

SECOPA

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

GOVERNMENT INTEGRATORS

Presilience Solutions for Sustainable Development and Regional Stability

PROGRAM BOOK



September 10-13 | Coral Springs, Florida

Ft. Lauderdale Coral Springs
Marriott Hotel and Convention Center



2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

About SECoPA and its Hosts

The Southeastern Conference for Public Administration (SECoPA) facilitates the promotion of public administration research, scholarship, and professionalism throughout the Southeastern United States. Prior to its formation, southeastern-based chapters of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) organized annual regional conferences. The official Articles of Incorporation were adopted on 23 June 1978, and filed 14 September 14 1978. The organization was incorporated by faculty from several Florida institutions, including the University of South Florida, University of West Florida, and Florida State University. The first (temporary) Chairman was Augustus B. Turnbull, III, and the first (temporary) Secretary was C. E. Teasley, III.

This year, SECoPA is hosted by ASPA's South Florida Chapter (SFL) and the Global Connective Center (GCC).

The SFL of the American Society for Public Administration's mission is to enhance public administration, promote the profession and preserve the public trust by providing expertise, direction, and leadership for all its members and other stakeholders. The SFL strives to:

- Facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences among persons interested or engaged in the field of public administration;
- Encourage the collection, compilation, and dissemination of information on matters relating to public administration;
- Promote the interaction of students of public administration with public administration practitioners in all feasible ways;
- Encourage the active involvement of students and members of minority groups in Chapter activities; and
- Advance the science, processes, and art of public administration.

As a provider supporting government, military, industry, and academia, the GCC is an independent integrator that brings together world class expertise, leading-edge technologies, and system-of-systems approaches to deliver extraordinary solutions toward developing resilient and sustainable communities. The GCC strives to:

- Lead programs with a whole-of-nation approach, fully synchronized with national objectives and strategic frameworks;
- Enable collaborative innovation across multiple industry sectors;
- Develop resilient and sustainable societies for social impact;
- Strengthen partner capacity and capability through benevolent forms of security cooperation; and
- Promote regional stability through soft-power geopolitical engagement and synchronization of dual-use capabilities.

About ASPA

Since 1939, ASPA has been the nation's most respected society representing all forums in the public service arena. It is an advocate for greater effectiveness in government, agents of goodwill and professionalism, publishers of democratic journalism at its very best, purveyors of progressive theory and practice and providers of global citizenship. ASPA leaders believe that by embracing new ideas, addressing key public service issues and promoting change at the local, federal and international levels, the society can enhance the quality of lives worldwide.

ASPA is the largest and most prominent broadly based professional association in American public administration. It has a diverse membership of approximately 10,000 practitioners, academicians and students. ASPA serves as the principal arena for linking theory and practice within the field of public administration.

Its members include federal, state and local government employees; researchers and scholars; students; nonprofit professionals; and others committed to advancing public service excellence in the United States and around the world.

ASPA consists of five districts that are geographically organized. SECoPA encompasses the same territory as ASPA's District 3. Each district is separated into three regional areas, in which a District Representative is assigned to a three-year, staggered term.

Current ASPA District 3 Representatives include:

Ronald Sanders (FL - 2026)
Publica Virtu

Shaoming Cheng (FL - 2027)
Florida International University

Donovan Segura (LA - 2028)
Southern University and A&M College



Welcome Letter

Dear Conference Attendee:

On behalf of the South Florida Chapter of the American Society of Public Administration (ASPA), and the Global Connective Center, we would like to extend a very warm welcome to the 2025 Annual Southeast Conference on Public Administration (SECoPA).

As the program co-chairs, we are honored to host this year's meeting. The conference theme, "Government Integrators: Resilience Solutions for Sustainable Development and Regional Stability," promotes a whole-of-sector approach to identify that promote sustainable development and regional stability. As government, industry, academia, and the military reinforce partner capacity and capability, they aim to deliver extraordinary end-to-end solutions, a curated ecosystem of strategic collaborators, and unparalleled access to leading edge public and private research and technology.

This program contains fully formed panels, organized workshops, and moderated presentations of approximately 150 sessions. The depth and analysis are so impressive that we had to create specialty sessions to accommodate everyone. We hope that you have an informative, engaging, and inspiring experience as you join your colleagues in exploration of public administration topics.

In addition to conference materials, you will find information about Coral Springs and the greater Miami area. We hope you will explore the area and enjoy all it has to offer.

Thank you for attending SECoPA 2025. Enjoy the conference and your visit to South Florida!

Sincerely,



Tonya

Tonya E. Thornton

Program Chair
Global Connective Center



Dan

Dan Lasseter

Program Co-Chair
University of Georgia



James

James Newman

Program Co-Chair
Southeast Missouri
State University



On behalf of SECoPA leadership, we welcome you all to the 2025 Southeastern Conference for Public Administration! We are incredibly excited to have you join us in beautiful Fort Lauderdale, Florida this year as academics, practitioners, and aspiring scholars alike rally together in shared appreciation of one of the most essential components of our democracy: public service. Attending my first SECoPA conference in Atlanta, Georgia as a green-eared doctoral student in 2014, I left with an indelible impression of professionalism, support, and belonging which resonates me with today. Between the unparalleled opportunities to network with scholars and practitioners to enduring bonds forming friendships and collaborations, it is hard to resist the calling of being a part of something greater than yourself. SECoPA continues to hold a special place in my heart, and it is my hope that your experience provides you with the same feeling.

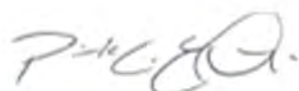
The SECoPA 2025 conference hosts and program committee have worked diligently for over a year to form an enriching and insightful experience. Program Chair Dr. Tonya Thornton, alongside Program Co-Chairs Dr. Dan Lasseter and Dr. James Newman, have given considerable time and energy toward structuring an engaging conference experience with insightful panels, unique activities, and accomplished guest speakers to enrich conference offerings. Additionally, Local Co-Chairs Bill Solomon and Steven Bobes of the ASPA South Florida Chapter have worked tirelessly to ensure that the accommodations and logistics for SECoPA 2025 impress both experienced attendees and newcomers alike. These efforts have culminated in a most appropriate theme for this year's conference: *Government Integrators – Resilience Solutions for Sustainable Development and Regional Stability*. Amidst unprecedented changes and challenges facing the public sector, there is perhaps no better time to be amongst others who share deeply held convictions as to the sanctity and intrinsic value of public service.

Throughout your time in Fort Lauderdale, we hope that you have the opportunity to not only network with peers and gain expert insights from both the academic and professional fields but also take in the array of opportunities SECoPA provides. Ranging from robust panel presentations to keynote addresses from accomplished speakers, professional development workshops, roundtable discussions and more, we hope that each attendee finds lasting value in their experience. Beyond the confines of the conference, you will find endless options for exploring all that Fort Lauderdale and the greater Miami metro has to offer, from the Bonnet House Museum and Gardens to the vibrant Las Olas District in Downtown Fort Lauderdale, there is no shortage of entertainment to take in while visiting South Florida.

The lasting legacy of SECoPA rests within the strength and resilience of its members throughout the course of its 56-year history. Your steadfast support and participation are what drives SECoPA forward. To all of those participating in and attending SECoPA 2025 as board members, chairs, moderators, panelists, academics, practitioners, aspiring scholars, and volunteers, we are indebted to you for your continued support and contributions.

Finally, I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for having the honor of serving as SECoPA president this year. Reflecting upon my predecessors, I have no doubt that I stand upon the shoulders of giants; renowned scholars and experienced practitioners whose guidance and leadership have been nothing short of instrumental toward paving the way for future leaders to carry SECoPA onward. Serving as President of SECoPA is unquestionably one of the greatest honors of my career, one which I hold in the highest esteem now and forever. My deepest thanks to each and all of you for allowing this humble Hoosier to serve.

Ad victoriam,



Patrick C. Exmeyer, Ph.D.
SECoPA President, 2024-2025
Assistant Professor, Department of Urban and Public Affairs
University of Louisville

Sponsors

**LET'S GIVE A SHOUT OUT TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS THIS YEAR THAT
HELP MAKE OUR EVENT POSSIBLE**

~THANKS TO THOSE WHO MAKE SECoPA A SUCCESS~

Gold

Nova Southeastern University

Silver

Broward County

Bronze

University of Georgia
Global Connective Center

Refreshments Break

Georgia State University
University of Memphis
University of Miami
Northern Kentucky University
Jacksonville State University
University of Central Florida
City of Miramar
Southern University and A&M College
Florida International University Jorge M.
Perez Metropolitan Institute
Florida International University Jack Gordon
Institute for Public Policy
Florida International University Modern
Language Department
Florida International University Modern
Languages Translation and Interpretation
Department
Florida International University Public Policy
and Administration Department

Conference Bags

College of Charleston

Exhibit Table

University of North Carolina
Melvin & Leigh Publishers
Southern University and A&M College
Florida Atlantic University

Other

Section on Crisis and Emergency
Management
City of Coral Springs
Pan Kim
Ines Beecher
Visit Ft. Lauderdale
University of Central Arkansas
Jackson State University
Old Dominion University
University of North Carolina Charlotte
North Carolina Central University
Mississippi State University



SECoPA Leadership

2024-2025

States in District III of ASPA: KY, TN, AR, MS, LA, AL, GA, FL, SC, NC

SECoPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers (4)

- President Patrick C. Exmeyer (KY) 2024-2025
- President-Elect Dallas Breen (MS) 2024-2025
 - Treasurer Peter Jones (AL) 2024-2027
 - Secretary Claire Mostel (FL) 2023-2025

Directors (8)

- Eddie French (MS) 2023-2025
- Bruce McDonald (NC) 2023-2025
 - Aaron Rollins (KY) 2023-2025
- Tonya E. Thornton (FL) 2023-2025
 - Karissa Bergene (NC) 2024-2026
 - Jourdan Davis (NC) 2024-2026
- Matthew Howell (KY) 2024-2026
 - Beth Rauhaus (LA) 2024-2026

Ex Officio Members (4)

- Past President (voting) Ines Beecher (FL)
- District III Rep (voting) Donovan Segura (FL)
- District III Rep (voting) Shaoming Cheng (FL)
- District III Rep (voting) Ronald Sanders (FL)

Advisors to the President

- William “Bill” Solomon (FL)
- Steven M. Bobes (FL)



Welcome to Coral Springs, SECoPA!

On behalf of the City of Coral Springs, it is my pleasure to welcome the Southeastern Conference for Public Administration (SECoPA) to our community for your annual conference. We are truly honored that you chose our Coral Springs as the host location for this important gathering of public administration professionals and scholars.

SECoPA's affiliation with the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) underscores your commitment to strengthening our field and supporting the dedicated individuals who serve our communities.

While you are here, we hope you will take time to enjoy everything Coral Springs has to offer. From our exceptional dining options to our welcoming neighborhoods, our city provides the perfect backdrop for connection and collaboration. If your schedule allows, I also encourage you to visit the Coral Springs Museum of Art - a cultural gem in our community, for hours of operation visit www.coral Springsmuseum.org.

Thank you for the work you do to strengthen public service and inspire excellence in governance across our region.

Best wishes for a successful and rewarding conference!

Catherine Givens

Catherine Givens
City Manager
City of Coral Springs





Wednesday August 6, 2025

A Warm Welcome to The Southeastern Conference for Public Administration (SECopa)

Explore your sunny side.

Welcome to our Sunkissed shores. You are in for some fabulous surprises as you will soon see why more than 11 million people from around the world come to Greater Fort Lauderdale, where we welcome Everyone Under The Sun.

Water is a major allure. Take time to experience the beach chic vibe along 24 miles of Blue Wave certified beaches - from Deerfield Beach in the north to Hollywood in the south and the exotic Everglades, also known as the "river of grass."

More than 300 miles of navigable inland waterways wind through palatial estates, citrus groves and the unique and exotic Everglades beckoning boats of all sizes and shapes. The Intracoastal Waterway and the waterfront homes which dot it, have earned Greater Fort Lauderdale its reputation as the "Venice of America." And, with more than 44,000 registered boats, we are the "yachting-capital-of-the world."

Don't miss the arts and entertainment districts, year-round sports, outdoor dining, designer outlet shopping, natural wonders, friendly folk and sunsational service.

We hope you enjoy the "good life" of Greater Fort Lauderdale.

With warmest wishes for a productive and memorable stay.

Best,

Stacy Ritter
President/CEO

SECoPA Past Presidents

President and Year

Dallas Breen, 2026
Patrick Exmeyer, 2025
Ines Beecher, 2024
Doug Goodman, 2023
Jeremy L. Hall, 2022
Meg Streams, 2021
P. Edward French, 2020
Shannon K. Vaughan, 2019
John J. Kiefer, 2018
Kim U. Hoffman, 2017

President and Year

Thomas Barth, 2016
Phin Xaypanga, 2015
Jo Ann Ewalt, 2014
Steven M. Bobes, 2013
Leonard Bright, 2012
Dorothy Norris-Tirrell, 2011
Donna M. Handley, 2010
Stephen E. Condrey, 2009
Kendra B. Stewart, 2008
Claire Mostel, 2007

President and Year

Mary Taylor, 2006
Gary Rassel, 2005
Kathryn Hensley, 2004
Tom Lynch, 2003
Mary Ann Hinshaw, 2002
Harry Gross, 2001
Katie Keeton, 2000
Arie Halachmi, 1999
William Solomon, 1998
George Cox, 1997

SECoPA Program Hosts

**HELP US GIVE A HEARTWARMING AND HUGE THANK YOU
TO THIS YEAR'S LOCAL PROGRAM HOSTS**

**~THESE PAST PRESIDENTS LOVE TO CHAT ALL THINGS ABOUT SECoPA...
SO, CHAT AWAY~**



William "Bill" Solomon



Steven M. Bobes



**OUR EDUCATION
MEANS NOTHING
IF WE DON'T USE
IT FOR OTHERS.**

*Caleb "Bo" Bagley (MPA '25)
SPIA Convocation Student Speaker*



**Master of Public
Administration
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**

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YEARS
EXCELLENCE**
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WORLDWIDE

8

Members of the
National Academy of
Public Administration

30

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program

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working in the public
or nonprofit sectors

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Pictured left to right:

Dr. Kisha Hardwick, Associate Professor

Dr. Kim Hoffman, Professor and Director, BPA Program

Dr. Joe Howard, Associate Professor



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS™

Schedule-at-a-Glance

DATE	TIME	EVENT	ROOM(S)
WED	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Registration	Palm
10-Sep-25	3:30 pm - 5:00 pm	SECoPA Board Meeting	Flamingo
DATE	TIME	EVENT	ROOM(S)
THURS	7:00 am - 4:00 pm	Registration	Palm
11-Sep-25	7:15 am - 8:00 am	General Gatherings	Sawgrass, Mangrove, Cocoplum, Ibis, and Egret
	8:15 am - 9:45 am	Session I Presentations	Sawgrass, Mangrove, Cocoplum, Ibis, and Egret
	9:45 am - 10:00 am	Refreshments Break	Hallway
	10:00 am - 11:30 am	Session II Presentations	Sawgrass, Mangrove, Cocoplum, Ibis, and Egret
	11:45 pm - 1:15 pm	Plenary and 9/11 Memorial Luncheon	Great Cypress / Royal Poinciana
	1:15 pm - 1:30 pm	Break	Hallway
	1:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Session III Presentations	Sawgrass, Mangrove, Cocoplum, Ibis, and Egret
	1:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Session I Posters	Foyer
	3:00 pm - 3:15 pm	Refreshments Break	Hallway
	3:15 pm - 5:15 pm	Tabletop Exercise	Orchid
	5:15 pm - 5:30 pm	Break	Hallway
	5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	Welcome Reception	Back Patio
DATE	TIME	EVENT	ROOM(S)
FRI	7:00 am - 4:00 pm	Registration	Palm
12-Sep-25	7:15 am - 8:00 am	General Gatherings	Sawgrass, Mangrove, Cocoplum, Ibis, and Egret
	8:15 am - 9:45 am	Session IV Presentations	Sawgrass, Mangrove, Cocoplum, Ibis, and Egret
	9:45 am - 10:00 am	Refreshments Break	Hallway
	10:00 am - 11:30 am	Session V Presentations	Sawgrass, Mangrove, Cocoplum, Ibis, and Egret
	11:45 pm - 1:15 pm	Plenary and Awards Luncheon	Great Cypress / Royal Poinciana
	1:15 pm - 1:30 pm	Break	Hallway
	1:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Session VI Presentations	Sawgrass, Mangrove, Cocoplum, Ibis, and Egret
	1:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Session II Posters	Foyer
	1:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Spirit of SECoPA Panel	Orchid
	3:00 pm - 3:15 pm	Refreshments Break	Hallway
	3:15 pm - 4:45 pm	Session VII Presentations	Sawgrass, Mangrove, Cocoplum, Ibis, and Egret
	4:45 pm - 5:00 pm	Break	Hallway
	5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	SECoPA Business Meeting	Orchid
	6:00 pm - 6:15 pm	Break	Hallway
	6:15 pm - 7:45 pm	Closing Reception	Back Patio
DATE	TIME	EVENT	ROOM(S)
SAT	7:00 am - 10:00 am	Registration	Palm
13-Sep-25	7:15 am - 8:00 am	General Gatherings	Sawgrass, Mangrove, Cocoplum, Ibis, and Egret
	8:15 am - 9:45 am	Session VIII Presentations	Sawgrass, Mangrove, Cocoplum, Ibis, and Egret
	9:45 am - 10:00 am	Refreshments Break	Hallway
	10:00 am - 11:30 am	Session IX Presentations	Sawgrass, Mangrove, Cocoplum, Ibis, and Egret
	11:30 am - 11:45 am	Break	Hallway
	11:45 pm - 1:15 pm	SECoPA Board Meeting	Flamingo



Sessions Overview

DAY	SESSION	TIME	SAWGRASS	MANGROVE	COCOPLUM	IBIS	EGRET
THURS 11-Sep-25	I	8:15 am - 9:45 am	Building Bridges for Resilience through Inter/Multidisciplinary, Multi-institutional, and Community Engaged Research Teams: Lessons from a Planning Grant	Public Service and Mismanaged Bureaucracy: Modernizing Service	Housing Policy, Equity, and Trust: Rethinking Resilience and Opportunity	Innovation, Education, and Public Engagement	Co-production: Participatory Budgeting and Fiscal Affairs
	II	10:00 am - 11:30 am	From Insight to Impact: Cultivating Multi-Sector Teams	Smart Cities and Counties: Developing Pathways to Success	Governance Through a Gender Lens: Strategies for Inclusive Leadership	Public Administration Journal Editors Discussion	Governing for Resilience: Adaptive Cycles, Ecological Meaning, and Policy Impact
	III	1:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Policing Competence: Socialization, Leadership, and Motivation	Public Service Ethics: More Than the Minimum	How EOCs Operate and Your Roles Before, During, and After an Activation	Getting and Keeping Your First Academic Job	Belonging in the Public Sector: Leadership, Identity, and the Workplace Experience
DAY	SESSION	TIME	SAWGRASS	MANGROVE	COCOPLUM	IBIS	EGRET
FRI 12-Sep-25	IV	8:15 am - 9:45 am	Surveillance, Security, and the State: Policy Challenges in the Digital Age	From Crisis to Capacity: Leading Agile and Engaged Public Workforces	International Governance: Issues of Trust, Fragility, and Response	Local Student Symposium	Addressing Fiscal Concerns in Uncertain Times
	V	10:00 am - 11:30 am	Cultural Crisis: Public Arts Administration and Critical Systems	From Illusion to Instability: Fiscal Fallacies in Local Government Finance	From Merit to Modernity: Governance, Resilience, and Technological Evolution	Highlights of Recent PA Books: Brief Presentations by the Authors	Regulating the Future: Government Strategies for Artificial Intelligence
	VI	1:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Delivery and Decentralization: Navigating Resilience Across Governance Scales	Accelerating the Energy Transition: Innovation, Diffusion, and Policy Drivers	Governing with Integrity: Exploring Trust, Legitimacy, and Civic Collaboration	Crisis Decision-Making and Adaptive Management	Human Resources Innovation and Efficiency
	VII	3:15 pm - 4:45 pm		Evolving Resilience: Local Capacity, Crisis Learning, and Adaptive Responses	Disaster Impacts, Vulnerability, and Risk Perception	Social Policy and Service Delivery	Governance, Security, and Technological Power: Comparative Perspectives
DAY	SESSION	TIME	SAWGRASS	MANGROVE	COCOPLUM	IBIS	EGRET
SAT 13-Sep-25	VIII	8:15 am - 9:45 am	Governance, Collaboration, and Networked Response	Healthcare Access and Policy Reform	From Pluralist Knowledge to Performance: Evaluating NGOs, Tutoring, and Higher-Ed Governance	Examining How Machine Learning Can Identify the Socioeconomic Predictors of Undiagnosed Psychological Distress	
	IX	10:00 am - 11:30 am	Policy, Poverty, and Public Perception: Examining Governance	All About SECoPA: "The Ins and Outs" of Serving as Host	Crisis Leadership and Governance	Public Health, Stigma, and Vulnerable Populations	Nonprofits in Turbulent Times: Examining Social Capital and Diversity Strategies

American Society for Public Administration



SECM

Section on Emergency and Crisis Management

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Conference Leadership, Board Members,
and Participating Members**



SECoPA through the Years

2021 to Present

2025 Coral Springs, FL

2024 Memphis, TN
2023 Atlanta, GA
2022 Lexington, KY
2021 Starkville, MS
(Virtual)

2011 to 2020

2020 No Conference due to
Covid 19
2019 Baton Rouge, LA
2018 Birmingham, AL
2017 Hollywood, FL
2016 Raleigh, NC
2015 Charleston, SC
2014 Atlanta, GA
2013 Charlotte, NC
2012 Coral Springs, FL
2011 New Orleans, LA

2001 to 2010

2010 Wilmington, NC
2009 Louisville, KY
2008 Orlando, FL

2007 Nashville, TN
2006 Athens, GA
2005 Little Rock, AR
2004 Charlotte, NC
2003 Savannah, GA
2002 Columbia, SC
2001 Baton Rouge, LA

1991 to 2000

2000 Greensboro, NC
1999 St. Petersburg, FL
1998 Pensacola, FL
1997 Knoxville, TN
1996 Miami, FL
1995 Savannah, GA
1994 Lexington, KY
1993 Cocoa Beach, FL
1992 Montgomery, AL
1991 Charlotte, NC

1981 to 1990

1990 Clearwater, FL
1989 Jackson, MS
1988 Birmingham, AL
1987 New Orleans, LA

1986 Pensacola, FL
1985 Charleston, SC
1984 Memphis, TN
1983 Tallahassee, FL
1982 Louisville, KY
1981 Jackson, MA

1971 to 1980

1980 Orlando, FL
1979 Montgomery, AL
1978 Charleston, SC
1977 Knoxville, TN
1976 Miami Beach, FL
1975 Williamsburg, VA
1974 Orlando, FL
1973 Nashville, TN
1972 Atlanta, GA
1971 Hollywood, FL

1970 and Before

1970 Atlanta, GA
1969 Clearwater, FL

SECoPA

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



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Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly, the journal
of the Association for Research on Nonprofit
Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA)



Joanne G. Carman



Jaclyn S. Piatak

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLOTTE
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & EARTH AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

9/11 Memorial

Luncheon

Thursday, 11 September 2025

11:45 am – 1:15 pm

Great Cypress / Royal Poinciana

MG JOHN F. WHARTON



Major General (MG) John F. Wharton (U.S. Army retired) has served the Nation for more than three decades and has extensive experience in leadership, technology, acquisition, and logistics. His focus is on national security and technology acceleration in support of national priorities and homeland security. John remains very active in national programs and smart technologies across all sectors to include cities, infrastructure, energy, telecommunications, and logistics. Internationally, he advises and develops strategies for countries to position them and assure their economic stability and future. He is widely known in the Department of State, U.S. Agency for International Development, and the United Nations for his work

in technology solutions in support of humanitarian assistance and future sustainable development goals. In his last military assignment, John served as Commanding General of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, controlling 75% of the Army's R&D budget and over 1,500 Cooperative R&D Agreements.

HON. TODD L. SCHAFER



Honorable (Hon.). Todd L. Schafer (Acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy retired), is a proven extraordinary leader, providing unrivaled strategic vision and transformational change. He consistently provides rapid and innovative responses to demanding and complex emergent requirements. Todd began his career in 1989 as an Air Force Financial Management intern. His 36-plus years of experience incorporates policy making; requirements generation; planning; programming; budgeting; cost estimating and analysis; accounting and finance, including working capital funds; audit; human resources; manpower; contracting; program and risk management; modeling and simulation; energy, installations

and environment; and transformation. His civilian leadership service spans the departments of the U.S. Air Force, Army and Navy. Assignments have been at the base, major command, unified combatant command, military department, and joint and coalition levels.



LTC KEITH T. WEAVER, III



Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Keith T. Weaver, III assumed duties as the Talon Battalion Officer-in-Charge and Professor of Military Science at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida on 7 April 2025. Keith previously served as Brigade Executive Officer and Brigade Operations Officer for 5th Security Force Assistance Brigade at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. Keith earned his Bachelor's Degree from Florida State University (2006) and Master's Degree in Management and Leadership from Webster University (2018). He commissioned as an Infantry Officer through Officer Candidate School in April 2007. Keith has served in various tactical and operational assignments in airborne, mechanized, light infantry and joint formations. He served in the 82nd Airborne Division, 4th Infantry Division, 10th Mountain Division (Light), and Security Force Assistance Command. His broadening assignments include U.S. Southern

Command, Human Resources Command - Infantry Branch, and U.S. Army Infantry School. He has four combat deployments to Iraq (2008-2009, 2011), Kuwait (2013-2014) and Afghanistan (2020) and one operational deployment to Taiwan (2022-2023).



and sends well wishes for the SECOPA 2025 Conference.



We Listen. We Care. We Serve!



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A MILESTONE YEAR

For 2026, the Stennis Institute is thrilled to celebrate its 50th anniversary, a year made even more special as Executive Director, Dr. Dallas Breen, steps into his role as the 2025–2026 Southeastern Conference for Public Administration President.



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JOHN C. STENNIS INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT

sig.msstate.edu | 662.325.3328

Executive Director: Dr. Joseph 'Dallas' Breen

SECoPA Awards

Luncheon Friday, 12 September 2025

11:45 am – 1:15 pm

Great Cypress / Royal Poinciana

Kathryn E. Hensley Distinguished Public Service Practitioner Award

2024 Winner – Patrick Lawson

This award recognizes sustained outstanding achievement in, and contributions to, public administration and public service through applied practice in the field.

Morris W.H. Collins Award

2024 Winner – Robert Pinka, III

Recognizes the most outstanding paper written and presented by doctoral candidates in the SECoPA region.

Robert Kline Award

2024 Winner – Not Awarded

Recognizes the most outstanding paper written and presented by master's students in the SECoPA region.

Donato J. Pugliese Award

2024 Winners – Bradey Wright and Joseph “Dallas” Breen

The Donato J. Pugliese Award is given in honor of its namesake, the “Godfather” of SECoPA. Mr. Pugliese gave his time generously to ASPA and SECoPA throughout his lifetime. After his passing in 1985 at the age of 55, this award was created to honor his

memory and service and to honor the SECoPA member that best reflects Mr. Pugliese’s level of commitment to service and encouragement of their colleagues.

Senator Peter B. Boorsma Award

2024 Winner – Naim Kapucu

The Senator Peter B. Boorsma Award is to honor the practitioner or academician for facilitating over a period of many years the international exchange of knowledge and administrative practices that foster better performance in the public sector.

The award symbolizes SECoPA’s recognition of the implications of the global village on management and performance in the public sector as well as its commitment to the study and exchange of administrative practices between the USA and other countries.

SECoPA Award for Outstanding Equity Research

2024 Winner - Kyungmin Lee

The purpose of the SECoPA Award for Outstanding Equity Research is to encourage scholars to develop and present original research manuscripts that address equity in a tangible way by recognizing the best work in this area with an award for the outstanding paper delivered at the annual conference.



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Spirit of SECoPA

Panel Session

Friday, 12 September 2025

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Orchid

PURPOSE

This panel honors the enduring leadership and commitment of SECoPA longstanding organizers. Their vision, perseverance, and service have shaped the conference into a vital forum for scholarship and collaboration. By celebrating their achievements, tribute is paid to the legacy they have built and acknowledge the lasting impact of their dedication on the conference community and its future.

ORGANIZERS

Tonya E. Thornton, Global Connective Center

Dan Lasseter, University of Georgia

James Newman, Southeast Missouri State University

MODERATOR/PANELIST

Kendra Stewart, College of Charleston

PANELISTS

Stephen Condrey, Condrey & Associates, Inc.

K. Tom Liou, University of Central Florida

William “Bill” Solomon, South Florida Chapter

Mary Guy, University of Colorado

Kim Hoffman, University of Central Arkansas

Doug Goodman, University of Central Florida



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Crisis Simulation

Tabletop Exercise Thursday, 11 September 2025

3:15 pm – 5:15 pm

Orchid

PROBLEM

Miami will be a host city site for the FIFA World Cup, scheduled for summer 2026. This event will be unprecedented due to its geographic scale and duration, combined with a heavy international visitor presence, which makes logistical and security challenges more complex and threat vulnerability greater than large-scale events like the Super Bowl (temporally shorter) or the Olympics (narrower geographic footprint). The same events of the past couple of decades have made the risk environment more challenging in comparison to those in the 1990s.

APPROACH

There are long-standing deficiencies in its strategic approaches. Emergency management has been predominantly based upon reactive models, thereby causing a lack of coordination between the various organizations involved in crisis management. Conducting scenario-based exercises is vital to not only testing the validity of operations but also the ability to quickly adapt to rapidly changing environments with limited information, resources, and capabilities. By bringing together representatives from various agencies and organizations across all sectors, performance metrics and after-action reports can be developed to better assess crisis planning and response efforts.

Co-operation during periods of crisis can serve as a means to facilitate communication between different viewpoints, supporting cohesion and confidence and contributing to the development of more effective and integrated approaches to community resilience. To this end, local authorities and scholars, including warfighters, are becoming the force multipliers for addressing regional challenges.

ORGANIZERS

Tonya Thornton, Global Connective Center

Todd L. Schafer, Global Connective Center

Brian Gerber, Arizona State University

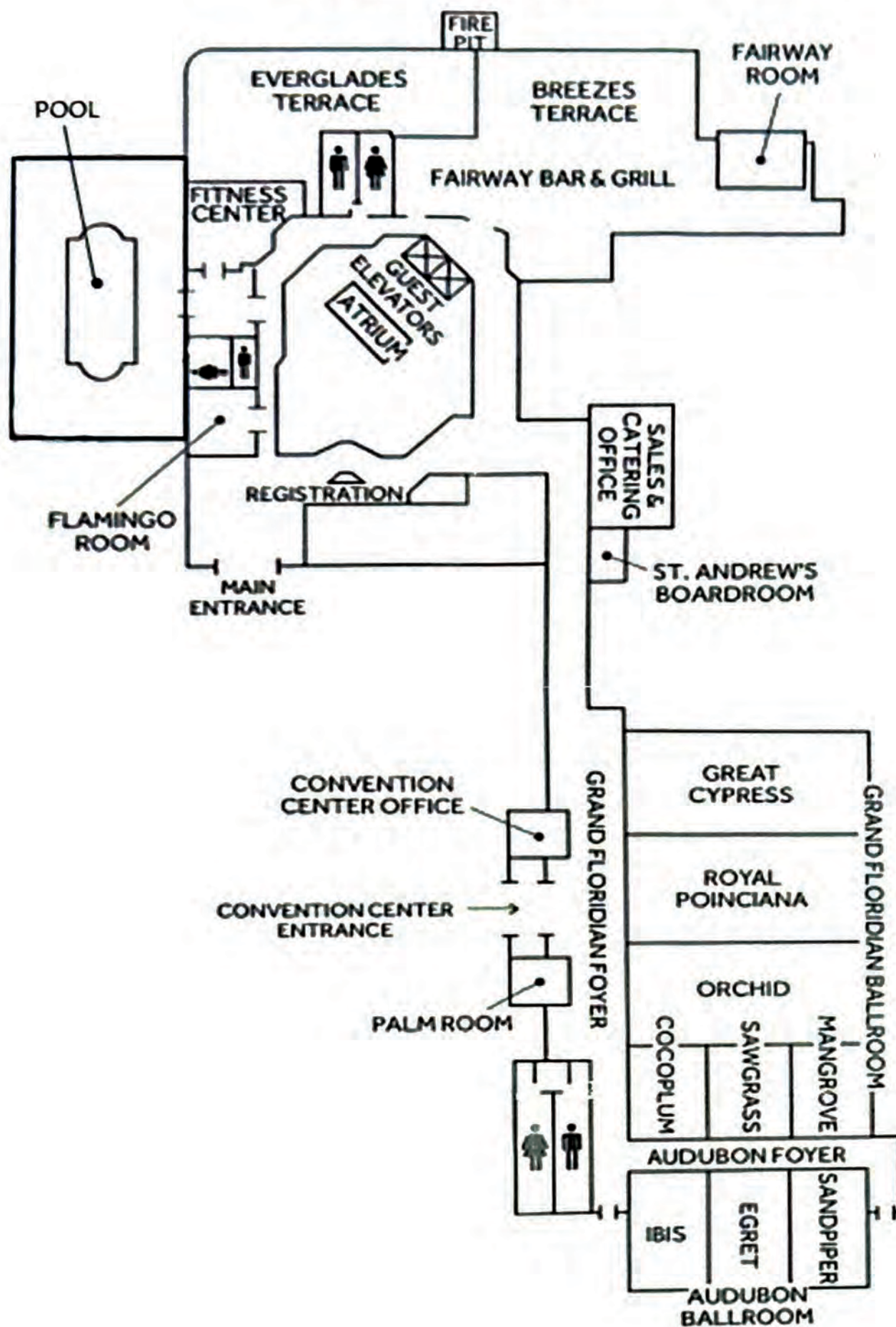
Wendy Chen, Texas Tech University

Alessandra Jerolleman, Livelihoods Knowledge Exchange Network

Bryan Farrell, Mississippi State University



HOTEL LAYOUT



Panel Sessions

Session I.

Thursday, 11 September 2025

8:15 am – 9:45 am

Building Bridges for Resilience through Inter/Multidisciplinary, Multi-institutional, and Community Engaged Research Teams: Lessons from a Planning Grant

Sawgrass Room / Fully Formed Panel

Samantha Mosier, East Carolina University
Serena Hoermann, Florida Atlantic University
Wie Yusuf, Old Dominion University
Candice Pippin Bodkin, Georgia Southern University
Jason Pudlo, East Carolina University

Public Service and Mismanaged Bureaucracy: Modernizing Service

Mangrove Room / Moderator: Eric S. Zeemering, University of Georgia

Values and Sentiment in Public Service Recognition Week Proclamations

Eric S. Zeemering, University of Georgia

From Manifest Destiny to Mismanaged Bureaucracy: American Exceptionalism and the Administrative State in Decline

Sarah Somerville, University of New Orleans

Modernizing Government for the 21st Century: A Comparative Study of Federal Restructuring Efforts from Truman to Trump

Carole Huberman, Barry University
Stephen E. Sussman, Barry University

Digital Twinning in Smart Cities

Sukumar Ganapati, Florida International University
Tzuhao Chen, Florida International University

Spanish

Hola, ¿cómo estás?
Estoy bien, gracias.
Me llamo Maria.
Mucho gusto.

ASL



Chinese (Mandarin)

你好，你好吗？(Nǐ hǎo, nǐ hǎo ma?)
我很好，谢谢。(Wǒ hěn hǎo, xièxiè.)
我叫玛丽亚。(Wǒ jiào Mǎlǐyà.)
很高兴认识你。(Hěn gāoxìng rènshi nǐ.)

German

Hallo, wie geht es dir?
Mir geht es gut, danke.
Mein Name ist Maria.
Freut mich, dich kennenzulernen.

Arabic

(?Marhaban, kayfa halak) كيف حالك؟
(Ana bilhayi, shukran) أنا بخير، شكراً
(Ismi Maria) اسمي ماريا
(Tasharrufu bilisqali) تشرفت بلقاءك

Portuguese

Olá, como você está?
Estou bem, obrigado(a).
Meu nome é Maria.
Prazer em conhecê-lo(a).

Italian

Ciao, come stai?
Sto bene, grazie.
Mi chiamo Maria.
Piacere di conoscerti.

INTRODUCING YOURSELF IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES

Korean

안녕하세요. 어떻게 지내세요? (Annyeonghaseyo,
corleoko jinaeseyo?)
잘 지내요. 감사합니다. (jal jinaeyo, gamsahamnida.)
제 이름은 마리아입니다. (Je ireumeun Maria-
imnida.)
만나서 반갑습니다. (Mannaseo bangapsumnida.)

Haitian Creole

Bonjou, kijan ou ye?
Mwen byen, mès.
Non mwen se Maria.
Kontan fè konvèsans ou.

French

Bonjour, comment ça va?
Je vais bien, merci.
Je m'appelle Maria.
Enchanté(e).

Japanese

こんにちは、お元気ですか？
(Konnichiwa, ogenki desu ka?)
元気です、ありがとうございます。(Genki desu,
arigato.)
私の名前はマリアです。(Watashi no
namae wa Maria desu.)
はじめまして。(Hajimemashite.)

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Housing Policy, Equity, and Trust: Rethinking Resilience and Opportunity

Cocoplum Room / Moderator: Kaila Witkowski, Florida Atlantic University

A Photovoice Analysis of Tuition Waivers for College Students Experiencing Housing Insecurity: Challenges and Opportunities to Increase Public Trust

Matthew Patterson, Broward House

Kaila Witkowski, Florida Atlantic University

Danielle Groton, Florida Atlantic University

Beyond Shelter: The Labor and Entrepreneurship Impact of LIHTC

David Adeyemo, Florida International University

Shaoming Cheng, Florida International University

Resilience for Whom? Unpacking the Gap Between Housing Resilience Plans and Stakeholder Priorities

Humayra Sultana, Florida International University

Erzuah Nvidah, Florida International University

Nazife Emel Ganapati, Florida International University

Lu Zhang, Florida International University

Determinants of Homeowner Association (HOA) Pricing in Miami-Dade County

David Ortiz, Florida International University

Yongqing “Carrie” Cong, Florida International University

Alexander Almanzar, Florida International University

Innovation, Education, and Public Engagement

Ibis Room / Moderator: Soonwoo Choi, Florida State University

Public Perception on Space and Support for Space Budget Expansion

Soonwoo Choi, Florida State University

An Analysis of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in Louisiana: Its Effects on Food Security and Access to Nutritious Food

Si-Arah Jones, Southern University A&M College

Co-production: Participatory Budgeting and Fiscal Affairs

Egret Room / Moderator: Britney Roach, Florida Atlantic University

Toward Communication and Participatory Strategies in Public Budgeting

Jubilee T. Apalowo, Mississippi State University

Julius Nukpezah, Mississippi State University

Sixty Years Later: The Current State of E-Procurement in the Public Sector

Clifford McCue, Florida Atlantic University

Eric Prier, Florida Atlantic University

Britney Roach, Florida Atlantic University





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From Insight to Impact: Cultivating Multi-Sector Teams

Sawgrass Room / Moderator: Joseph “Jody” Holland, University of Mississippi

Presilience in Practice: Cultivating Civic-Minded Changemakers through the Sullivan Fellows Program

Joseph “Jody” Holland, University of Mississippi

Riley Mayor Design Fellowship: Multi-Sectoral Approach to City Design

Kit Lowery, College of Charleston

Rafael Guerra, College of Charleston

Heather Zeidler, College of Charleston

Marla Robertson, College of Charleston

Smart Cities and Counties: Developing Pathways to Success

Mangrove Room / Moderator: Lori Brill, University of Georgia

Local Government Charters: Foundations that Need to be Revisited

Lori Brill, University of Georgia

Macey Lane Smith, University of Georgia

Rex L. Facer, II, University of Georgia

Implementing Service Consolidation Strategies in City Governments

K. Tom Liou, University of Central Florida

Developing a Resilient City: A Perspective from Multisector Stakeholders Gyan-Tutu, Florida International University

Kofi Agyemang Gyan-Tutu, Florida International University

Governance Through a Gender Lens: Strategies for Inclusive Leadership

Cocoplum Room / Moderator: Julie Olberding, Northern Kentucky University

Addressing the Gender Gap on Civic Boards and Commissions: How the Appointed Civic Leadership Academy Prepares and Empowers Women in the Greater Cincinnati Region

Julie Olberding, Northern Kentucky University

Rajani Menon, Greater Cincinnati Foundation

Public Administration Journal Editors Discussion

Ibis Room / Fully Formed Panel

Tonya E. Thornton, Global Connective Center

Patrick C. Exmeyer, University of Louisville

Howard Frank, Florida International University

Eric Zeemering, University of Georgia

Governing for Resilience: Adaptive Cycles, Ecological Meaning, and Policy Impact

Egret Room / Moderator: Sina Jangjoo, Florida State University

Do Adaptive Governance Learning Cycles Shift Collective Attention? A Longitudinal Topic Network Analysis of the Chesapeake Bay Program

Sina Jangjoo, Florida State University



Session III.

Thursday, 11 September 2025

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Policing Competence: Socialization, Leadership, and Motivation

Sawgrass Room / Moderator: Dan Lasseter, University of Georgia

Beyond Competence: Preventing the Peter Principle in Police Leadership Through Assessment Centers

Marc Witowski, University of Georgia

Dan Lasseter, University of Georgia

Fair is Fair! An Analysis of Perceived Organizational Fairness and Its Impact on Job Improvement Motivation Among Local Law Enforcement Officer

Beth Rauhaus, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Addressing an American Injustice: Political and Administrative Effect on Police Reform

William T. Jackson, Florida State University

Public Service Ethics: More Than the Minimum

Mangrove Room / Organized Workshop

Joseph Centorino, City of Miami Beach

How EOCs Operate and Your Roles Before, During, and After an Activation

Cocoplum Room / Organized Workshop

Ted Halpin

Getting and Keeping Your First Academic Job

Ibis Room / Fully Formed Panel

Kim Hoffman, University of Central Arkansas

Matthew Howell, Eastern Kentucky University

Meg Streams, Tennessee State University

Shannon Vaughan, University of Montana

Belonging in the Public Sector: Leadership, Identity, and the Workplace Experience

Egret Room / Moderator: Shahrin S. Upoma, University of Minnesota

Belonging at Work: How Leadership and Identity Shape the Experiences of Employees with Disabilities in the U.S. Public Sector

Shahrin S. Upoma, University of Minnesota

Romeo Abraham, University of North Carolina at Wilmington

Zeeshan Noor, Louisiana State University at Shreveport

Rethinking Autonomy and Burnout: How Leadership Emotional Intelligence and Psychological Safety Shape Equity in Public Workplaces

Abdollah Zeraatpisheh, University of Texas at Dallas



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Session IV.

Friday, 12 September 2025

8:15 am – 9:45 am

Surveillance, Security, and the State: Policy Challenges in the Digital Age

Sawgrass Room / Moderator: Sukumar Ganapati, Florida International University

A Systematic Review of Body-worn Cameras (BWCs) Policy in the US: What We Achieved? What to Aim For?

Tahmina Ferdous Tanny, Florida International University

Sukumar Ganapati, Florida International University

Does Democracy Matter for Cybersecurity Governance? A Cross-National Analysis

Erzuah Nvidah, Florida International University

Ebenezer Acquah, Florida International University

Georgianna Clarke, Florida International University

Donavan Johnson, Florida International University

Does Privacy Laws Reduce Data Breaches? The Case of CCPA

Yoon-Jung Choi, Florida International University

Ebenezer Acquah, Florida International University

Sukumar Ganapati, Florida International University

Factors that Influence a Country to Exercise its Capacity for Digital Repression

Georgianna Clarke, Florida International University

Donavan Johnson, Florida International University



From Crisis to Capacity: Leading Agile and Engaged Public Workforces

Mangrove Room / Moderator: Beth Rauhaus, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Leading Us to a Better Workplace

Stephanie A. Pink-Harper, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Beth Rauhaus, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Application of the Agile Mindset in General Local Government: Training, Challenges, and Outcomes

Marina Saitgalina, Old Dominion University

Ron Carlee, Old Dominion University

John R. Lombard, Old Dominion University

Vickie T. Carnegie, Old Dominion University

Cohort or Career Stage? Unpacking Drivers of Engagement among Municipal Employees

Marian Abena Yamoah, University of Memphis

Sharon Leigh Wrobel, University of Memphis

Joseph A. Hafer, University of Memphis

Post-COVID-19 Policy Reactions and Reflections: Retrospective Analysis of Response and Recovery in South Texas

Varaidzo Zvobgo, Texas A&M International University

Hidden Relationships in a Public Collaborative Network: Inferential Social Network Structuration and Indicators of Network Integration in The North Carolina Workforce Development System

Jen Yip, North Carolina State University

International Governance: Issues of Trust, Fragility, and Response

Cocoplum Room / Moderator: Moonsoo Lee, University of Texas at Dallas

Beyond Existing Democratic Backsliding Theory: Lessons from Historical Democratic Breakdown Attempts and South Korea's 2024 Martial Law Crisis

Moonsoo Lee, University of Texas at Dallas

Transforming the Early Childhood Workforce System as a Structural Policy Response to Low Birthrates in South Korea: A Strategic Proposal

Jiwon Speers, Jackson State University

Mapping Paths of Gender Mainstreaming: A Comparative-Historical Analysis of Global Diffusion and Implementation of Gender Equality Policy Strategies; Case Studies of the Philippines, Rwanda, and Sweden

Kei Mamiya, Mississippi State University

Local Student Symposium

Ibis Room / Organized Workshop

Sharon McIntyre, University of Miami

Addressing Fiscal Concerns in Uncertain Times

Egret Room / Fully Formed Panel

Ines Beecher, IB Fiscal Consultants

Bruce McDonald, Old Dominion University;

Kyle Wedberg, Government Finance Officers Association



Cultural Crisis: Public Arts Administration and Critical Systems

Sawgrass Room / Fully Formed Panel

Keith D. Lee, Nonprofit and Arts Management Consultant
 Heather Pontonio, Emily Hall Tremain Foundation
 Stephanie Raines, Athens-Clarke County
 Philip DeBoer, DHR Global

From Illusion to Instability: Fiscal Fallacies in Local Government Finance

Mangrove Room / Moderator: Peter A. Jones, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Impacts of Fees and Fines: Evidence from Jefferson County, Alabama

Austin M. Aldag, University of Alabama at Birmingham
 Peter A. Jones, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Disaster Experience and Budget Allocation in Florida Counties

Apu Deb, Florida International University

Revenue Composition, Diversification Strategies, and Fiscal Resilience: An Analysis of Local Governments in Georgia

Min S. Kim, Georgia College and State University
 Jeongwoo Kim, Eastern Kentucky University

Fiscal Rules, Should US Policymakers Rethink Their Use?

Sandra Schrouder, Barry University
 Rupert Rhodd, Florida Atlantic University
 James K. Agbodzakey, University of North Texas at Dallas

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From Merit to Modernity: Governance, Resilience, and Technological Evolution

Cocoplum Room / Moderator: Doug Goodman, University of Central Florida

Transforming the Federal Workforce in the Trump Administration: Merit, Politics, and Public Service in the Time of Demolition

Doug Goodman, University of Central Florida

Toward Organizational Resilience in the US Federal Bureaucracy

Michael Ntow, Mississippi State University

Julius Nukpezah, Mississippi State University

Burden as the Link Between: Policy Expansion and Administrative Policy Dismantling in U.S. Social Welfare Policy

Ismail Soujaa, Albany State University

Julius Nukpezah, Mississippi State University

Highlights of Recent PA Books: Brief Presentations by the Authors

Ibis Room / Fully Formed Panel

Improving Local Government Performance through Benchmarking (Routledge, 2025)

David Ammons, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Organizational Design for Public Managers (Melvin and Leigh, 2025)

Mary Guy, University of Colorado Denver

Routledge Handbook on Crisis and the Public Sector (Routledge, 2025)

Eric Zeemering, University of Georgia

Regulating the Future: Government Strategies for Artificial Intelligence

Egret Room / Moderator: Tamara Dimitrijevska-Markoski, University of South Florida

Toward Local Government Adoption of Artificial Intelligence

Julius Nukpezah, Mississippi State University

Predictors of Use of Artificial Intelligence in Local Governments

Tamara Dimitrijevska-Markoski, University of South Florida

A Computational Analysis of the Scope of Cybersecurity in AI Governance Themes in U.S. State Legislation Using R

Ebenezer “Kobby” Acquah, Florida International University

‘Zeroing’ in on ‘Zero Waste’: How Recycling Plays a Role

Aneisha Daniel, Miami-Dade County

Nick Ciancio, Miami-Dade County

Session VI.

Friday, 12 September 2025

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Delivery and Decentralization: Navigating Resilience Across Governance Scales

Sawgrass Room / Moderator: Abdul-Akeem Sadiq, University of Central Florida

Racing to the Bottom? Considering the Impact of a Decentralized FEMA on Public Service Delivery

Ratna Dougherty, University of South Florida

Claire Connolly Knox, University of Central Florida

Rebecca Entress, University of South Carolina

Mohammad Newaz Sharif, University of Central Florida

Exploring the Relationship between Disaster Information and Individual Preparedness: A Longitudinal Study

Hasan Isgandar, University of Central Florida
Claire Connolly Knox, University of Central Florida
Abdul-Akeem Sadiq, University of Central Florida

Accelerating the Energy Transition: Innovation, Diffusion, and Policy Drivers

Mangrove Room / Moderator: Patrick C. Exmeyer, University of Louisville

Hydrogen Powered Energy Solutions for Mission Assurance and Acceleration

Tonya E. Thornton, Global Connective Center
Brian Gerber, Arizona State University
Todd L. Schafer, Global Connective Center

The Wheels on the Bus... Still Run on Diesel: Explaining Resistance to Electrification of School Bus Fleets

Patrick C. Exmeyer, University of Louisville
Jeremy L. Hall, University of Central Florida
Kyungmin Lee, University of Central Florida
Andrew Sullivan, University of Central Florida

Why Some Countries Advance More Rapidly Than Others: Policy Innovation and Diffusion in Global Energy Transition

Nana Akosua Gyamfuaa Agyekum, Louisiana State University

Governing with Integrity: Exploring Trust, Legitimacy, and Civic Collaboration

Cocoplum Room / Moderator: Christopher Tyler Burks, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Measuring Public Trust in Government with a Cultural Logic Model of Legitimacy

Christopher Tyler Burks, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Citizen Co-production Motivations: A Systematic Review and the SPIENM Framework

Siyu Lyu, University of Pittsburgh

Democracy in Crisis

Chandra Davis, Southern Utah University

Due Process in Public Hearings: Local Code Compliance with Georgia's Zoning Procedures Law

M. Chrissy Marlowe, University of Georgia

Crisis Decision-Making and Adaptive Management

Ibis Room / Moderator: Mordia Johnson, Florida International University

Self-Governance in Emergency Contexts: A Theoretical Framework for Post-Disaster Service Provision

Rebecca Entress, University of South Carolina
Kelly Stevens, University of Central Florida

A Conceptual Framework of the Impact of Incomplete: Information on Crisis Decision-making Style

Chun-Yuan Wang, Central Police University, Taiwan
Jyunwei Hong, Central Police University, Taiwan

The Social, Economic, and Environmental Impacts of Disaster Mitigation Projects: Analyzing the Miami-Dade Back Bay Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study

Mordia Johnson, Florida International University

Federal Disaster Loans and Business Disaster Resilience: The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) as an Instrument of Crisis Management for Florida Small Businesses Engaged in Contracting Activities with the U.S. Federal Government

Jean-Claude M. Ndongu, Florida Atlantic University





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Dr. Megdalynn Fisher
Assistant Professor



Dr. Tzu-hao "Howard" Chen
Assistant Professor

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Human Resources Innovation and Efficiency

Egret Room / Moderator: Jared Llorens, Louisiana State University

Mississippi's Paid Maternity Leave: Just in Time or Too Little Too Late? Impact on HR Policies and Employee Perspectives

Temma Davis, Jackson State University

Ivan Ozherelev, Jackson State University

Exploring the Potential Impact of AI-Integrated HRMIS Platforms on Public Sector Merit Systems

Jared Llorens, Louisiana State University

Cognitive Impacts of AI on Administration: How and Why Public Organizational Employees Engage with AI?

Kyoung-cheol "Casey" Kim, University of Central Florida

Session VII.

Friday, 12 September 2025

3:15 pm – 4:45 pm

Evolving Resilience: Local Capacity, Crisis Learning, and Adaptive Responses

Mangrove Room / Moderator: Candice Pippin Bodkin, Georgia Southern University

From Ian to Helene and Milton: Evolving Hurricane Preparedness and Mitigation in West-Central Florida

Ratna Dougherty, University of South Florida

Savannah Havird, University of South Florida

Megan Corn, University of South Florida

Rachel Prior, University of South Florida



Local Resilience Capacity: Lessons from the Eastern North Carolina Region

Samantha Mosier, East Carolina University

Jason Pudlo, East Carolina University

Olga Smirnova, East Carolina University

Building for Resilience? An Examination of Rapid Development in Coastal Georgia

Candice Pippin Bodkin, Georgia Southern University

Jayce Sudweeks, Georgia Southern University

From the Bottom Up: Collaborating with Hyper-Local 'p'lanning for Preparedness and Resilience

Alessandra Jerolleman, Livelihoods Knowledge Exchange Network

Disaster Impacts, Vulnerability, and Risk Perception

Cocoplum Room / Moderator: Shernica L. Ferguson, Jackson State University

Determinants of Disaster Damage in U.S. States: Testing Subsidiarity, Punctuated Equilibrium, and Social Vulnerability Theories

Aisha S. Ahmadu, Sam Houston State University

Who Should Act? Perceived Climate Responsibility in U.S. Coastal Communities

Praise Ayotola Ayinla, Clemson University

Community Resilience Patterns and Regional Preparedness: Infrastructure and Capacity Assessment Across Mississippi Counties (2010-2020)

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Social Policy and Service Delivery

Ibis Room / Moderator: Michael Turtz, Florida Atlantic University

A Punctuated Equilibrium Analysis of Amyloidosis (and Amyloid Related Diseases) in U.S. Policy Making

Michael Turtz, Florida Atlantic University

Funding What Works: A Pay-for-Success Model for Human Services Delivery

Sharon Leigh Wrobel, University of Memphis

Governance, Security, and Technological Power: Comparative Perspectives

Egret Room / Moderator: Stephen E. Sussman, Barry University

Antisemitism as a National Security Threat: Implications for Public Trust and Democratic Resilience

Stephen E. Sussman, Barry University

Carole Huberman, Barry University

Session VIII.

Saturday, 13 September 2025

8:15 am – 9:45 am

Governance, Collaboration, and Networked Response

Sawgrass Room / Moderator: James Newman, Southeast Missouri State University

Crises Collaboration between Local Emergency Managers and Houses of Worship

Jason Pudlo, East Carolina University

Anna C. Wanless, University of Oklahoma

Joseph Ripberger, University of Oklahoma

Isabel Sarria, East Carolina University

Tracking Network Evolution: Interorganizational Collaboration Across Multiple Disasters in West Central Florida

Megan Corn, University of South Florida

Savannah Havird, University of South Florida

Ratna B. Dougherty, University of South Florida

Rachel Prior, University of South Florida

Governance Policy Networks in Metropolitan Atlanta

Jason Sides, Southeast Missouri State University

James Newman, Southeast Missouri State University

Tonya E. Thornton, Global Connective Center

Healthcare Access and Policy Reform

Mangrove Room / Moderator: Angela Obu, Southern University A&M College

Fragmented Care, Unequal Outcomes: A Case for Universal Healthcare Standards in the United States

Imani McClammy, Barry University

Health Disparities and the Correlation of Systemic Inequalities for African-American Women

Tishawna Dawson, Mississippi State University

Mississippi's Silent Pandemic: Alpha-Gal's Policy Gaps and Policy Advice

Kristen W. Williams, Jackson State University

Ivan S. Ozherelev, Jackson State University



From Pluralist Knowledge to Performance: Evaluating NGOs, Tutoring, and Higher-Ed Governance

Cocoplum Room / Moderator: Joanne Carman, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Exploring Parallel Evolutions: The Concurrence of Shifting Governance Frameworks and ICT Progression Between 1980-2025

Z. R. M. Abdullah Kaiser, University of Louisville

Patrick C. Exmeyer, University of Louisville

Jeremy L. Hall, University of Central Florida

Advancing Public Policy Studies with Pluralist Epistemology

Gilbert Michaud, Loyola University Chicago

Evaluating Out-of-School Time Tutoring: Insights from an Implementation Fidelity Assessment Framework

Kristen Beach, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Joanne Carman, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

How does Performance Funding Affect the Budget Mix of Public Universities? Evidence from Four Lower Atlantic States

Danilo Castillo, Florida International University

I sincerely congratulate you on the 2025 SECoPA Conference from far away in Seoul, Korea. I entered Florida International University's School of International and Public Affairs in 1982 and received my MPA degree two years later. Immediately after, I entered the School of Public Affairs at American University, where I received my Ph.D. in Public Administration. After that, I taught public administration at Old Dominion University and then returned to my home country. During such course of my life, I attended the 2005 SECoPA Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas, where I received the Senator Peter Boorsma Award, a profound encouragement. Therefore, although I now live in Seoul, Korea, I will never forget SECoPA. I am currently a Professor Emeritus at Yonsei University and have served as ASPA's International Director since 2020, terminating my term as ASPA International Director at the 2026 ASPA conference. I sincerely wish the 2025 SECoPA Conference success from afar.



Pan Suk Kim (pankim@yonsei.ac.kr)

ASPA International Director & Professor Emeritus of Yonsei University in Korea





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Session IX.

Saturday, 13 September 2025

10:00 am – 11:30 am

Policy, Poverty, and Public Perception: Examining Governance

Sawgrass Room / Moderator: George S. Welch, Jackson State University

Build-Up or Breakdown? The Socioeconomic Consequences of Mississippi's New Tax Law

George S. Welch, Jackson State University

Mississippi's Paid Maternity Leave: Just in Time or Too Little Too Late? Impact on HR Policies and Employee Perspectives

Temma Davis, Jackson State University

Ivan Ozherelev, Jackson State University

All About SECoPA: "The Ins and Outs" of Serving as Host

Mangrove Room / Organized Workshop

Tonya E. Thornton, Global Connective Center

Dan Lasseter, University of Georgia

James Newman, Southeast Missouri State University

Crisis Leadership and Governance

Cocoplum Room / Moderator: Ariel Powell, Florida International University

Bridging the Breakdowns: Leading Through Crisis Across Systems

Chad Willie Denton Wright, Jr., Next Step Community Development Center and the Community Food Bank of Central Alabama

Discourse Analysis of School District Mask Mandates

Ariel Powell, Florida International University

Sukumar Ganapati, Florida International University

Scientific Policy Advisors in Times of Crisis: Analyzing Narratives During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Ryan J. Lofaro, Georgia Southern University



Arjola Balilaj, Jacksonville State University
Alka Sapat, Florida Atlantic University
Gorgin Mansourian, Florida Atlantic University

Public Health, Stigma, and Vulnerable Populations

Ibis Room / Moderator: Matthew Patterson, Broward House

The Reign of the Plasma King: Freedom of Choice or Social Exploitation in Mississippi

LaTricia M. Bailey, Jackson State University

Ivan S. Ozherelev, Jackson State University

Escaping Shame, Embracing Risk: How Minority Stress Fuels Methamphetamine Use and HIV Vulnerability Among LGBTQ+ Individuals in South Florida

Matthew Patterson, Broward House

Intersectionality and the Social Construction of Demographics in HIV and AIDS Scholarship

Michelle Evans, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Nonprofits in Turbulent Times: Examining Social Capital and Diversity Strategies

Egret Room / Moderator: Jenny Ree Gilmore, North Carolina State University

Is Bonding Social Capital a Blessing?

Jenny Ree Gilmore, North Carolina State University

The War on NGOs/NPOs? The Uncertain Terrain in this Twenty First Century

Shamima Ahmed, Northern Kentucky University

How Did Nonprofits Weather the Pandemic? The Role of Volunteer and Diversity Management for Organizational Resilience

Joanne Carman, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Jaclyn Piatak, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

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