

# Public Administration Program *Newsletter*

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VSU offers both the Master of Public Administration and the Doctor of Public Administration Programs and both can be completed on-line. An outstanding faculty serves the Public Administration program. In addition to holding a terminal degree in their field, many of the faculty members have practical management experience in public and non-governmental organizations.

### **Application Deadlines**

**DPA: April 15 for Fall Admission**

**MPA: July 15 for Fall Admission, November 15 for Spring Admission, April 15 for Summer Admission**

**To submit information to future newsletters,  
Please click [here](#)**





# Public Administration Faculty Highlights



**Dr. Keith Lee**

Dr. Keith Lee graduated from the Carl Vinson Institute of Government in May as a Certified Public Manager



**Dr. Huiting Qui**

Dr. Huiting Qui was recently published in *Public Management Review*.

.Qui, H., & Ran, B. (2023). Paradoxes in Collaborative Governance. *Public Management Review*.



**Drs. Baracsckay, Bannerjee, Jha, and Glen**

Drs. Daniel Baracsckay, Carol Glen, Neena Banerjee, Nandan Jha, and Sherman Yehl, from the Department of Political Science, on their recently published book entitled *Understanding American Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations: Concepts, Ideas, and Theories*. Each faculty member contributed to the book with much effort and dedication. Dr. Baracsckay served as Editor-in-Chief of the textbook and wrote the introductory chapter as well as a chapter on the fiscal dimensions of intergovernmental relations. Dr. Glen wrote a chapter on legal dimensions and another chapter on homeland security. Drs. Banerjee and Jha co-authored a chapter on the political dimensions of intergovernmental relations, while Dr. Banerjee wrote a chapter on public education and Dr. Jha authored a chapter on collaborative networks. Dr. Yehl contributed a chapter on administrative dimensions of intergovernmental relations. The book is published by the University of North Georgia Press. Dr. Baracsckay notes “The project is an amazing contribution by our program faculty to the field, and will hopefully be something that NASPAA is excited about in the next accreditation cycle.”

## Alumni Highlights



### Dr. Marlon Brown

Dr. Marlon Brown (DPA 2023) recently accepted to serve as acting director of the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs

# Doctor of Public Administration (DPA) Highlights



## April Heyward

April Heyward was recently elected President of the South Carolina Academy of Science for the 2023-2025 term.

## Aurrah Roders

Aurrah Roders became Division Director of the Year for South Carolina Department of Corrections Medical Services. (There are 11 divisions/directors in medical).



## Ethan Johnson

Ethan Johnson was nominated for 2023 Chief of the Year for the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police and for the Commissioner Patrick V. Murphy Award for Leading Change in Policing from The National Policing Institute. Also was elected as the secretary of the Georgia Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators. Ethan recently started a new program called the Coastal Pines Law Enforcement Ambassador Program in which he sends up and coming leaders in our department to other colleges and universities around the state to build their connections and deepen their understanding of our profession. This program runs each summer with 2-4 participants.

# Doctor of Public Administration (DPA) Highlights

## Mack Freeman

Mack Freeman had a book chapter come out in June about building cultures of belonging if it's in scope (it's in the HR lane of public admin, but targeted towards a higher ed library audience):

<https://doi.org/10.4018/978-1-6684-7255-2.ch003>

## Marcia Poulos

Marcia Poulos was promoted on July 1st from Director of Academic Support Services at Albany State University to Director of Distance Learning.



## Mario Carreno

Mario Carreno started a new entrepreneurial project called the "Menu for Success" in which they bought 13 food trucks for high schools across the state. This allows kids to get real world skills in running a business.

[Rhode Island State and School Leaders Host "Menu for Success" Student Food Truck Ribbon Cutting | RI Department of Education](#)

Mario was also the keynote speaker for the 65th Vermont School Facility Director's Annual Conference, and also presented to the Vermont General Assembly as they try and create a school construction program similar to Rhode Island.

[Annual School Custodial Conference | vtsupts \(vtvsa.org\)](#)

# Doctor of Public Administration (DPA) Highlights

## Michael Bleacher

Michael "Bleach" Bleacher was presented with the President's Gold Volunteer Service Award from Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity with over 2000 hours in volunteer service managing a nonprofit organization during the 2022/2023 fraternal year. His religious civic service organization was also recognized with a 4-star award and was the highest rated in the state of Florida during his administration out of over 400 chapters. He is putting his VSU education to good use as he continues to manage other volunteers and programs in this nonprofit space. He is currently working on his dissertation project with the organization while studying their response to various disasters.



## Nathan Willingham

Nathan Willingham recently completed a Housing Study for Vicksburg, MS, and supported EDA proposals for 5 rural communities in places across the country (about \$9M) for technology-based economic development.



## Phenix J. Culbertson

Phenix Culbertson is presenting nationally for National Association of Colleges & Employers. Check out link below for details. Please let me know if you need more info.

<https://www.naceweb.org/professional-development/2023/webinar/virtual-reality-for-interview-training-acceptable-appropriate-and-feasible-for-career-centers/>

# Doctor of Public Administration (DPA) Highlights

## Robin Shader



Robin lead a workshop on September 15 about how Self-Care Isn't Enough: Management Strategies to Reduce Job Stress, Burnout & Turnover.

<https://planfl.org/event/workshop-self-care-isnt-enough-management-strategies-to-reduce-job-stress-burnout-turnover/>

## Selensia Holmes



Selenseia Holmes was just promoted (July 1st) here at VSU from Compliance Officer, to Director of Student Conduct and Title IX. She also serve as Title IX Coordinator for our university.

# Doctor of Public Administration (DPA) Highlights

## Steve Wright



Steve Wright recently completed both the Harvard Kennedy School Public Leadership Credential (August 2023) and the Senior (Government) Executive Institute through the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at UVA (July of 2023). I commenced my current deputy county administrator role in September of 2022.

## Trent Hickman

Trent Hickman recently retired from the US Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) after 31 years of service.



# Master of Public Administration (MPA) Highlights

## Jaqueline Hickman

Jaqueline Hickman has been promoted to an Epic Manager for SGMC.



## Michael Conger



Michael Conger, with the help of the Executive Director and Former Executive Director, he was able to go after and get a grant for the next two years to start a rapid-rehousing program for Camp Rock of Georgia. He will serve as the Program Manager for this new program when I return from Germany in December. It's expected to launch in January 2024.

Camp Rock of Georgia anticipates being awarded \$198,900 per year for the next two years to establish and implement a rapid-rehousing program for youth 18-24, depending on HUD approval, along with young adults in this range with children. The youth we will be able to serve are those homeless (sleeping on the streets or in shelters).