

Local Government Service Corps to Help Rural Communities in Need

The Master of Public Administration (MPA) programs at the UNC at Chapel Hill School of Government and Appalachian State University (ASU) have come together to create the North Carolina Local Government Service Corps, a three-year initiative to assist economically distressed communities in the state. The pilot phase of the corps will deploy four MPA graduates into the service of up to twelve North Carolina rural communities through full-time positions shared by two or three communities.

Funding and other support for the corps is being provided by the Golden LEAF Foundation, the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center, and the North Carolina League of Municipalities.

The corps members will provide hands-on economic development and capacity-building assistance. To be selected from the current class of second-year MPA students at both universities, they will begin two-year service terms in July 2009. Both the corps members and the communities will be supported by UNC at Chapel Hill and ASU before and during the terms of service. The corps members will receive advanced training in economic development, local government management, and proposal writing and grant administration. Public officials in the host communities will receive scholarships to attend Essentials of Economic Development workshops offered by the School of Government in partnership with ASU and other universities as regionally appropriate.

Training for public officials and two years of service from a corps member are expected to demonstrate a sustainable impact in the rural communities served by the corps. To learn more, contact the program director for the corps, Will Lambe, at 919.966.4247 or whlambe@sog.unc.edu.



Assistance Available in Meeting New Federal Funding Rules Related to Sexual Assault Prevention and Intervention

Sexual assault and domestic violence programs face heightened challenges for cooperation among law enforcement officials, health care providers, and other stakeholders in the face of new federal funding regulations. The School of Government's Public Intersection Project (PIP) is a resource to help communities adjust to the changes.

Effective January 2009, local programs to stop sexual assault and domestic violence in North Carolina must meet two requirements on reporting and investigating offenses in order to

sustain the approximately \$2.9 million in federal monies flowing to the states.

First, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, states may not require that "a victim of sexual assault . . . participate in the criminal justice system or cooperate with law enforcement in order to be provided with a forensic medical exam, reimbursement for charges incurred on account of such an exam, or both." This rule implies a need for anonymous reporting systems for victims of sexual violence.

Local Elected Leaders Academy Announces Winter 2008 Offerings

The Local Elected Leaders Academy will offer both focused, in-depth courses and an orientation course in winter 2008–9 for North Carolina’s municipal and county elected officials:

Focused, In-Depth Courses

December 12, 2008

Planning Strategically for the Future
(School of Government, Chapel Hill)

December 13, 2008

Capital Budgeting for Local Governing
Boards (School of Government,
Chapel Hill)

January 14, 2009

Leading Your County Governing
Board—for newly appointed county
board chairs (Greenville)

Orientation Course: Essentials of County Government

The Essentials course is offered in alternate years to municipal and county elected officials, depending on the election cycle.

December 9–11, 2008

Lake Junaluska, Haywood County

January 20–22, 2009

New Bern, Craven County

February 10–12, 2009

Winston-Salem, Forsyth County

February 24–26, 2009

Raleigh, Wake County

Created by the School of Government in partnership with the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and the North Carolina League of Municipalities, the academy helps experienced and newly elected local leaders lead and govern their communities in the twenty-first century. Through the academy, elected officials learn how to lead in this monumental time of change; respond in new and innovative ways to economic, political, and demographic transformations; and think creatively and act collaboratively when making decisions that will shape North Carolina’s future. The academy’s programs provide timely and relevant information about major issues affecting local government, as well as tools and best practices that elected officials can use in their communities.

To learn more about these courses and to register, visit www.lela.unc.edu, or contact Donna Warner at 919.962.1575 or warner@sog.unc.edu.

School Sponsors Information Sharing on Workforce and Succession Planning

In August 2008, human resource professionals from sixteen jurisdictions in North Carolina gathered at the School of Government to share information on workforce and succession planning. Participants represented governments that were engaged in workforce and succession planning in varying degrees.

The exodus of baby boomers, the challenge of retaining workers, and organizations’ needs for new skills continue to provide the impetus for governments to engage in workforce planning. The forum allowed participants to share challenges that they are facing, and to identify tentative lessons from their workforce- and succession-planning efforts.

School faculty member Willow Jacobson coordinated the exchange. She coedited the Winter 2007 special issue of *Popular Government* on workforce planning. It is available free of charge at the online archive of the magazine, www.sog.unc.edu/popgov/.

For notification about future sessions on information exchange, contact Gail Wilkins at 919.962.9754 or wilkins@sog.unc.edu.

Second, neither law enforcement officials nor other governmental personnel may ask or require any victim of an alleged sexual offense to submit to a polygraph examination or another truth-telling device as a condition of proceeding with the investigation of the offense. A victim’s choosing not to be polygraphed should not affect the investigation, charging, or prosecution of the offense.

Margaret Henderson and Lydian Altman, associate directors of PIP, have facilitated community planning meetings and provided individual consultations for sexual assault and domestic

violence advocates and professionals in Caldwell, Catawba, Hoke, Mecklenburg, Moore, Orange, Pitt, Robeson, and Union counties. Their services remain available at no charge through December 31, 2008, because of financial support from the North Carolina Governor’s Crime Commission. Beginning in January 2009, Altman and Henderson will be available to work with communities on a contract basis.

PIP’s training and consulting results were reported in the winter 2008 edition of *Popular Government*, available at www.sog.unc.edu/popgov.



Judicial College Inaugurates Advanced Criminal Evidence Course for North Carolina Judges

In May 2008 the North Carolina Judicial College inaugurated an intensive, four-day, skill-based course on criminal evidence for superior court judges. Twenty-three judges enhanced their knowledge of topics such as character and prior bad acts evidence, opinion testimony, the Confrontation Clause, evidence issues in cases involving child victims and sexual assault, and hearsay. Participants benefited from role-playing, video demonstrations, case problems, work groups, and panel discussions in developing skills to deal with tough evidentiary issues that arise in criminal cases.

The course, taught by School of Government faculty members, law professors, and judges from the superior court

The best judicial course I have attended at the SOG. Should be a required course for all trial judges, superior and district.

bench, the North Carolina Court of Appeals, and the North Carolina Supreme Court, is illustrative of the Judicial College's approach to judicial education. Its courses have small classes, usually focused on a single topic, and are always highly participatory. Before the course, judge faculty members attended a one-day faculty development seminar that focused on designing effective teaching sessions.

Several participants reported that it was the best judicial training they had attended and that it was on a par with offerings from national judicial-training organizations.

The Judicial College was established in 2006. School faculty work with the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, and judicial officials to develop, oversee, and evaluate a compre-

hensive educational program for judicial officials and their support staff. Ten courses have been designed to date, and more are in the planning stages. To obtain additional information and to learn about upcoming programs, visit www.sog.unc.edu/programs/judicialcollege/.

This is the best seminar I have attended in my 21 years on the bench. You guys did a great job!



Wayne County Moves to Four-Day Workweek

In August 2008, Wayne County became the first North Carolina local government to shift a large portion of its employees to a four-day workweek. County officials project a savings of \$300,000 in utility costs by assigning about half of their 1,032 employees to work four 10-hour days. Other North Carolina local governments are investigating similar arrangements for their workforces.

Wayne County offices covered under the four-day workweek are closed on Fridays. To achieve the optimal savings in utilities—adjusting thermostats for three days in a row—offices must be closed on Mondays or Fridays. The one office closed on Wednesdays is the Solid Waste Department, because that day was the least disruptive for customers' needs. Departments exempted from the four-day workweek, such as the Sheriff's Office and paramedic services, provide services twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Recently the Utah state government and the Birmingham, Alabama, municipal government implemented four-day workweeks. In Birmingham, city offices remain open five days a week, with

School Graduates First Class of National Certified Government Chief Information Officers

In June 2008 the first class of National Certified Government Chief Information Officers (NCGCIO) graduated from the School of Government's Center for Public Technology (CPT). Currently the only provider of NCGCIO certification, CPT has established a strong partnership with GMIS (formerly Government Management Information Sciences, now using only the abbreviation), the international association of public-sector information technology (IT) professionals, to ensure that the program is available to students across the United States. Among the twenty-one graduates were three from Mecklenburg County and one from Guilford County.

The purpose of the ten-month NCGCIO program is to prepare IT professionals to improve their organizational technology assets by learning about IT governance, project management, strategic IT planning, leadership, and change management, among other topics.

The NCGCIO program builds on CPT's mission to improve public services and strengthen communities through strategic investment in IT. CPT focuses on three major areas: education and training, advice and technical assistance, and research and publications.

A state-level program run by the School, certifying chief information officers of state agencies, graduated twenty-



employees scheduled for four 10-hour days per week.

Still to be addressed are Wayne County employees whose offices are in buildings shared with state government offices. For details on implementation of the new hours, go to www.waynegov.com and click on “4-day work week.”

School Receives Grant to Document Hunger in North Carolina

In May 2008 the School of Government received a seed funding grant of \$10,400 to document and evaluate the prevalence of food insecurity and hunger in North Carolina. The UNC at Chapel Hill Center on Poverty, Work and Opportunity provided the grant. School faculty member Maureen Berner is the principal investigator.

In 2005 the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported that North Carolina ranked higher than the national average in rates of both prevalence of food insecurity (13.8 percent) and prevalence of hunger (4.9 percent). Those rates had increased significantly from previous reports. “Food insecurity” means uncertainty about having enough food because of insufficient money or other resources.

“I am particularly interested in how local governments and nonprofits are taking on more of the burden of providing a social safety net for our citizens,” said Berner. “How food pantries address hunger in our country is a prime example.”

Berner, Sharon Paynter, a Public Policy Fellow of the Taubman Center at Brown University, and Emily Anderson, a student in UNC at Chapel Hill’s Mas-

ter of Public Administration Program, will work with the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina to gather information at up to forty food pantries across the state. Additional funding will be sought to extend the work beyond the pilot phase.



three students from a variety of North Carolina agencies in December 2007. This program also is the first in the nation of its kind, focusing on the unique issues faced by state agency IT personnel. The second cohort of the state agency CGCIO program began in February 2008 and will finish in December.

The original CGCIO program, targeting local government IT professionals—primarily in North Carolina—has graduated more than 100 students since 2005. Its fourth cohort, consisting of thirty-four students, began classes in January 2008 and will graduate in November.

For more information about the national, state, and local CGCIO programs, visit www.sog.unc.edu/c4pt/cio.htm, or contact Stacey Everett at 919.962.4248.



The first cohort to graduate from the state agency CGCIO program.

Stacey Everett