

## Academic Award in Memory of Stephen B. Sweeney



MARC HOLZER

*ICMA's Academic Award is presented to an academic leader or institution that has made a significant contribution to the formal education of students pursuing careers in local government. This year, ICMA presents the award to Marc Holzer, professor and chair of the Graduate Department of Public Administration at Rutgers University–Newark.*

With multifaceted contributions over almost four decades, Marc Holzer, professor and chair of the Graduate Department of Public Administration at Rutgers University–Newark, has played a vital role in the formal education of students pursuing careers in the local government profession.

After receiving his MPA in 1967 from the Institute of Public Administration at the University of Michigan, Professor Holzer worked at the municipal level in Flint and Ann Arbor while earning his doctorate at Michigan. Beginning in 1971, he taught in and administered the MPA program at John Jay College in New York City. In 1989 he moved to Rutgers University, where he has continued to play a key role in the MPA program, has served as chair of the Graduate Department of Public Administration, and has founded a doctoral program with a substantial emphasis on local government. Under his direction, national rankings of the MPA program at Rutgers have risen sharply. At both John Jay and Rutgers he pioneered curricular development of productivity and performance courses for local government. In 1998 he received the National Teaching Award from the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration. In 2000 he received the Charles H. Levine Memorial Award from the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA).

A National Academy of Public Administration Fellow, Professor Holzer has developed and disseminated innovative local govern-

ment curricula and teaching tools through publications in the *Public Administration Review*, *Journal of Public Affairs Education*, and *Public Performance and Management Review*, which he founded in 1975 and for which he has served as editor in chief for three decades. In 1980 he cofounded the Public Administration Teaching Roundtable.

Among Professor Holzer's contributions to local government are the conceptual frameworks he built for productivity and performance improvement, which have appeared in some two dozen books and monographs and in scores of articles. He has developed the most sophisticated e-government evaluation tool in the field and used it (in partnership with Sungkyunkwan University in Seoul, Korea) to evaluate and rank 100 cities worldwide. Results of the first survey, *Digital Governance in Municipalities Worldwide*, were published in 2004 by the U.N. Division of Public Administration, and a second worldwide survey is under way. His book *Building Good Governance: Reforms in Seoul* (2002) made a unique performance improvement model available in English for U.S. practitioners, and much of his research on American local government is now available in Mandarin through a publications program he established in China.

In 1970 Professor Holzer founded (and continues to direct) the National Center for Public Productivity. The center has undertaken evaluation and research projects; developed and published curricular material; conducted

local government innovation conferences in several major cities; and organized workshops and panels for local government practitioners both regionally and nationally as well as in such countries as Russia, China, South Korea, Australia, Indonesia, and Spain. Recently, its faculty and students have been involved in an online Certificate in Public Performance Measurement project, with an emphasis on citizen-driven government performance; a public performance measurement reporting system that will present community indicators on the basis of available data; and development of a model Web-based permit process tracking system for Newark.

Through ASPA, since the early 1970s, Professor Holzer has organized workshops and seminars for local government professionals and faculty in the United States and abroad, most recently in China, South Korea, and Jamaica. As ASPA president (2000–2001), he emphasized conferences, networks, publications, and Web-based resources; in 2001 he brought ASPA's national conference to Newark, showcasing the city and the Rutgers campus to more than 1,600 practitioners, faculty, and students. He has served as chair of ASPA's Training Committee, chair of the Section on Management Science (now Public Performance Management), editor of the ASPA Classics, and president of the New York Metro and Ann Arbor (student) chapters. He helped reestablish the Lower Hudson Valley chapter and reorganized the Northern New Jersey chapter.

Through his research, publications, and tireless activities within the profession, Professor Holzer has made a lasting impact on the field of public administration and public affairs. ■