

UMBC

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY



Highlight – New Faculty in Education Policy

F. Chris Curran (right) has joined the School of Public Policy as an assistant professor in the education policy track.

Dr. Curran conducts research on education policy with an emphasis on improving educational outcomes for underserved and disadvantaged youth. His research interests include school discipline, student safety, early childhood education, teacher labor markets, and classroom/school level policy reform. He has work forthcoming in *Teachers College Record* estimating the impact of Teach for America on district vacancies, as well as work in the *Journal of Educational Administration* examining the hiring practices of principals in urban schools.



Dr. Curran's interest in the study of education policy arose from his experience as a middle school science teacher and department chair in a disadvantaged school district. As a teacher, he became acutely aware of the disparities in opportunity experienced by different groups of students. Furthermore, he observed the policy level structures that often inhibited improvement of the educational system. These experiences in the classroom motivated him to pursue a career applying data analytics to the improvement of education policy.

Dr. Curran graduated from Vanderbilt University in 2015 with a PhD in Leadership and Policy Studies and a doctoral minor in Quantitative Methods. He received his MA in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Mississippi, and a BA in Philosophy and a BS in biochemistry from the University of Florida, where he graduated *summa cum laude* and class valedictorian. He has taught at the K-12 and higher education levels. Dr. Curran was named an [Emerging Education Policy Scholar](#) for 2015-16 by the Thomas B. Fordham Institute and the American Enterprise Institute. Photo by Marlayna Demond.



Education is an important policy area for most state and local governments. Federal and state education policies are often on the frontiers of policy development. In the education policy track, students focus on various types of education policies made at every level of government, and learn about the multiple disciplinary and methodological perspectives on education policy. Students take courses such as education law, finance, civil rights and policy formulation. Photo by UMBC.

Faculty News

Tyson King Meadows (Political Science/Africana Studies), a Public Policy affiliate faculty member, has been appointed associate dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Dr. King-Meadows joined UMBC in 2003 and has held numerous leadership positions across campus. Among other initiatives, he co-chairs the Executive Committee for the Recruitment, Retention and Advancement of Underrepresented Minority Faculty. His current projects examine the impact of racial imagery and racial attitudes on public support for federal policies designed to ameliorate political and economic inequality.

Tim Brennan (Public Policy) presented at the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC/AER) Regulatory Conference in Brisbane, Australia in August, 2015. His topic was "Net neutrality: lessons for Australia from the US experience." He also participated on a panel at the conference on the big issues in the world of infrastructure regulation. The annual conference brings together industry participants, policymakers, academics, and regulators from around the world to discuss the latest ideas about the theory and practice of regulation.

The Baltimore Sun published an op-ed by **F. Chris Curran** (Public Policy). In the article, "[Improve Baltimore schools to attract families](#)," he concludes that: "We need policies that provide incentives and structures so that remaining in the public city schools is attractive even for those with the ability to go elsewhere."

The Baltimore Sun also published an op-ed by **George La Noue** (Public Policy), "[Md. HBCU: Integration or aggrandizement?](#)" The article is a response to settlement proposals in a long-running legal case to increase integration in Maryland colleges and universities.

Articles by two public policy faculty were among the most highly cited for 2014 in *Public Administration Review*. "[Local e-government in the United States: Transformation or incremental change?](#)" co-authored by **Donald F. Norris**, looked at the slow growth of e-democracy in local governments. "[Does performance management lead to better outcomes? Evidence from the U.S. public transit industry](#)," co-authored by **Lauren Hamilton Edwards**, found that more extensive use of performance management practices contributed to increased effectiveness in this segment of local transit agencies.

Student News

Michael T. Abrams is the recipient of the 2015 Judith A. Shinogle Memorial Fellowship. Michael is a PhD candidate in the health policy track. He received his BA from the University of California at Berkeley and an MPH from Johns Hopkins University. A senior research analyst at The Hilltop Institute, he directs and conducts quantitative and qualitative policy and health services research related to the brain and the behavioral health of Medicaid and other low income populations.

Michael received his award at the Shinogle Lecture on December 4 on the UMBC campus. Go [here](#) for a video of the presentation. At right, David Salkever, Michael Abrams and Donald F. Norris. Photo by Marsha Willis.



An [op ed](#) in the Baltimore Sun by MPP student **Josh Hastings** called on Maryland Governor Larry Hogan and the legislature to fully fund Program Open Space, a state-wide land preservation program. Mr. Hastings is the chair of Partners for Open Space.

Shariece Johnson, a PhD student in the health policy track, received an Excellence in Program Planning Award at the 2015 American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL. She was the program chair for the Community Health Planning and Policy Development section of APHA. UMBC President Freeman Hrabowski was the keynote speaker at the APHA meeting.

The 2015 Public Policy Alumni Fellow is **Renee Whitby**. A December 2015 graduate, she was an outstanding part-time MPP student in the education policy track. Ms. Whitby has taught social studies at Arbutus Middle School since 2009. She graduated from Mount St. Mary's University with a BS in secondary education.

Alumni News

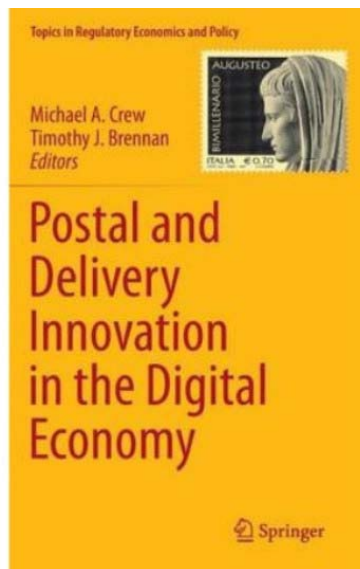
The Baltimore Business Journal named **Steve Sharkey** (MPP, '06) to their "40 Under 40" list for 2015. Steve is director of the Baltimore City Department of General Services. He began his career with the city as an intern in the Baltimore CitiStat office when he was a student in the MPP program.

Sherece West-Scantlebury (PhD, '07), a 2013 UMBC Alumna of the Year, was selected as a 2015 Aspen Institute Ascend Fellow. The Ascend Fellowship invests in diverse leaders from a range of sectors who have breakthrough ideas to build economic security, educational success and health and well-being for low-income families in the US. Fellows work on individual projects over an 18 month period. The projects use a two generational approach that invests in children and their parents.

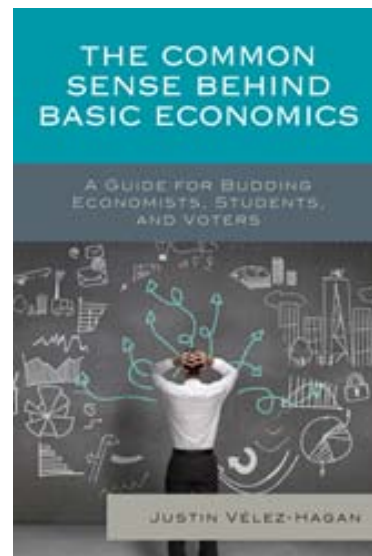
U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy has appointed Rear Admiral (RADM) **Sylvia Trent-Adams** (PhD, '06) to the position of Deputy Surgeon General. In this role, she advises and supports the Surgeon General regarding operations of the US Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps and communication of scientific information to advance the health of the nation. She has served as the Chief Nurse Officer of the USPHS since November 2013. Prior to joining the Office of the Surgeon General, RADM Trent-Adams was the Deputy Associate Administrator for the HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB). She started her career as a nurse officer in the U.S. Army. Photo of RADM Trent-Adams by USPHS.



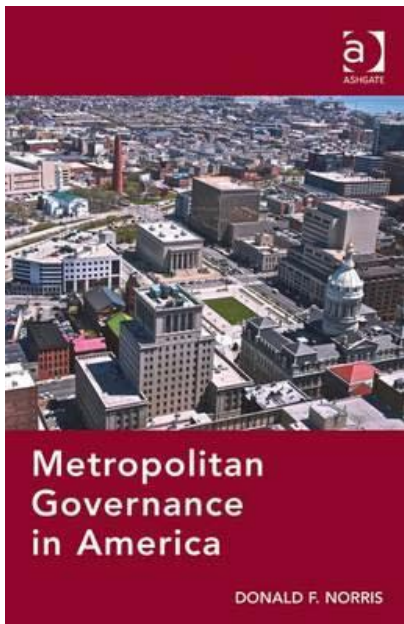
Books



Tim Brennan (Public Policy) examines new business models for postal delivery in light of potential Congressional reforms in the book "Postal and Delivery Innovation in the Digital Economy" (2015, Springer). Dr. Brennan co-edited the book and co-wrote the first chapter.



Public Policy PhD student **Justin Vélez-Hagan** wrote an introductory economics book that offers easy-to-understand language and a humorous tone. The book, "The Common Sense Behind Basic Economics: A Guide for Budding Economists, Students, and Voters" (2015, Lexington Books) is intended to educate the public on the importance of understanding the basics of economics before participating in upcoming elections.



In his book, "Metropolitan Governance in America" (2015, Ashgate Publishing Group), **Donald F. Norris** presents evidence of the highly fragmented local governance landscape throughout America, and suggests the need for mechanisms that would enable metropolitan areas to address the difficult and controversial issues facing local governments.

Dr. Norris discussed his book and the prospects for regional government in Baltimore on the *Baltimore Sun* podcast *Roughly Speaking* with Dan Rodricks. Listen to the full podcast (interview begins at 23:00) on the [Baltimore Sun website](#).

Publications

Could holding utilities responsible for losses suffered by ratepayers as the result of outages provide incentives for utilities to undertake efficient mitigation and restoration for storm-related service outages? **Tim Brennan** (Public Policy) addresses this question in the article, "[Holding distribution utilities liable for outage costs](#)," published in *Energy Economics* (2015, Vol. 48).

Elyse Grossman (PhD, '14) and **Nancy Miller** (Public Policy) examined the effectiveness of juvenile curfew laws in improving youth public health and juvenile justice. "[A systematic review of the impact of juvenile curfew laws on public health and justice outcomes](#)" appeared in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* (2015, Vol. 49, Issue 6).

Lauren Hamilton Edwards co-authored the article, "[Operationalizing strategy content: An example from the transit industry](#)," published in the *International Journal of Public Administration* (November 2015). The team surveyed 103 local transit agencies about the different strategic stances that these agencies adopt. She was also co-author of the study "[Mutual relationship of strategic stances and formulation methods, and their impacts on performance in public local transit agencies](#)." The article appeared in *Administration & Society* (May 29, 2015).

Nancy Miller (Public Policy) and Adele Kirk co-authored an article that examined state use of Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) to provide long-term support to older adults and individuals with physical disabilities. The article, "[Predicting state investment in Medicaid home and community-based services, 2000–2011](#)" was published in the *Journal of Aging & Social Policy* (November 7, 2015).

David Salkever (Public Policy) analyzed the conceptual differences between tests of intelligence, aptitude and achievement in his article, "[Interpreting the NLSY79 Empirical Data on 'IQ' and 'Achievement': A comment on Borghans et al.](#)," published in *Personality and Individual Differences* (2015, Vol. 85). He also wrote the essay, "[Interpreting the Evidence on 'True IQ' in the NLSY79: Rejoinder to Grosse](#)" for the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE) Newsletter (November, 2015, p. 25).

Upcoming Events February 18 Info Session



Learn about the UMBC Master's Degree in Public Policy (MPP) at an information session on Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 7:00 pm in Public Policy Room 438 on the UMBC campus. Enjoy a light dinner and talk with faculty and current students about the field of public policy, career opportunities, and how to apply to our MPP program. Those interested in the PhD are also invited to the session.

This event is open to prospective students on and off campus. To register, e-mail your name, year, and major to Sally Helms (helms@umbc.edu).

[Go here for directions to UMBC and parking information.](#) Photo by UMBC.

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