


Virginia Tech's Role in Preparing Virginia's Local Government Leaders and Managers

DR. STEPHANIE DAVIS



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Center for Public Administration and Policy

Academic Programs:

- Masters of Public Administration
- PhD in Public Administration/Public Affairs
- Graduate Certificate in Local Government Management
- Graduate Certificate in Public and Nonprofit Financial Management
- Graduate Certificate in Homeland Security

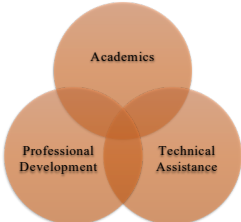
Locations: Richmond, National Capital Region, Blacksburg

- ◆ CPAP has been ranked in the top 40 nationally in public management/administration by U.S. News & World Report, out of nearly 300 schools.
- ◆ Virginia Tech has been ranked 15th in the 2015 Best Value Schools ranking of the 50 most innovative public service schools in the United States.
- ◆ The MPA program is NASPAA accredited. NASPAA accreditation recognizes that a master's degree program in public policy, affairs, or administration has undertaken a rigorous process of peer review.



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Certificate Program Model



Academics

Professional Development


Technical Assistance



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Graduate Certificate in Local Government Management


- **Academics**
 - Target Audience: Employees in local government; MPA students
 - Approximately 60 students each year
 - Four courses; 12 credit hours
 - Local Government and the Professional Manager
 - Finance, Human Resources, and Performance Management
 - Economic Development and Planning
 - The Local Government Organization and Service Delivery
 - Certificate courses are master's level; all 12 hours can be applied to the MPA degree
 - Graduated over 300 students in 10 years
 - Financial assistance available to local government employees
 - Award winning program - Stephen B. Sweeney Academic Award (ICMA)
 - Faculty: Visiting Professor of Practice, Dr. John Nalbandian; adjunct faculty



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Keeping Our Program Current


- **Partnership:**
 - Virginia Chapter of American Planning Association
 - Urban and Regional Planning Faculty at Virginia Tech
 - The Certificate Program



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New Course

- **Planning Administration - Summer 2020**
 - *Chris Lawrence, Instructor*
- Leadership best practices and the skills of the planning manager. Planning office organization and operations. Legal context for planning. Politics and planning. Visioning and goal setting. Partnerships and collaborations. Stakeholder management and conflict resolution. Data, analytics, and information technology in planning.
- Added as a optional course substitution for the Local Government Certificate Program



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Real World Opportunities for Students

- How can we introduce students to real world examples and give them an opportunity to build skills applicable to local government?
 - Studio Projects
 - Technical Assistance Projects
 - Internships

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Studio Projects

- Fall 2018 - Wythe/Grayson Regional Library Update to Personnel Policies
 - *Resolution from Library Board

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Studio Projects

- Spring 2020 - Hillsville, Buchanan and Patrick County Economic Development Plans- Peter Huber

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Graduate Certificate in Local Government Management

• *Technical Assistance Program – providing real world experience to students*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pay Plan Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town of Pearisburg Town of Vinton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Council/Board Orientation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town of Amherst County of Madison
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town of Ashland Town of Amherst County of Amherst 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> County of Amherst Local Government Management Subscription Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asynchronous Webinar Series on Virginia Local Government Management topics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital Improvement Plan Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town of Pulaski Town of Abingdon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town of Glade Spring Budget Assessment for CPOA Budget Award <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town of Strasburg

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Internships

- Providing opportunities for pre-career students to work in Virginia's local governments

Town of Pearisburg Montgomery County	Town of Calpeper Town of Blacksburg
Roanoke County Town of Christiansburg	Roanoke City
Town of Pulaski	*Pending VML/VACO Finance

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Academic Research

Journal Article

- Overcoming Inter-Local Competition through Revenue Sharing Infrastructure Agreements - State and Local Governmental Review - Under Review

Abstract

Traditional economic development at the local level has been characterized as competitive with local governments competing with each other to limit the most big business in their locality. This approach has created more losers than winners leading local governments to try other approaches to build a sustainable economic development program in their localities and within their regions. State-level policies that encourage inter-local cooperation serve as policy tools and incentives to support local governments and this paper details two success stories in interlocal cooperation using revenue sharing agreements and regional infrastructure agreements. In order to bridge the urban-rural divide, creative approaches to economic development, job growth and building a better quality of life for citizens must be considered.


Chapter Submission in Online Book

- Vibrant Virginia: Engaging the Commonwealth to Expand Economic Vitality - Chapter Submission - Regional Collaboration in Virginia - Calendar Year 2020

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How can we connect with Undergraduates?


- Advisory Board for Graduate Education/ICMA
 - Undergraduate Committee
 - How to target the undergraduate level



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Graduate Certificate in Local Government Management


- Connecting with Undergraduates
 - “Local Government Administration” - First new offering in local government management at Virginia Tech - Junior level course;
 - Buddy Managers for each student in the class;
 - Guest Speakers for classes - **Are you interested?**



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VT ICMA Student Chapter

- Joint Student Chapter with Radford University




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Graduate Certificate in Local Government Management

- Professional Development
 - ICMA Student Chapter
 - VLGMA Winter Conference Student Participation
 - Free Membership to ICMA
 - VT Affiliate Member of the Alliance for Innovation
 - One of only four universities nationally to be a part of the Alliance
 - Students have access to Alliance resources for work and course assignments

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VLGMA Winter Conference 2019

Over 20 students (majority VT students) attended the VLGMA Winter Conference in Staunton, VA in February. Each student was paired with a VLGMA member “buddy” and engaged in a variety of sessions and activities.

All Certificate courses were cancelled (one day only) to encourage student attendance.





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VLGMA/Bob Stripling Scholarship

- Funded by individual manager donations and private businesses;
- Davenport, Inc; VACO/VML Finance, VML Insurance Program, VACORP Insurance Program, Virginia Association of Counties, Virginia Local Government Management Association, Virginia Municipal League, Draper Aden, Wiley and Wilson;
- Scholarship Committee oversees distribution of funds;

THANK YOU!



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Professional Development Partnership with VGFOA

- Professional Development
 - Virginia Government Finance Officers Association (VGFOA) Professional Development Contract
 - Faculty/CPE provide 5 one-day workshops annually to members
 - Regional Offerings: Richmond, Roanoke, Abingdon, Newport News, Arlington
 - Southwest Budget Conversations
 - Regional Budget/Finance Meetings in Abingdon targeted to Southwest local governments
 - March 8 - Budget Conversation Workshop - over 35 local governments (managers and finance directors) in attendance
- Established first New Finance Director and Staff Orientation Program
 - First offering in January 2020
 - Second class - September 2020 - two days in Roanoke
- Established First GFOA Student Chapter in Nation

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VGFOA FY20/21 Draft Contract Planning

Month	Description	Type of Event/Location
April 16, 2020 Thursday	Financial Resiliency	Newport News
May 6-8, 2020	VGFOA Conference	Norfolk
June 10, 2020 Wednesday	Conflict of Interest, Freedom of Information, Virginia Procurement Act, Human Resource Management	Richmond
September 20 and 21, 2020 Monday and Tuesday	New Finance Director and Staff Orientation	Roanoke
October 14-16, 2020	VGFOA Conference	Richmond
November 5, 2019 Thursday	Budgeting for Outcomes	Arlington
January 12, 2019 Tuesday	Working Collaboratively; Regional Infrastructure Agreements, Revenue Sharing Agreements	Abingdon

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GFOA Student Chapter Kick-off Event



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Certificate Program Strategic Goals

- Strengthen Virginia Tech's relationship with local governments in Virginia in fulfillment of its land grant mission and motto "Ut Prosim"
 - Continue to provide professional and academic programs to support excellence in local government
 - Expand technical assistance and research
 - Provide meaningful internship opportunities for students

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New Programming

- Employee Leadership Academy
 - 12 month program - 1 meeting per month
 - Topics:
 - Leadership
 - Strategic Planning
 - Service Delivery
 - Technical Skills
 - Tentative start date September 1, 2020

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Where will the next 10 years take us?

- What can Virginia Tech do to help be a leader in preparing the next generation of local government leaders?
- What does Virginia's local government need from Virginia Tech?

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