



Welcome to the 35th Annual Teaching Public Administration Conference



Welcome to the 35th Annual Teaching Public Administration Conference (TPAC) hosted by The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College. We hope you will find the conference both informative and enjoyable here in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

Among the purposes of TPAC is to offer professors, practitioners and community leaders an opportunity to share experiences and ideas as well as to learn about ongoing research that can inform the policy process and enhance the implementation of public services. The presentations and workshops offer ample opportunities for exchanging ideas, developing new skills, networking and learning about publication opportunities.

The theme of this year's TPAC is "Diversity and Civic Engagement in Teaching Public Administration," and we will have many presentations on these important topics which are related but are often treated as separate considerations. Our keynote speaker will be Dr. John Cook of The University of Texas at Brownsville, who has demonstrated leadership in promoting civil discussion of divisive subjects via the "Difficult Dialogues" initiative.

Enjoy the conference, the friendships, the food and the beauty of South Padre Island. Your support for TPAC and the opportunities this conference offers for professional development are greatly appreciated.

Leland M. Coxe, Conference Chair

Kathie Lennertz, Program Chair



2012 Teaching Public Administration Conference (TPAC)

Diversity and Civic Engagement in Teaching Public Administration

Sunday, May 20

6-8 p.m.

Pre-Conference Reception

for Dr. Margaret Stout and the Journal of Public Affairs Education – Location: Hammerhead Deck

Monday, May 21

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Registration – Location: Second Floor Foyer

8-9 a.m.

Continental breakfast – Location: Second Floor Foyer

9-10:15 a.m.

Workshop

“MPA 2.0: The Integration of Professional Development Skills and Competencies for a Diverse Workforce,” Elaine Ahumada, California Baptist University, and Mark Kling, California Baptist University – Location: Majestic Room

10:15-10:30 a.m.

Break

10:30 a.m. to noon

Workshop

“Best Practices in Public Administration Online Education,” Jalane M. Meloun, Barry University, and K. Kim Loutzenhiser, Troy State University – Location: Royal Room

Noon to 1 p.m.

Lunch breakout

1-1:30 p.m.

Opening Welcome Plenary Session:

Robert Cunningham, University of Knoxville – Location: Paradise and Sabal

1:30-1:45 p.m.

Break

1:45-3:15 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions I

Panel 1:

Innovative Teaching of Public Administration:

“Meeting of the Minds”: Using Classroom Simulations as Pedagogical Tools for Developing Epistemic Learning Communities (ELC), Carlos Figueroa, The University of Texas at Brownsville

“Thought Self-Leadership Teaching: Is There Power in Constructive Thinking?”

Anna Filipova, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

“Through The Wire: How TV Can Influence Teaching and Learning in Public Administration Courses,” Tia Sheree Gaynor-Rouse, Marist College

“Getting the ‘Satisfaction’ Out of Student-Based Course Evaluations: Collecting Data That is Fair and Relevant to the Teaching/Learning,” Process Philip Nufrio, Metropolitan College of New York

Panel Facilitator: Minerva Cruz, Kentucky State University – Location: Majestic Room

Roundtable 1:

“Shaping a Culture of Service Learning in Public Administration: The Partners in Community Leadership Model at James Madison University,” Amanda J. Cleveland, Liliokanaio Peaslee and Nicholas Swartz, James Madison University

– Location: Royal Room

Roundtable 2:

“Public Administration Internships: Preparing Students for the Working World,” Marie Palladini and Theodore Byrne, California State University, Dominguez Hills – Location: Paradise Room

3:15-3:30 p.m.

Transition/Break

3:30-5 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions II**Panel 2:****Curriculum and Civic Engagement:**

“Project-Based Learning (PBL) to Enhance Civic Engagement and Increase Student Success,” Tracey Trottier, Indiana University South Bend

“An MPA Curriculum for Local Governance & Community Development,” Margaret Stout, West Virginia University

“A Multi-Disciplinary Graduate Program in Public Administration: A Possible Solution for Small and Medium Sized Institutions of Higher Education in Times of Cutback Management,” R. Lawson Veasey and Ardie Dial, Jacksonville State University

“Should Social Media be Used to Promote Civic Engagement Among Students or Would It Be Safer to Play With Faulty Firecrackers?” Jalane M. Meloun and K. Kim Loutzenhiser, Troy State University

Panel Facilitator: Diane Kimoto, Grand Valley State University – Location: Majestic Room

Roundtable 3:

“Launching, Enriching, and Sustaining an Online MPA Program: The Cal State San Bernardino Experience,” Jonathan F. Anderson, Montgomery Van Wart, Anna Ni, Kimberly Collins and Marc Fudge, California State University San Bernardino – Location: Royal Room

Roundtable 4:

“What Is the Role of Public Administration/Administrators In The Implementation/Protection/Promotion of Democracy/Democratic Values: A Round Table Discussion,” Fabian Nabangi, Grambling State University – Location: Paradise Room

5:30-7 p.m.

Welcome Reception – Location: Hammerhead Deck

7 p.m. to midnight

Live music at the Quarterdeck

Tuesday, May 23, 2012

7:30-8:45 a.m.

Informal Workshop:

“Career Choices and Dilemmas,” Bob Cunningham, University of Knoxville – Location: Board Room

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Registration – Location: Second Floor Foyer

8-9 a.m.

Continental Breakfast – Location: Second Floor Foyer

9-10:30 a.m.

Plenary Session:

The Challenges of Poverty and Civic Engagement in the Rio Grande Valley

Dr. Marilyn Woods of UTB and TSC

Michael Seifert of Equal Voice Network

Lynette Benavidez of Success by 6

Betsy Price of the UTB and TSC Center for Teaching and Learning – Location: Paradise and Sable

10:30-10:45 a.m.

Break

10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions III

**Panel 3:
Diversity of Context**

“Teaching Spirituality in Public Administration: The Shortcomings of Secularized Faith-based Ministries Regarding Felon Disconnect,” Kenny Hendrickson and Kula Francis, University of the Virgin Islands

“Awareness of Multiculturalism and MPA Students,” Katherine Scheurer and Jason Jensen, University of North Dakota

“Teaching the Changing Faces of Tax and Revenue Policies in Louisiana: A Historical Review of the Audit Reports from 1856 to 2010,” Fabian K. Nabangi, Grambling State University

“Latinos (And Immigrants) in Introductory P.A. Texts; Missing, Maligned, or Appropriately Included?” Christopher Daniel, Kentucky State University

Panel Facilitator: Minerva Cruz – Location: Majestic Room

Roundtable 5:

“The Certified Public Manager (CPM) Program: A Valuable Companion Program for the Masters in Public Administration (MPA) Program,” Howard Balanoff, Texas State University; David Hamilton, Texas Tech University; George Franks, Stephen F. Austin State University; John Milford, University of Texas-Pan American; and Marilyn Balanoff, Texas State University – Location: Royal Room

Roundtable 6:

“Employing the Philosophy of Pragmatism in the Classroom: Eliciting a Range of Views and Perspectives,” Emily Swenson Brock, Aaron Smith-Walter and Fatima Sharif, Virginia Tech – Location: Nautilus Room

12:15-12:30 p.m.

Break

12:30-2 p.m.

Lunch and Keynote:

“Difficult Dialogues” by Dr. John Cook of UTB and TSC – Location: Paradise and Sable

2-2:15 p.m.

Break

2:15-3:45 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions IV

Workshop:

“From Bureaucratic to Cool: Rejuvenating the MPA Classroom,” Tammy Esteves, Troy State University – Location: Nautilus Room

Panel 4:

Civic Engagement and Inclusiveness:

“Joined up Service Learning: When High School and Graduate Students Collaborate to Improve Community,” Thomas Bryer, University of Central Florida

“All Groups Welcome: The Floor is Open for Discussion,” Brandi Blessett, University of Central Florida

“i-Government: Interactive Government Enabling Civic Engagement and a New Volunteerism,” Linda-Marie Sundstrom, California State University, Long Beach

“Civics 101: Whither the State?” Nolan J. Argyle and Lee M. Allen, Valdosta State University

Panel Facilitator: Kathie Lennertz – Location: Majestic Room

Roundtable 7:

“Outcome-Driven Learning (ODL): Valuing Diversity Through the Power of Communication,” Lorne Mulder, Wayne State University, and Diane Kimoto, Grand Valley State University – Location: Royal Room

3:45-4 p.m.

Break

4-5:30 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions V**Panel 5:****Evaluating the Public Administration Curriculum:**

“Outcome-Driven Learning: Developing an Undergraduate Perspective Towards Civic Engagement and Diversity,” Diane M. Kimoto, Grand Valley State University

“An Assessment of the Cultural Competency Assessment Instrument for MPA Students: Identifying and Meeting Needs for Enhanced Cultural Competency,” Thomas Longoria and Nandhini Rangarajan, Texas State University

“Predicting Graduate Success in the MPA: Ethnicity, Professional Service and the GRE,” Charles E. Menifield, Sharon L. Wrobel and Leigh N. Hersey, University of Memphis

Panel Facilitator: Leland M. Coxe – Location: Majestic Room

Roundtable 8:

“Public Managers, Civic Engagement and the Future,” Wilbur Rich, Wellesley College, and Jalane Meloun, Barry University – Location: Royal Room

5:30-7 p.m.

Dinner breakout

7 p.m. to midnight

Live music at the Quarterdeck**Wednesday, May, 23, 2012**

8-9 a.m.

Continental Breakfast – Location: Second Floor Foyer

9-10:30 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions VI**Panel 6:****Rethinking the MPA Curriculum:**

“Reconsidering the Microeconomics Curriculum in Public Administration Education,” Siona Listokin, George Mason University

“Jumping on the Bandwagon: Contemporary Instructional Practices at a Historically Black University,” Kula Francis and Kenny Hendrickson, University of the Virgin Islands

“Preparing Future Public Managers to Effectively Lead Diverse Local Government Organizations and Communities,” Sandra King, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Panel Facilitator: Jessie Melander – Location: Majestic Room

Roundtable 9:

“The Students Talk Back – Assignments and Activities that Promote Deep Learning,” Leland M. Coxe; and UTB and TSC students Osiel Delgado, April Flores, Juliana Ibarra, Luciana Morales-Mendoza, Josefina Rodriguez and Nereida Villarreal – Location: Royal Room

10:30-10:45 a.m.

Break

10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

2013 Conference Planning Meeting – Location: Nautilus Room

DR. JOHN COOK, KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. John Cook is a tenured Associate Professor of Communication at The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College. His courses include Difficult Dialogues for Valuing Diversity, Leadership and Communication, Communication and Conflict Management, Principles of Instruction and Training, Organizational Communication, Advanced Public Speaking, Interpersonal Communication, and Gender and Communication. He was the principle investigator for the Ford Foundation Difficult Dialogues Initiative at UTB and TSC from 2005-2009. Dr. Cook serves as the club sponsor for a service club called the Communication Council.

Dr. Cook is also a motivational speaker and an organizational performance consultant. He has trained over 30,000 executives, managers, supervisors and professionals across the United States and Canada over the past 18 years.

THE CHALLENGES OF POVERTY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY PANEL

LYNETTE BENAVIDEZ

Lynette Benavidez, Early Education Director for the United Way of Southern Cameron County's Success By 6 initiative, brings together community members, business leaders and educators to ensure that all children in southern Cameron County, from birth to 6 years of age, are prepared for school and a life of learning through awareness, access and advocacy.

Benavidez is also an educator, having taught ESL students at Cummings Middle School before joining the United Way effort and a licensed real estate agent with Century 21 DELA Group, Inc.

She is a graduate of The University of Texas at Brownsville with a degree in communication and recently earned her master's degree in public policy and management from the university. She enjoys teaching dance, fishing and regular M&M's.

BETSY PRICE

Betsy Price serves as the Director of the UTB and TSC Center for Teaching and Learning. Price's previous experience includes working with the Winnebago, Omaha and Delaware Tribal schools. She has also administered children and diabetes programs, trained teachers on working for inner city schools as well as schools that have received an influx of Hispanic students. She holds a M.A. from Northern Kentucky University and a B.S. from Wright State University.

MICHAEL SEIFERT

Michael Seifert grew up in Birmingham, Alabama, in the midst of the African American civil rights' movement. After graduating from Catholic University in Washington, DC, with a master's of theology, Seifert moved to Brownsville. For the past 23 years, he has lived and worked in dozens of the Rio Grande Valley's *colonias*. In 1996, he headed up a team that used voter turnout as a key strategy in transforming Cameron Park, the poorest community in the nation (according to Census 2000 and 2010). In 2009, he became the Coordinator for the Rio Grande Valley's Equal Voice Network. Equal Voice presently includes more than forty community-based organizations and counts more than 30,000 Valley residents as allies. Seifert maintains a blog at alongsideaborder.blogspot.com.

DR. MARILYN WOODS

Dr. Marilyn Woods serves as Executive Assistant to the President and works with the President's Staff and Executive Team and other administrators to achieve the strategic goals and objectives of The University of Texas at Brownsville. She coordinates reporting of strategic concerns and reports with The University of Texas System, State of Texas, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Dr. Woods serves as a liaison to help the community to access the services of the campus as needed.

Dr. Woods holds a doctorate degree in communication from The University of Oklahoma, a master's degree in interdisciplinary studies from Texas A&M University at Commerce and a bachelor's degree in communication from The University of North Texas.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank all who have contributed to making TPAC 2012 both an informative and enjoyable experience. The contributions of those who presented research papers participated on panels and moderated breakout sessions are greatly appreciated. We also thank Camilla Montoya and Eddie Woodard from UTB and TSC Creative Services staff for invaluable assistance in imagining how to conduct the conference. Sylvia Soliz and Mayra Nunez of the South Padre Island Convention Center provided tremendous support with the logistics of the conference. Shamina Davis of the UTB and TSC Center for Civic Engagement supported the panel of UTB and TSC students with a Scholarship of Community Engagement (SOCE) grant. Dean Charles Lackey of UTB Graduate Studies supported TPAC with a sponsorship. ME Sharpe is recognized as a long-time supporter and sponsor of TPAC. John Dunning kept the Teaching Public Administration website continuously updated at www.teachingpa.org.

We also thank those who served as peer-reviewers for the papers and presentations submitted to TPAC 2012. The efforts of Carlos Figueroa, Kathy Bussert-Webb, Jessie Melander, Louis Falk, Jangsup Choi, Diane Kimoto, Lisa Dicke and Pamela Gibson as peer-reviewers are greatly appreciated.

We also greatly appreciate the efforts of the staff of Isla Grand Beach Resort Hotel, especially Shirley Donahue and Patricia Blancas, for providing the facilities and expertise to conduct this conference.

Leland M. Coxe, Conference Chair, TPAC 2012

Kathie Lennertz, Program Coordinator, TPAC 2012



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