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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Faculty Member Bill Rivenbark Selected for Fulbright Specialist Award**

Bill Rivenbark, professor of public administration and government, was selected to participate in a Fulbright Specialists project for six weeks at the University of Palermo on the island of Sicily, Italy.

Rivenbark is teaching regional government officials from Sicily and local officials from Palermo and surrounding communities about performance and financial management, performance measurement and benchmarking, budgeting, financial condition analysis, and capital budgeting. He is also teaching and advising graduate students on their research for a course on improving public sector performance.

In 2005 and 2009, Rivenbark taught week-long graduate programs at the University of Palermo, but this is the first time that the university is offering training to local government officials. The idea for the program began when Carmine Bianco, professor of public management at the University of Palermo, attended one of Rivenbark's budget schools. She and Rivenbark discussed the benefit of offering similar professional training to local officials in Italy, and the planning began. The Fulbright award made it possible to develop this unique program.

Rivenbark is one of 400 faculty and professionals from the United States who will travel abroad this year as Fulbright Specialists. The program was created in 2000 to complement the traditional Fulbright Scholar Program in order to provide short-term academic opportunities (two to six weeks) to prominent U.S. faculty and professionals to support curricular and faculty development and institutional planning at post-secondary academic institutions around the world. The Fulbright program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Rivenbark joined the School of Government in 1999. Prior to that, he worked for the city of Greenville, South Carolina, in various management positions. His research primarily involves performance and financial management in local government and has appeared in *Government Finance Review*, *Journal of Government Financial Management*, *Journal of Public Affairs Education*, *Journal of Public Budgeting, Accounting & Financial Management*, *Public Administration Quarterly*, *Public Finance Review*, *Public Performance & Management Review*, and *State and Local Government Review*. He also is coauthor of *Performance Budgeting for State and Local Government* (M.E. Sharpe, 2003). Rivenbark earned a PhD from Mississippi State University.

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