



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION & POLICY ANALYSIS (PAPA)

THE PUBLIC VIEW SPRING 2026

*Preparing the next generation of public
service leaders.*

A MESSAGE FROM THE PAPA CHAIR

Thank you for your interest in the SIUE MPA Program. We provide this newsletter each spring to showcase our students and provide program updates. In this issue of our newsletter, we celebrate the commencement of our fall 25 graduates, held in the Vadalabene Center on December 12, 2025. We also recognize our newest members inducted into our Pi Alpha Alpha honor society. Additionally, we highlight the NASPAA reaccreditation site visit which concluded for our program last month.



The SIUE MPA program is built for both seasoned professionals and entry level career enthusiasts. The fully online and asynchronous formats of our core and elective offerings allow working professionals to complete our degree at times convenient for them. The flexible grid system by which we schedule allows students to complete our degree in as little as 12 months. Our popular internship program provides tuition waivers and a monthly stipend for qualifying students who wish to gain practical, applied work experience while earning their degree. Our program continues to be well-respected in the local community and region for the many opportunities we provide in public administration and policy education.

Our website provides an overview of our concurrent degrees, our accelerated combined degree with Political Science, and our post baccalaureate certificate in professional leadership strategies. It also lists course schedules, faculty contact information as well as an array of student resources. Please visit our website siue.edu/papa and stay connected with our program. We appreciate your continued support and for valuing the important work that we do. If you are an alumnus of our program, please reach out to us at mpaprogram@siue.edu and ensure we have your contact information. We look forward to hearing from you.

Stay informed and connected by visiting our
website at siue.edu/papa



DEPARTMENT FACULTY

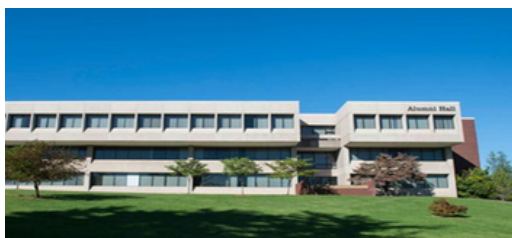
Nancy Huyck, DPA
Professor/Chair

Drew Dolan, Ph.D.
Professor/Program Director

Andrew Wesemann, Ph.D.
Associate Professor/Internship
Director

Morris Taylor, Ph.D.
Associate Professor

John Foster, Ph.D.
Associate Professor



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"Public service must be more than doing a job efficiently and honestly. It must be a complete dedication to the people and to the nation."

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Drew Dolan

The PAPA Department is pleased to recognize Dr. Drew Dolan, recipient of the 2026 SIUE Graduate Faculty Mentor Award for his sustained commitment to graduate student success.

Since joining SIUE, Dr. Dolan has served as a tenured professor and in several key leadership roles, including Department Chair, Internship Director, and currently as Program Director and primary academic advisor for all graduate students in the MPA program. In these roles, he has played a central part in guiding students from their initial entry into the program through course sequencing, internships, comprehensive exams, and ultimately into professional careers in public and nonprofit service.

Dr. Dolan's mentoring philosophy emphasizes holistic development, scholarly rigor, and professional preparation. Students regularly benefit from his individualized advising, where he helps them clarify career goals, navigate academic challenges, and identify opportunities for internships, applied research, and professional engagement. His mentorship extends beyond coursework, frequently including detailed feedback on research projects, preparation for comprehensive examinations, and guidance on translating graduate training into successful career pathways.

Over multiple cohorts of students, Dr. Dolan's mentoring has contributed to a graduate program culture characterized by accessibility, professionalism, and strong analytical standards. He encourages students to engage with professional networks, participate in conferences, and develop research projects that address real-world policy challenges. Many graduates continue to seek his advice after completing the program, reflecting the lasting relationships he builds with students and the enduring impact of his mentorship.

The 2026 Graduate Faculty Mentor Award recognizes faculty who demonstrate exceptional commitment to mentoring graduate students and advancing graduate education. Dr. Dolan's selection for this honor reflects not only his individual dedication to students but also his broader contributions to the strength and success of the department's graduate program. His commitment to guiding students as emerging public service professionals exemplifies the values of mentorship and leadership that define SIUE's graduate education mission.

Dr. Dolan will be formally recognized at the SIUE Graduate School Awards Reception in Fall 2026.

NASPAA RE-ACCREDITATION

PAPA is especially grateful to the students, alumni, community partners, faculty, staff, and university leadership who participated in meetings, shared their experiences, and provided thoughtful perspectives on the impact of our MPA program.

The Department of Public Administration and Policy Analysis at SIUE participated in a site visit to renew our NASPAA accreditation on February 25-27, 2026. The SIUE MPA program participated in this program evaluation organized by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration. COPRA (Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation) is an independent decision-making body for NASPAA accreditation, which oversees the review process to ensure programs meet global standards. COPRA appoints a site visit team to visit qualifying programs and is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) to accredit programs in public and nonprofit policy, affairs, and administration. The PAPA department undergoes this evaluation of our faculty, course design, assessment practices, policies and procedures to maintain this important and prestigious recognition every seven years.

The SIUE MPA program site visit was a success due to the collective efforts of our faculty, staff and students. This year our department had a wonderful turnout of alumni, agency contacts, advisory board members, interns and staff participated in the evaluation. The site team also interacted with SIUE higher administration, administrators from the SIUE graduate school, the Career Development Center, and also other units who partner with the SIUE MPA program. Overall, the members of the review team were impressed with our program and provided positive feedback and numerous commendations regarding our university and graduate program. The PAPA faculty will examine the site visit report soon to review the recommendations of the site visit team. We would like to thank everyone who participated in the site visit on behalf of the MPA program.





PAPA ADVISORY BOARD

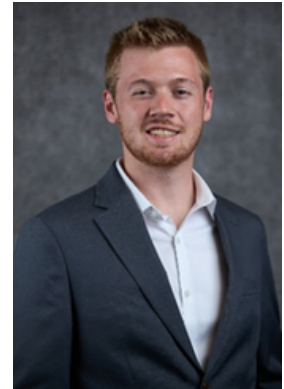
PAPA benefits from the guidance and expertise of its Advisory Board, a group of accomplished professionals representing public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and community partners throughout the region. The board plays an important role in helping the department maintain strong connections between academic preparation and the evolving needs of the public service workforce.

Advisory Board members provide valuable insight on curriculum development, workforce trends, internship opportunities, and professional skill development. Their perspectives help ensure that PAPA programs remain relevant, responsive, and aligned with the real-world challenges faced by today's public and nonprofit organizations. Board members also serve as important ambassadors for the department by supporting student networking opportunities, mentoring emerging professionals, and strengthening partnerships between the university and the broader community.

PAPA is always interested in engaging with professionals who are passionate about public service and committed to supporting the next generation of public and nonprofit leaders. Individuals interested in supporting the future public service leaders are encouraged to contact the department to learn more about Advisory Board membership and partnership opportunities.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Cameron DeWitt, MPA



Cameron is a local government professional serving as Community Development Management Analyst for the City of O'Fallon, Illinois. In this role, he supports city planning, GIS, and data-driven initiatives that inform municipal decision-making and strengthen departmental operations.

He previously served as a Management Analyst and Grants Coordinator in the City's Administration Department, where he supported cross-departmental initiatives related to communications, grants administration, and employee engagement. Cameron holds a Master of Public Administration from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Indiana University, and a Certificate in Planning and Zoning from University of Missouri–St. Louis.

Reflection on personal experience with the MPA program

The MPA program at SIUE prepared me well for my current role by combining practical coursework with meaningful hands-on experience in city administration. The internship component was especially valuable because it allowed me to connect the work I was doing day-to-day with the broader concepts and principles I was learning in the program. Being able to apply those lessons in a real municipal setting helped me better understand how public administration theory translates into practice.

Since graduating, I've come full circle and now support the next generation of public service professionals by supervising interns in the program. Having benefited from that experience myself, I strive to provide interns with meaningful opportunities that help them connect their academic work with the realities of local government and prepare them for careers in government/non-profit leadership.

Local government plays a critical role in shaping the everyday experiences of residents, and the MPA program reinforced my commitment to public service and community-focused leadership. The skills and perspectives I gained through the program continue to influence how I approach my work and how I think about the role of effective leadership, collaboration, and innovation in strengthening communities.

MPA INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Fall 2025 Interns:

- Kimberly Dang, City of O'Fallon, IL
- Kelsi Neudecker, Edwardsville Township
- Peretula Akhamie, Edwardsville Township

Spring 2026 Interns:

- Kimberly Dang, City of O'Fallon, IL
- Anisha Khadka, Edwardsville Township
- Peretula Akhamie, Edwardsville Township

An integral part of the MPA at SIUE is the professional internship program. Through internships, MPA students combine their acquired classroom knowledge with experience in nonprofit organizations, local governments, and various government agencies. In fact, over the past 20 years, MPA interns have supported more than 75 local, regional, and national organizations.

Students attend courses specifically designed for training future public administrators, while performing the functions of a professional intern in specifically selected government and nonprofit organizations across the St. Louis metro region.



The internship program provides MPA students with the opportunity to cultivate their skills and knowledge through applied work assignments. At the same time, organizations benefit from having professionally trained graduate students carry out significant tasks and projects at reasonable compensation rates, with the support of the MPA faculty and staff. Potential internship projects include conducting surveys, writing grants, assessing programs, and working with citizen groups.

Internship placements with local governments in the Greater St. Louis region include Edwardsville Township, IL, the City of Highland, IL, the City of O'Fallon, IL, and the City of Hazelwood, MO. Additionally, nonprofit placements include Feed My People, Jackie Joyner-Kersey Foundation, Alive STL, Monroe County Economic Development Corporation, and Catholic Urban Programs.



For more information, visit our program website by clicking [here](#) or contact Dr. Wesemann (P: (618) 650-3762 | E: awesema@siue.edu)

MPA Graduates

Fall 2025 Graduates:

- Jurnee Brewer
- Kiyende C. Hunt
- Erin Jones
- Jesse Olesen
- Nasko Pelinkaj
- Kristopher Ryan
- Herta Shikapwashya
- Daryl Weldon

Spring 2026 Graduates:

- Sophia Ballard
- Brooke Condon
- Jessica Fannin
- Amya Ferguson
- Tracy Hancock
- Karin Kitson
- William Sander
- Kiarra Springfield
- Tiffani Tillman
- Jennifer Atanasov
- Angel McCain
- Courtnee Warfield



PAPA Degree Options:

Master of Public Administration (MPA)

The (MPA) at SIUE is offered through PAPA and ***can be earned in as little as 12 months***. The MPA program is the largest graduate program in CAS, and the largest MPA program in the region. Our program is designed to develop analytical and administrative skills. While the program is rigorous, it is also sufficiently flexible. The faculty is committed to the highest quality of teaching and works closely with each individual student.

Professional Leadership Strategies Certificate

The post-baccalaureate certificate in Professional Leadership Strategies is designed to prepare administrators for leadership roles in the public and nonprofit sectors at all levels of an organization and has been designed to serve those who have been or will be called upon to serve as leaders in public and nonprofit organizations or in community and regional service activities. The certificate recognizes that leadership is a valuable tool available to all employees at all levels of the organization and is designed to extend the knowledge, skills and abilities of all individuals into the realm of leadership.

Concurrent PharmD/MPA

When taken separately, there are 154 credit hours in the PharmD program and 39 hours in the MPA program. Students in the concurrent PharmD/MPA program will take 144 credit hours in the PharmD program and 24-27 credit hours in the MPA program.

Joint Law/MPA Degree

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and the Southern Illinois University School of Law have joined to offer a JD/MPA program, which allows students to earn both degrees simultaneously with fewer courses, in turn providing enhanced career opportunities for leadership in public agencies and other fields.

PI ALPHA ALPHA

The Global Honors Society for Public Affairs & Administration

Pi Alpha Alpha exists to recognize and promote excellence in the study and practice of public affairs and administration

Pi Alpha Alpha is the Global Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration. There are more than 160 chapters located around the world at NASPAA member schools. Pi Alpha Alpha is run by NASPAA: The Global Standard in Public Service Education and is directed by the NASPAA Pi Alpha Alpha Special Ad Hoc Committee (Committee). Committee members are appointed by the NASPAA President for terms up to three years.

The purpose of Pi Alpha Alpha is to encourage and recognize outstanding scholarship and accomplishment in public affairs and administration. Its objectives, such as fostering integrity, professionalism, and effective performance, promote the advancement of quality in the education and practice of the art and science of public affairs and administration. PAA membership identifies those with the highest performance levels in educational programs preparing them for public service careers.



To join Pi Alpha Alpha, a student must complete 21 semester hours in the MPA Program, including four of the seven core courses with a GPA of 3.67 or higher. Please contact the PAPA office if you believe you qualify and are interested in joining.

"I pledge my support for the intellectual and professional advancement of the art and science of public administration and public affairs. I shall honor and respect the virtues and values of public service and those who serve.

I shall uphold the eternal need for education that imbues public administrators with traditions of democratic governance.

Moreover, as a member of Pi Alpha Alpha, I shall uphold the highest ethical standards applying to public service and will endeavor to encourage and engage in meaningful interaction with other members."

- Pi Alpha Alpha Oath

Fall 2025 Inductees:

- Jeff Korte

Spring 2026 Inductees:

- Jennifer Atanasov
- Jessica Fannin
- Kiara Springfield
- Courtnee Warfield
- Benedict Kaminski
- Tiffani Tillman

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION & POLICY ANALYSIS

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Summer 2026:

- May 11 May Session begins
- May 25 Memorial Day Holiday
- May 29 May Session ends
- June 1 Summer Term begins
- June 6 Weekend classes begin
- June 19 Juneteenth Holiday
- July 3 Independence Day Holiday
- August 8 Summer Term ends
- Note: No weekend classes July 4-5.

Fall 2026:

- August 24 Fall classes begin
- September 7 Labor Day Holiday
- November 23-29 Thanksgiving Break Holiday
- December 14-18 Final Exams
- December 18-19 Commencement

STUDENT RESOURCES

- For semester course offerings, please click [here](#).
- For more information about the SIUE MPA program or partnership opportunities, visit siue.edu/papa.
- Engage with SIUE's Career Development Center to maximize your professional and career development by clicking [here](#).
- Free, virtual, individual counseling from a counselor that fits your unique needs via [TimelyCare](#).
- Walk into the [SIUE Counseling Services](#) office or call them at 618-650-2842 to schedule a behavioral health consultation.

