VA
Deputy Budget Dir., Michigan State Senate, MI
Dy. Sheriff, Calhoun County Sheriff Department, MI
Dir. of HR, Banco Lopez de Haro, Dominican Republic
Dir. of HR, Kabul Municipality, Afghanistan
Dir. of Oper. & Comm., Southern Center for Human Rights, GA
Dir. of Program Oper., W.E. Upjohn Inst. for Employment Research, MI
Dir. of Student Life, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, MD
Dir., Michigan Veteran’s Affairs - Calhoun County, MI
Executive Dir., Battle Creek Health Systems, MI
Executive Dir., Boonslick Reg. Planning Commission, MO
Manager of Dev. Finance, Michigan Econ.Develop. Corporation, MI
Manager of Quality Improv., Comm. Behavioral Health, PA
VP of Impact & Engag., United Way of Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region, MI

From graduates of 2005-2020

Kalamazoo Region, MI
United Way of Battle Creek and Comm.
Behavioral Health, PA
Manager of Dev. Finance, Michigan Econ.Develop. Corporation, MI
Manager of Quality Improv., Comm. Behavioral Health, PA
VP of Impact & Engag., United Way of Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region, MI

From graduates of 2005-2020

Director of Program Oper., W.E. Upjohn Inst. for Employment Research, MI
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Chief Executive Officer, WCA of Greater Baton Rouge, LA
City Manager, City of Battle Creek, MI
Community Investment Manager, Kalamazoo Community Foundation, MI
Contract Specialist, DTRA, Department of Defense, VA
Deputy Budget Director, Michigan State Senate, MI
Deputy Sheriff, Calhoun County Sheriff’s Department, MI
Director of Human Resources, Banco Lopez de Haro, Dominican Republic
Director of HR, Kabul Municipality, Afghanistan
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