

University of Texas at El Paso

MPA PROGRAM

NASPAA Accredited: The Commission on Peer Review & Accreditation

SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER



WELCOME STUDENTS, ALUMNI, & FRIENDS!

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By Andrea P. Trillo B.A.

The Master of Public Administration Program is pleased to share this newsletter to update everyone about the latest happenings. It's material that anyone can absolutely pick up and share with others.

We hope this newsletter will become a useful source to share relevant information, updates, and yes, entertainment too. Our MPA program offers a professional education that prepares students for the challenges and opportunities of a career in the management and administration of governmental and non-profit organizations. Established in 1974, the MPA program at UTEP has advanced the careers of students by enabling them to formulate new ideas, implement policies and resolve complex societal issues. The program welcomes students with diverse undergraduate and professional backgrounds who aim to succeed within an ever changing society.

FACULTY NEWS



Luci Rodriguez
Coordinator/Manager

Howdy MPA students! My name is Luci Rodriguez and I'm excited to begin this new career journey with UTEP's MPA Program. I was born and raised here in El Paso but, as I often put it, I ventured off to college and lived on "the other side of Texas" for about 13 years. During that time, I received my BS in Ocean Sciences from Texas A&M University at Galveston and went on to earn my MPSA from Texas A&M University main campus. My goal was to work for an environmental/conservation nonprofit and for a while, I worked for a small Keep Texas Beautiful affiliate—somewhat of a "professional hippie." As luck would have it, I changed career paths and have found a sincere love for working in higher education. My background in higher ed spans over 10 years from being an advisor, a learning assistant, an academic/life coach, and most recently, Campus Engagement Coordinator here at UTEP. The best way to sum me up— I believe that education is equal parts academics and finding one's belonging on campus. I am extremely excited for this new opportunity to be back in the PA realm. I fully believe that students who are drawn to this degree have an innate ability to care about their communities, and our job as a department is to provide you with the skills needed to put care into action and make lasting change. I look forward to assisting each of you with your degree plans, with finding connections on campus and El Paso, supporting the MPASA student organization, and much more!



Dr. Lizely Madrigal-Gonzalez



Dr. Francis C. Spampinato

We are pleased to announce the recent addition to the MPA program. Dr. Lizely Madrigal-Gonzalez is a Program Evaluation Research Specialist for the Research Evaluation and Assessment Services. Dr. Madrigal-Gonzalez has academic knowledge and actual work experience in evaluation design, qualitative and quantitative methods including descriptive and analytical statistics, educational research, policy analysis, student information systems, and data-driven decision making.

Dr. Spampinato brings more than twenty years' experience working as a senior federal contracting official for the Central Intelligence Agency, the Department of Energy, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Dr. Lizely Madrigal-Gonzalez will be teaching Public and Nonprofit Program Evaluation summer I & Dr. Frank Spampinato will be teaching Government Contracting during summer II

EVENTS

Career Services Presentation

Throughout the semester the MPA program along with the Career Center created a series of presentation that helped students transition from school to Work. The Career Services Presentations for 2022 were presented by Moises Buenfil, M.S.

- February 8, 2022: What to do with an MPA?
- February 22, 2022: Transitioning from Classroom to Workforce
- March 8, 2022: LinkedIn Profile
- March 22, 2022: Resume
- April 5, 2022: Interview Preparation
- April 19, 2022: Negotiating a Job Offer



Public Administration (PA) in Action Series



Soomi Lee
February 24th, 2022
Associate Professor



Diana I. Hastings
March 31st, 2022
Executive Director, Underserved
Communities Foundation &
National Association of Latian
Credit Unions & Professionals



George G. Elsaesser
Executive Director
Armed Services
YMCA - El Paso

GIVE A SHOUT OUT!

TO MPA STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



ANDRES LUCERO



ISELA DE ANDA



CLARK HITCHCOCK



ANGELITE ALEMAN



DESIREE TRAVER

CELEBRATING OUR 2022 GRADUATES!

Spring 2022 Graduates

Angelite Aleman

Edgar Arnall

Anthony Haas

Clark Hitchcock

Christopher Holder

Andres Lucero

Humberto Lucero

Joe Palacios

Desiree Traver

Carlos Guzman

Public Administration/MPA

Public Administration/MPA

Public Administration/MPA

Public Administration/MPA

Public Administration/MPA

Public Administration/MPA

Public Administration/MPA

Public Administration/MPA

Public Administration/MPA

Urban And Regional Planning Certificate

PROGRAM NEWS

MPASA

DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN JOIN THE MPA STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The University of Texas at El Paso Master's of Public Administration program provides professional education for students interested in serving the public through the public and nonprofit sectors. Some flexibility in curriculum is permitted to meet the diverse educational needs of pre-service and in-career students, and career-changing students. The purpose of the Master of Public Administration Student Association (MPA SA) is to support the educational advancement and professional endeavors of MP A students. The MP ASA will facilitate partnerships among graduate students, faculty, alumni/ ae and professionals in the field of public administration.

MPASA ADMISSION REOUIREMENTS

- **Must be enrolled in MP A Program or Graduate Certificates (Urban and Regional Planning & Non profit Administration and Governance)**
- **Maintain a minimum of 3.0 GPA**
- **\$20 annual membership fee**
- **Student should not be on any disciplinary or scholastic probation**
- **Be an active member of the organization**

Scan to the code to get
more information of the
MPASA



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Mr. Christian A. Lopez



Graduate from UTEP
December 2021

Hometown:
El Paso, TX

What is your job title?

Civic Empowerment Coordinator

What is your favorite thing about the MPA Program?

My favorite things about the MPA program would have to include the flexibility, curriculum, and sense of belonging. I worked full time throughout my graduate experience and I never sensed a conflict between my career and the demands of the program. I also love how cohesive the MPA program's curriculum can be for those seeking to complement their graduate degree with certificates to help broaden students' education and marketability. Lastly, it was a great feeling stepping into each course knowing that my fellow colleagues all had ambitions to serve the public in whichever capacity they felt most passionate about.

What inspired you to pursue your MPA degree?

My sheer desire and drive to pursue a higher education that would help shape the long term impact that I hope to make. I started my career in the private sector and once I got exposed to the work and passion behind the public agencies in our community, I never looked back.

How has your MPA degree helped you in your career?

Joining the MPA program really expanded my view of the public sector and encouraged me to pair my academic education with tangible work experience in both nonprofit organizations and local government. The degree gave me the foundational knowledge and experience to advance my career in the Economic and Community Development departments with the City of El Paso, TX, while also expanding my ability to effectively serve the nonprofit community through professional volunteerism and board governance.

What do you love about being a UTEP alumni?

Like many, being born and raised in El Paso naturally brought about a sense of pride in our local university. I'm proud to be a part of such a powerful alumni base and even more proud to have graduated from UTEP with the graduate degree that has truly shaped the trajectory of my career in public service.

What advice would you give to incoming students?

Be purposeful in the education you decide to pursue, don't wait for graduation to gain relevant/professional experience in your field, and value the like-minded connections you make during your time as a student. Collegiate studies are a serious financial and timely investment; make the absolute best of it and never take it for granted.