

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Kathleen Cordes, MPA, 2019
Immunization Registry Training and Document Specialist, Wisconsin Department of Health Services

"I spend most of my time developing new training materials, and then providing immunization registry training to internal staff within the program. The MPA program provided me with the tools and framework to be successful in an ever-changing work environment, public health, and to embrace being on diverse teams. Group projects with classmates, and courses such as quantitative data analysis and organizational growth & development taught me skills I use regularly."



Haylee Knowles, MPA, 2018
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."



Javon Dobbs, MPA, 2016
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 communication strategies, to support the execution of communication tools [and] tactics and activities to the foundation's key internal and external audience."

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MPA)

For Further Information and Contact

Dr. Matthew Mingus
Director of Graduate Programs
matthew.mingus@wmich.edu

or

Dr. Udaya R. Wagle
Director, SPAA
udaya.wagle@wmich.edu

*School of Public Affairs and Administration
Western Michigan University
1903 W. Michigan Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5440
Phone: (269) 387-8932; Fax: (269) 387-8935
wmich.edu/spaa*

Stay connected with us:



A Professional Graduate Degree to
Lead and Manage Change in the Public,
Nonprofit, and Health Care Services



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
School of Public Affairs
and Administration

WHAT MAKES US STAND OUT?

- ◆ 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 .



SPAA HISTORY

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.

PROGRAM AND CONCENTRATIONS

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 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 administrative, executive leadership, or management careers at hospitals, medical facilities, public health agencies, or other specialized health care organizations. Concentration coursework: 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.

SAMPLE CAREER OUTCOMES

From graduates of 2005-2020

- Chief Executive Dir.**, Tri-County Head Start, MI
- Chief Executive Officer**, YWCA of Greater Baton Rouge, LA
- City Manager**, City of Battle Creek, MI
- Comm Invest Manager**, Kalamazoo Comm Fdn, 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
- Mgr of Dev Finance**, Michigan Econ Dev Corp, MI
- Mgr of Quality Improv**, Comm Behavioral Health, PA
- VP of Impact & Engag**, United Way of Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region, MI

Employment Sectors of MPA Graduates 2015-2020 (N=160)

