WELCOME STUDENTS, ALUMNI, & FRIENDS!

By Andrea P. Trillo B.S.

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. We will go over some program news such as the Public Administration in Action Series, a message from our Program Director Dr. Boyer, and our Alumni Spotlight.
A Message from Our Director:

We are grateful to return to some level of normality after all of the educational disruptions caused by the COVID-19 outbreak. We are also very lucky to be joined by our Program Coordinator/Manager, Maria Llamas. We have had great enrollments this past summer and fall and we are excited to celebrate the graduation of 8 MPA students and 2 graduate certificates in December of 2021. Our graduates continue to serve our community, and communities across the U.S., through public service. This past semester we also saw the reestablishment of our alumni advisory board, a group of exceptional professionals who are advising on our program on community outreach, internship and job placements for our students, and student recruitment. This past fall we also saw the establishment of a Public Administration in Action Series, led by Dr. Andonoska, which further strengthens our connections with our community and our ongoing efforts to match theory with practice. We also established a virtual workshop series, in collaboration with UTEP’s Career Services office, to offer practical skills in career planning for our students and alumni. Our MPA faculty continue to be active in research, including presentations at some of the largest research conferences in our fields, including the Association of Public Policy and Management (APPAM), the Northeast Conference on Public Administration (NECoPA), and the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA). We look forward to celebrating the end of the semester and our December graduates at our Winter holiday party, and we look forward to seeing you soon.
CELEBRATING OUR 2021 GRADUATES!

SPRING & SUMMER 2021 GRADUATES

Karen White
Brenda Riddick
Heroides Aguirre
Michael Bass
Maribel de la Huerta Hidalgo
Gregory Elderkin
Brandon Fairbanks
Kenia Guerrero
Anderson Jarvis
Amerika Jayme
Grant Lawrence
Erin Magee
Sylvia Muro
Sergio Venegas
Darryl Wayne
Miguel Garcia

Fall 2021 Graduation Candidates

Yusuf Adenusi
Javier Aguilar
Cristian Botello
Quintin Kinnard
Christian Lopez
Argelio Navarro
Rocio Nevarez
Ethel Tellez
Brenda Riddick
Nayeli Torres

Urban and Regional Planning Certificate
Public Administration/MPA
Meet the MPA Faculty

Ljubinka Andonoska
Assistant Professor

Bradley Stewart Chilton
Professor

John Bretting
Associate Professor

J. Scott McDonald
Professor

Art Jaime
Adjunct Faculty

Maria Picard-Ami
Adjunct Faculty

Carlos Olmedo
Adjunct Faculty

Sergio Peña
Faculty of Instruction
DID YOU KNOW WE OFFER TWO GRADUATE CERTIFICATES?

Certificate in Urban and Regional Planning

This certificate program is aimed at professionals with bachelor or master degrees who wish to enhance their knowledge and skills in the area of Urban and Regional planning and students that are in the MPA Program or other master/doctoral programs who wish to incorporate a certificate in their graduate degree program. The certificate provides them with core knowledge in economics, demography, law and administration, and the technology (such as GIS) necessary for planning activities.

Certificate in Nonprofit Administration and Governance

This certificate is designed to provide practical training to nonprofit leaders whose first interests are core fundamentals of management and leadership in the nonprofit sector. This graduate certificate is ideal for professionals with bachelor or master degrees who wish to enhance their knowledge and practical skills in the area of nonprofit management, program evaluation, governance, policy and other related issues applicable to the nonprofit sector.

For more information visit www.utep.edu/graduate
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (PA) IN ACTION SERIES

Jorge Rodriguez
September 16, 2021
El Paso Fire Department Assistant Fire Chief of Emergency Management & Special Operations

Laura Ponce
October 7, 2021
Executive Director for Project BRAVO

Robert Cortinas
October 21, 2021
Deputy City Manager of Support Services & Chief Financial Officer for the City of El Paso

Tracy J. Yellen
November 4, 2021
CEO of the Paso del Norte Community Foundation, El Paso, Texas

Erik Alda
December 2, 2021
College of Sciences and Humanities, Criminal Justice, School of Behavioral and Social Sciences, Marymount University, Arlington, VA.
The University Career Center has a number of great resources that can help you explore career options that align with your interests and values. They ask that you connect with them more directly by scheduling a time to speak with your college representative. They are working in person but can still meet with you virtually, so email them at careers@utep.edu or call at 915-747-5640.

You will find that if you connect with the University Career Center early in your academic studies, you will benefit greatly from the various services and resources that they have to offer. You can also reach out directly to their professional staff member assigned to your college and schedule a one-on-one appointment or career advising.

Be sure and follow them on social media: @UTEPCareers
Advisory Board Committee Members

MPA Class of 2013- Cassandra Hernandez
MPA Class of 2016- Frank Hernandez
Paulina Lopez
Dennis Reglen
Jorge Rodriguez
MPA Class of 2017- Andrea Carrillo
MPA Class of 2020- George Elsaesser
Diana Hastings
MPA Class of 2021- Sergio Venegas

Advisory Board Objectives:

- Increase Student Recruitment
- Enhance our MPA Curriculum/Courses
- Plan effective ways to engage our MPA students and alumni
- Provide or forward internship, volunteer, or job opportunities for our MPA students and alumni

Do not forget to follow us on LinkedIn!
Dr. Gary Edens graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso with a Master of Public Administration in 1994. He is currently working at the university as the Vice President for Student Affairs. He was born in Phoenix Arizona, his father was in the military which caused him to move a lot growing up but has now lived in El Paso for 40+ years and considers it his home.

- **What inspired you to pursue your MPA degree?**
  A mentor recommended that I continue my education. I was working at UTEP and becoming much more engaged in the administrative functions of the university. Areas like budgeting, organizational dynamics, and staff management were becoming commonplace work responsibilities and I felt that an MPA degree would benefit me as I continued in my career.

- **How has your MPA degree helped you in your career?**
  A master’s degree was an essential credential in my career. My MPA degree qualified me for higher-level positions and opened the doors to opportunities that I never knew existed. I appreciated the foundational training that I received in my courses and still value the network of friends that I made while in the program.

- **What do you love about being UTEP alumni?**
  As an alum (and employee) of UTEP, I love that the university has stayed committed to providing high-quality educational opportunities to all students. The inclusiveness of UTEP’s mission ensures that everyone willing to put in the work can get an education and pursue their personal and professional dreams.

- **Is there anything else you wish to share about your experience at UTEP? Or as UTEP alumni?**
  UTEP’s growth and the quality of educational programs have truly been impressive. I’m so grateful to the faculty for always staying true to the institution’s mission of access and excellence. I know that great things are in UTEP’s future.

To Learn more about Dr. Gary Edens Accomplishments visit [https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/](https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/)