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

DR. STEPHANIE DAVIS

Certificate Program Model

Graduate Certificate in Local Government Management

Keeping Our Program Current

New Course

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 rigorous peer review.

Certificate Program Model

- 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

Keeping Our Program Current

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

New Course

- Planning Administration - Summer 2020
  - Chris Lawrence, Instructor
  - Added as an optional course substitution for the Local Government Certificate Program
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

Studio Projects

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

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

Graduate Certificate in Local Government Management

- Technical Assistance Program - providing real world experience to students
  - Pay for Plan
    - Town of Abingdon
    - Town of Christiansburg
  - Executive Development
    - County of Accomack
    - Local Government Management Subscription Service
    - Accreditation Without Limits on Virginia Local Government Management agencies

- Capital Improvement Plan Development
  - Town of Abingdon
  - Town of Pulaski

- Budget Development
  - Town of Glenlake
  - Budget Assessment for GFOA Budget Award
    - Town of Pulaski

Internships

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

Academic Research

- Journal Article
  - Overcoming Inter-Local Competition through Revenue Sharing Infrastructure Agreements - State and Local Government Review - Under Review

Overview

- Traditional economic development at the local level has been characterized as competitive or with local governments competing with each other to land the next big business to the locality. This approach has resulted in achieving limited economic development impacts on local economies with an overall competitive disadvantage for the local communities within the region. Recent approaches that seek to build sustainable economic development models are emerging as a better approach to economic development. These efforts involve the collaborative approach to economic development, small grants and building better quality of life for citizens needs to be considered.

Chapter Overview: In Better Bond

- Local Virginia - Engaging the Community in Economic Vitality - Chapter Submissions - Regional's Vitalities in Virginia - Volume Five 2019
How can we connect with Undergraduates?

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

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?

VT ICMA Student Chapter

- Joint Student Chapter with Radford University

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

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.

VLGMA/Bob Stripling Scholarship

- Funded by individual manager donations and private businesses;
- Scholarship Committee oversees distribution of funds;

THANK YOU!
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, Alexandria
  - Southeast Regional Budget Conversations
  - Regional Budget/Finance Meetings in Abingdon targeted to Southwest local governments
  - 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

VGFOA FY20/21 Draft Contract Planning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Type of Event/Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 16, 2020</td>
<td>Financial Resiliency</td>
<td>Newport News</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 6-8, 2020</td>
<td>VGFOA Conference</td>
<td>Norfolk</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 20 and 21, 2020</td>
<td>New Finance Director and Staff Orientation</td>
<td>Roanoke</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 14-16, 2020</td>
<td>VGFOA Conference</td>
<td>Richmond</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 5, 2019</td>
<td>Budgeting for Outcomes</td>
<td>Arlington</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 12, 2019</td>
<td>Working Collaboratively; Regional Infrastructure Agreements, Revenue Sharing Agreements</td>
<td>Abingdon</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 8, 209</td>
<td>New Finance Director and Staff Orientation</td>
<td>Roanoke</td>
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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

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

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?