

PAA NEWSLETTER

Pi Alpha Alpha Honor Society, California State University, Dominguez Hills

Best MPA Capstone

Shirley Jones

Deviant Workplace Behavior in Public Agencies

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Rui Sun



Best PUB (B.S.) Capstone

Michael Parsons, Osama Haidarali, Connie Nguyen, Marcella Olivares, & Marissa Yanez

Improving the Experience of Public Administration Program Students at California State University, Dominguez Hills



Best Capstone Paper Awards

Pi Alpha Alpha (PAA) is the Global Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration. It recognizes both undergraduate and graduate students who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement in public affairs and administration program in NASPAA member schools or individuals with outstanding public service. The PAA-CSUDH Chapter launched the annual PAA Best Capstone Paper Awards in 2020 for the purpose of recognizing students' achievements and promoting academic excellence. The Awards are funded by the PAA-CSUDH Chapter membership fees.

Congratulations to the Best Capstone Award Winners!



Runner-Ups

MPA Capstone

Thy Merritt

Educational Funding and High School Graduation Rate: An Analysis

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Fynnwin Prager



Shannon Minor, Jobaney Flores, Krissi Elliott, Y Le, Odalys Lopez, & Shawntavia Walker

Entrepreneurial Activity in Southern California

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Fynnwin Prager

“The capstone experience was very intriguing and rewarding! It helped increase my confidence in my ability to conduct my own research and present my findings both orally and in writing! I am now a better person for it!”

- Shirley Jones, MPA '19

Abstracts

Deviant Workplace Behavior in Public Agencies

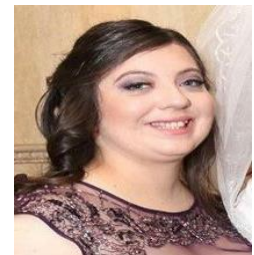
This paper analyzes original survey data of 65 non-managerial public sector employees to examine the factors influencing deviant workplace behavior. The regression results suggest that individual factors (i.e., respectfulness, cooperativeness, and self-control) and organizational factors (i.e., distributive justice perceptions and informational justice perceptions) have an impact on deviant workplace behavior. Public organizations are recommended to implement fair and ethical recruitment processes as well as ethics and diversity training.

Educational Funding and High School Graduation Rate: An Analysis

This study examines the relationship between adequate funding and student achievement. Results show that poverty levels is a more reliable predictor of high school graduation rates than K-12 funding levels. The study has wide implications for students, teachers, parents, legislators and public administrators. Specifically, wholesale increase in educational funding, the main argument of many recent teacher strikes, may not translate into higher student achievement. This study recommends an expanded federal government role in education along with focused attention on low income students.

Improving the Experience of Public Administration Program Students at California State University, Dominguez Hills

The objective of this paper is to improve the quality and website design of the Public Administration Program (PUB) at the CSUDH. Through the initial research about the program description and policy, we explored the barriers the program has and then identified key stakeholders, formed a hypothesis, and collectively came up with a research question. We also conducted interviews and surveys, analyzed the data, and incorporated helpful suggestions and promotional material that could help enhance student experience and make the program’s website more accessible for students.



PAA-CSUDH President: Andre Khachaturians, MPA '19

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Rui Sun

Treasurer: Mr. Johnny Thomas

Award Committee:

Dr. Elena Kulikov

Dr. Zheng Yang

Entrepreneurial Activity in Southern California

This paper involves case studies of five cities in Southern California that employ a variety of methods to support entrepreneurial activity such as small business loans, tax incentives, business walks, and incubators. We discovered that cities do not disclose direct data on entrepreneurial activity because more than half of small businesses do not make it to their fifth year. We also examined the Innovation Incubator program at CSUDH. The recommendation is for cities to provide incubators to coach and support entrepreneurs through the difficult start-up processes.

About the PAA Best Capstone Awards

The awards are given annually to a graduate student and a group of undergraduate students who have successfully completed their capstone projects in the previous calendar year (through PUB490 or PUB592). A cash prize of \$200 is awarded to the best paper and \$50 to the runner-up. Both individual and group capstone projects are eligible for the competition. The student author (or at least one of the student co-authors) must be a Pi Alpha Alpha member. To learn more about the PAA membership, please visit <https://www.csudh.edu/cbapp/students/student-groups/pi-alpha-alpha/> and the national website at <http://pialphaalpha.org>. For further information, please contact Dr. Rui Sun at rsun@csudh.edu.



From the President

Dear Fellow Toros,

As the pandemic continues to change the way we live, learn, and work, I am grateful for the steadfast support of our faculty and staff who are making it easier to learn and connect in this new virtual environment, while sustaining the high quality education that is afforded to us by our university. As the CSUDH chapter of PAA gets ready to launch several new initiatives in the coming year, I want to encourage you to get involved and stay involved. One way to do that is to nominate yourself or someone else to be part of the PAA leadership team; a great way to network and serve the thousands of alumni and students in the public administration department.

As we have learned in the past months, our university education, whether at the baccalaureate or master level, is much more than just a degree but life-long connections to each other as students and graduates of CSU Dominguez Hills. To me, this national emergency has made it even more evident that we need outstanding, ethically inclined, and democratically focused public administrators to serve the citizens. This is where, we, as public leaders can make an impact and change the course of our communities to better serve the public good.

As my closing note, I want to congratulate the winners of our capstone paper competition and their respective faculty mentors on a job well done. Congratulations!

Thank you for taking time to read this inaugural newsletter from your chapter of PAA. We welcome input from you on how to make this communication tool informative, educational, and fun. Please feel free to reach out to us and offer suggestions. To nominate yourself or someone else for the PAA board, please contact Dr. Rui Sun at rsun@csudh.edu. Go Toros!