

Michigan Capital
Area Chapter of The
American Society for
Public Administration

Mid-Michigan's Voice for
Public Service
Since 1951



PA Forum

A Journal of the Michigan Capital Area Chapter of ASPA

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University Center at Lansing Community College

By MiCAP Board

Lansing Community College has for more than 50 years been recognized as a respected higher education leader in many fields of study. The community has depended on the college to deliver close, convenient and cost-conscious choices for an associate degree, certificate, career training/re-training or the first two years of a bachelor's degree. And, the college has delivered on that promise to at least 500,000 students who are now our alumni.

Today, LCC and six four-year universities are in a partnership to bring even more high-demand educational opportunities to mid-Michigan with the debut of the University Center at Lansing Community College. The six partner universities are: Ferris State University, Lawrence Technological University, Northwood University, Siena Heights University, University of Michigan-Flint, and Western Michigan University.

The University Center provides convenient opportunities to earn a bachelor's degree or master's degree on LCC's Downtown Campus. More than 40 degree options are available to students with course instruction provided by outstanding faculty from each institution.

The University Center gives you the opportunity to complete a four-year or advanced degree in Lansing. You don't have to leave your job, your family, or your community to have access to major universities. The University Center increases access for high school students, young adults, and adult learners many degree granting options.

Additionally, current LCC students can seamlessly transition to convenient, flexible, and market-driven programs in one location. Students can also enjoy smaller class sizes, high quality programs, instruction and support services such as access to a library, computers, counseling and advising.

The University Center at LCC benefits the region's economy by increasing the number of people with college degrees. It is located at the corner of North Capitol and Shiawassee Street in Lansing, adjacent to LCC's Downtown Campus. An artists rendering of the new facility is shown on page 2 of this newsletter.

Source: <http://www.lcc.edu/uc>
1/7/07

Join MiCAP Today!

Member benefits include:

- Networking with, and learning from, mid-Michigan's public service leaders
- Invitations to seminars and workshops
- Enhance your professional development through your relationship with a professional association
- Future opportunities to apply for mini-grants to support public service research

Go to:

www.aspanet.org
for a membership application!

“Meet and Greet”

By MiCAP Board

With the cooperation of program leadership at The University Center, on the campus of Lansing Community College, the MiCAP board is coordinating an opportunity for students from all partner schools to learn more about the benefits of becoming a member of The American Society for Public Administration (ASPA). During the event, members of the Michigan Capital Area Chapter of ASPA will be available to discuss the benefits of membership including:

- Networking with, and learning from, public service leaders,
- Enhancing your professional development and career advancement,
- Subscriptions to leading professional journals (i.e. Public Administration Review, State and Local Government Review) to enhance your research,
- Opportunities to submit proposals for mini-grants and/or mini-scholarships,
- And so much more.

Once the details are finalized, they will be posted on the chapter's new Web site (*refer to page 4 of this issue of PA Forum*). The event is tentatively planned for February 2008.

University Center...continued from page 1.



Lending My Voice to Public Service

Education in Personal Finance

By Robert J. Sobie

Recent media headlines have captured the current impact of lending practices and mortgage foreclosures affecting thousands of American families nationwide. These same headlines have shared President Bush's recent actions to mitigate the loss of personal homes due to foreclosure. This condition is not a new phenomena and as in the past will likely result in a loss of tax revenue from devalued property for local governments, many of which are operating from already diminished revenue streams.

For me, reflecting on these headlines posed a clear call for increased educational opportunities in personal financial management. Yes, it's true that predatory lending and the issue of "living on credit" looms large over our state and nation. A contributing concern, however, may be the absence of adequate education to teach current and future consumers how to manage personal finances that include the process of developing and monitoring a budget that tracks and forecasts both long-term and short-term cash flow and consumption.

The inclusion of personal financial management in our K-12 education system, for example, may incrementally begin to counter the vicious cycle of spending substantial future earnings today under the faux protection of financial invincibility. The notion of invincibility is especially problematic given the influences of a local, state, regional, or global economy that consistently seek the lowest resource and labor costs for producing goods and services. As a result, sustainable employment and earning levels are anything but certain. This condition is likely to result in an increased demand for emergency (short-term) or transitional (long-term) shelter from already cash-strapped non-profit agencies like the City Rescue Mission of Lansing or the SIREN/Eaton Shelter (Charlotte).

If a contributing factor to personal financial failure, regardless of the age of the consumer, is a general lack of adequate personal financial learning, then my call to the public sector is to incorporate personal finance instruction within our local K-12 educational system. If we teach biology, I believe we must also teach budgeting. If we teach health education and physical fitness, we must also teach financial education and fiscal fitness. Without this knowledge, it's likely that many of our youth will be ill-prepared for the stressful demands of personal fiscal responsibility and are likely to perpetuate the cycle of personal financial failure.

Opponents of yet another change in K-12 curriculum and measuring student achievement may prefer to place the responsibility of financial learning solely on parents. Without question, active parental involvement is necessary to nurture young minds about earnings, borrowing, and consumption. Over reliance on the role parents must play in this effort may create a false expectation that adequate learning will occur at home. Just as our children have difficulty understanding the importance of budgets and fiscal decision-making, many parents have the same difficulty. This seems clear enough from media reports highlighting foreclosures, bankruptcies, and personal dependence on credit for basic needs.

My suggestion to holders of elected or appointed office is to make your time in office memorable and develop new educational requirements and opportunities that foster greater learning about another aspect of real life, personal financial management.



Happy
New Year

MiCAP is on the Web

By MiCAP Board

That's right! MiCAP developed and implemented a new Web site in January 2008. You can access the site by pointing your computer to: www.mipaforum.org. Although parts of the Web site are still under construction, MiCAP's presence on the Web provides a useful resource for members to access our newsletter archives, identify contact information for board members, view a schedule of board meetings, and it serves as a marketing and collaboration tool.

Considering that the Web site will undergo frequent updating of content, please consider providing some critical feedback about the overall quality and value of the site and any suggestions for the site's on-going improvement.

www.mipaforum.org



A Profile of the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy University of Michigan

By MiCAP Board

The Ford School began in 1914 as the Institute of Public Administration. It was founded as part of the Progressive-era movement for clean government and well-trained professional civil servants. For the first half-century of its existence, the institute focused on training individuals who would serve primarily in state and local government in the United States.

In the mid-1960s, analytic methods from the social sciences began to be applied to the understanding of public concerns. The Institute, which was renamed the Institute of Public Policy Studies, re-designed its curriculum to include rigorous training in the social sciences, particularly quantitative analysis of economic, political, and organizational questions. The focus of faculty research and student training moved to national and international issues.

Ford School...continued from page 4

Recognizing the value of research and education in public policy and the academic excellence of its program, the University of Michigan established the School of Public Policy in 1995. Since achieving this status, the school has been on an expansion track.

The school was renamed in 1999 to honor President Gerald R. Ford, the 38th President of the United States and a 1935 graduate of the University of Michigan. In 2001, the school established joint doctoral programs with the departments of economics, sociology, and political science. Construction of a new home for the school, Joan and Sanford Weill Hall, began in the fall of 2004 and was completed in fall of 2006. In winter 2007, the school began accepting applications for its new junior-senior undergraduate Public Policy degree.

The Ford School offers students a Master of Public Policy, Master of Public Administration, 14 formal Dual Masters Degrees with other U-M schools and departments (along with several other individualized dual degrees), Ph.D. in Public Policy and Social Science (with Economics or Political Science or Sociology), BA in Public Policy, and Graduate Certificates in Science, Technology, and Public Policy.

Teaching faculty includes 41 members, 22 of which are full-time. Tenured or tenure-track faculty includes 27 members of which 18.25 are full-time. Intermittent or adjunct teachers (policymakers, visitors, etc.) consist of 19 individuals. During the 2006-07 academic year, the Ford School had 177 Master’s students and 47 joint doctoral students.

*Source: The University of Michigan: http://fordschool.umich.edu/news/Ford_School_facts.php
11/20/2007*

Call for Papers and Articles

Topics: A broad selection of topics are welcome including common disciplines like governance, strategic planning, leadership, administration and service, public policy, non-profit management, technology, human resources, outsourcing, and case studies.

Authors: Practitioners, theorists, students, consultants, and so on. You don’t need to be a member of the MiCAP Chapter of ASPA (although we encourage you to join) in order to have your paper or article considered for publication. If you are a student, or recent graduate, publication of your article enhances your professional development and resume.

Submission: Citations must follow academically accepted formats (i.e. APA, Chicago, and Harvard styles). Send your articles, in Word or Adobe formats, to gorban@voyager.net

Publishing Schedule:

January	July
March	September
May	November



**Mid-Michigan's
Voice for Public
Service
Since 1951**

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MiCAP Mission Statement

- Advances the art, science, teaching, and practice of public and non-profit administration.
- Promotes the value of joining and elevating the public service profession.
- Builds bridges among all who pursue public purposes.
- Provides networking and professional development opportunities to those committed to public service values.
- Achieves innovative solutions to the challenge of governance.

Contact Us:

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Upcoming Events & Opportunities

- February 2008**
(date pending) **“Meet and Greet” your MiCAP Board Members**
University Center, Lansing Community College
- February 7, 2008:** **Career Fair**
Western Michigan University, Bernhard Center
broncojobs@wmich.edu
- February 13, 2008:** **MiCAP Chapter Board Meeting**
Noon—1:00 p.m.
The University of Michigan—Lansing Service Center
101 S. Washington Square, 7th Floor
- February 19, 2008:** **West Michigan Careerfest**
Grand Valley State University
(616) 331-3311
- March 7—11, 2008:** **ASPA’s 69th Annual Conference**
Dallas, Texas
www.aspanet.org
- April 15, 2008:** **University Student’s Exhibition of Project Papers**
State Capital

**Quick Reference to
Public Service Jobs on
the Web:**

www.PublicServiceCareers.org

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www.mipaforum.org