

February 2026 Newsletter

Welcome from the Director

Dear UMBC Public Policy community,

Happy New Year! I hope you all managed to get some sort of rest and well-deserved break, whether a lull in work or school.

First, I'd like to congratulate all of our December 2025 graduates. We were thrilled to be able to celebrate with them and loved ones at the ceremony and the Public Policy graduation toast.

Baltimore in January and February is always interesting. In the middle of winter, it comes with unpredictable weather, a general chill and quiet in the air, and a period of transition. Transition is often uncomfortable, but I like to think of January as a transitional month of promise. Like its namesake, the two-faced Roman deity Janus, January provides us an opportunity to look back and reflect, and look ahead with promise.

As the Spring semester continues, we welcome back faculty who have been on a sabbatical, and send others on their way to travel, research, and rest. We honor our recent graduates, while welcoming a new group of Masters students beginning their coursework.

While it is chilly and windy in Baltimore as I write this, the sky is clear and sunny, so I invite you to join us in kicking off 2026 with some hopeful confidence in what the Spring semester will bring.

We are strong together, as a community - at UMBC and beyond.

Loren Henderson, Ph.D.

Director and Professor, School of Public Policy



****Congratulations** to our
December 2025 graduates!**



Student highlights



First year Ph.D. student **Paulette**

Miwornunyuie has published a new article in the *Journal of Intellectual Capital*. The article, "Mapping IC, KM and digitalization: a comparative analysis of general and national discourse" analyzes the triad of intellectual capital (IC), knowledge management (KM), and digitalization, and their role in promoting innovation, resilience, and economic development.



Ph.D. Candidate **Tanya Kreutzer Sayed** was invited by the American Public Health Association's (APHA's) Community Health Planning and Policy Development section to present her research which examines how policymaking determinants correlate with community health worker workforce sizes across and within the United States at the annual 2025 meeting, "Making the Public's Health a National Priority," in Washington, D.C in November.



Professor Nancy Miller leads a toast to the December 2025 graduates.



Ph.D. Candidate and M.P.P. alumnus **Ridwan Islam Sifat's** study on Healthcare Delivery and Healthcare Experiences of the Third Gender Population and Intersex Individuals has been accepted for presentation at the Midwest Political Science Association Conference. In addition, his research, "Intersecting Inequalities and Educational Access: Insights from Urban Slum Households," has been accepted for publication in the journal *Societies*. He has also been awarded the Phi Kappa Phi Dissertation Fellowship, awarded to 12 recipients nationwide.



Ph.D. student and M.P.P. alumnus **Daniel Douglas** was profiled in a UMBC News article about his upcoming Fulbright semester. During Spring 2026, Daniel will study flood mitigation in Antwerp, Belgium.



Tanya Kreutzer Sayed at the APHA conference

Faculty highlights

Public Policy Professor **Jane Arnold Lincove** published a new policy brief with the National Center for Research on Education Access and Choice (REACH). In the study, she examines Baltimore City's citywide choice system, and whether undermatch occurs when middle schoolers apply to high schools. She also published a new article in the journal *Economics of Education Review*. In the article, Dr. Lincove and coauthors "investigate how large-scale expansion of charter schools and deregulation of teacher employment in New Orleans influenced teacher compensation."

Public Policy Director and Professor **Loren Henderson** published research in the journal *Implementation Science Communications*. In the study, Dr. Henderson and co-authors examined internal facilitation (IF) processes among hospitals participating in Maryland's perinatal quality improvement collaboratives (QICs) to implement national guidelines for reducing primary cesarean births.

Public Policy Professor **Chul Hyun Park** has published a new article in *Social Science & Medicine*, one of the leading journals in public health research. The article, "A Panel Data Analysis of the Impact of Government Trust on Support for Universal and Air Travel Vaccine Mandates During the COVID-19 Pandemic," looks at how trust in the executive branch influences support for collective public health measures.

In the past few months, Public Policy Professor Emeritus **John Rennie Short** published two articles in *The Conversation*, and appeared in two television interviews focusing on geopolitics in East Asia and the South China Sea.

Public Policy Director and Professor **Loren Henderson** was honored as a STAR Luminary at the STAR Scholars Network's 8th Anniversary celebration in Washington, DC. The STAR Luminary award recognizes leaders whose work "exemplifies ethical leadership, inclusive excellence, and transformative influence across institutions and communities worldwide."

The STAR Scholars Network is an international network of scholars focused on research for social impact, transnationally networked leaders, academically-driven educators, and researchers with ethics and integrity.



Dr. Loren Henderson (second from right) receives the STAR Luminary award.

Alumni highlights

 Alumna **Stephanie Harshman** (Ph.D. 2024) published research in the journal *Geriatric Nursing*.

 Alumnus **John “Johnny O” Olszewski** (Ph.D. 2017) was named “Outstanding Alumnus” award for the Social Sciences by the UMBC Alumni Association. He was honored in October 2025 at the [UMBC Alumni Awards](#), an annual celebration UMBC Alumni Association Board of Directors holds to honor alumni accomplishments. Olszewski was elected as Baltimore County Executive in 2018, and to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2024.



Rep. John “Johnny O” Olszewski.
Photo by Brad Ziegler & Abnet Shiferaw.

Keep in touch

We want to hear from you!

Do you have an achievement or event you would like to share with UMBC public policy community?

Send highlights and news to Myriam Ralston (myriam@umbc.edu) to keep in touch and be featured in an upcoming newsletter.



[@UMBCPubPolicy](#)



facebook.com/UMBCPublicPolicy



The School of Public Policy at UMBC on [LinkedIn](#)

School of Public Policy at UMBC
Public Policy Building, 4th Floor
1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, MD 21250