

A Message from the Director

Martha Dede

The Center offers the on-campus Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree, which enjoys full accreditation by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) as well as a Distance Learning MPA (accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges). We offer the MPA with options in Urban Administration or Public Works Administration as well as course tracks in public finance, information systems management and non-profit management.

For over 30 years, the Graduate Center for Public Policy and Administration and its MPA Program have been providing excellence in graduate education and service to the Southern California community. Our over 2,000 graduates constitute a strong presence and vibrant professional network in the public sector, throughout Southern California and the nation. Our program continues to grow in both strength and excellence with increasing numbers of new student applications and rising standards of preparation. The accomplishments of our graduates also continue to grow, with an ever-expanding roster of city managers and senior officials at federal, state and local levels among our alumni as well as the first two Long Beach MPA graduates to win Presidential Management Internships.

The Graduate Center and MPA program continue to evolve to provide excellence in education in the 21st century. We continue to revise our curriculum to meet the rapidly-changing demands of public service as well as adopt new instructional methods and incorporate elements such as a Student Learning Portfolio. In the coming years we will be expanding our full-time faculty and further revising our core curriculum and course offerings to stay at the leading edge of MPA education.

The MPA Program at CSULB offers the academic and practical education necessary for a career in the public service. Over 75% of our graduates work in the public sector, with another 20% in the non-profit sector; however, an increasing number work in the private sector or are self-employed. Our MPA also prepares candidates to take advantage of the opportunity to advance in their field. Over half of our graduates work at the managerial or executive level, with the others working in professional and technical positions. Finally, our MPA is a flexible degree that can be shaped to further an almost limitless variety of career interests. Our graduates work in a wide variety of fields, including general administration, finance and budgeting, personnel, public works, social services, education, information technology, health, criminal justice, parks and recreation, community development, housing, urban affairs, and many others.

The Center's intent is to make your educational program an excellent opportunity for professional growth and development. We share with our students a great interest in promoting excellence in public management, the professional conduct of public administration and the formulation of effective public policy in the best interests of citizens and government.

Welcome to our web site and thank you for your interest in the Graduate Center for Public Policy and Administration at CSULB.