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### *Greetings,*

Last year the Oakland University Master of Public Administration (MPA) program documented its history via re-accreditation. This year we are focusing on creating our future. We are particularly excited about two initiatives:

- A new nonprofit management certificate which will launch in the fall
- A new Bachelor of Public Service degree, that we are currently designing (the first in Michigan)

In the meantime, the faculty is engaged in visioning and charting our course. Below is what's happening in our corner of the world. Please let us know what's happening in yours.

## MPA PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS *2015-16*

### *New Program*

Introducing Oakland University's new Nonprofit Management Certificate (NPMC). Created at the request of local community leaders, this program is designed to help meet the rising demand for the essential business skills required in nonprofit management. The six non-credit courses needed to obtain the certificate will be offered in rotation and can be completed within one calendar year. The first class begins September 2016. Registration will be available soon. For information, contact Suzanne Rossi at [ssrossi@oakland.edu](mailto:ssrossi@oakland.edu).

### *Outreach*

The OU-Pontiac service learning partnership has been an active success. Public administration (PA) students made the news through their internship at Pontiac's city hall over the summer.

Participating students included undergraduate PA majors Anthony Bowen and Andrew Zamboroski, and MPA students Taleesa Anderson, Sharole Speagle and Erica Zettle.



Anthony Bowen, Sharole Speagle and Erica Zettle with Pontiac Mayor Dierdre Waterman.

### *Service Projects*

Two organizations, The Art Experience and Community Housing Network (CHN), recently partnered to build and paint four "little free libraries" for residents in Pontiac, Michigan. The little free library project was a big success and put three MPA students in the *Oakland Press*: Jarett Sanders, Nancy Isken and Sarah Weinberg.



A little free library

MPA students from the Association of Nonprofit Professionals hosted a movie screening of *What is Philanthropy?* Monday, February 29, on the campus of Oakland University. This documentary is the vision of executive producer Salvatore Alaimo who is an assistant professor in the School of Public, Nonprofit and Health Administration at Grand Valley State University. Alaimo was onsite to present his movie that studies the idea of philanthropy's role in American history, principles and cultures.



Student Sponsored Event –  
*What is Philanthropy?*  
Photo courtesy of Salvatore Alaimo.



In attendance at the December 2015 MPA commencement ceremony were (left-right) Dustin Deriemacker, Matthew Fisher, Suzanne Rossi, Dr. Douglas Carr, Jacob Morton, Colleen Glodich, Erica Zettle and Rebecca Snay.

### *Celebrating Achievements*

The MPA faculty and staff are very proud of the program's fall 2015 graduates and are looking forward to honoring the winter/summer graduates on April 28, 2016.

### *Professional Development*

Two MPA professional student organizations, Pi Alpha Alpha and the Association of Nonprofit Professionals, co-sponsored a LinkedIn workshop fall 2015, featuring Aaron Helander and Katie Alec. Students also had the opportunity to have a professional photo taken for their LinkedIn profile.



Kerry Burke

Last January, the Association of Nonprofit Professional hosted an event open to all OU students, "How to Land a Gig You'll Dig: Navigating Your Career Search," featuring Kerry Burke, major gifts officer of Oakland University. Kelly shared her job search strategies with a group of students who gathered in the Oakland Center. ANP is dedicated to providing students with career advice and help with professional development opportunities.



The MPA student professional organization Student Alliance of Healthcare Leaders (SAHL) supports OU students who wish to explore the world of health care administration with help from current health care executives. American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) provides membership discounts to students and

early careerists. The local chapter, Midwest Chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives (MCACHE), provides health care administration students from several local universities with scholarship money to facilitate participation in MCACHE membership and events.



Recently, MPA students participated in the MCACHE Student Case Competition and some attended the MCACHE annual meeting in November 2015. In attendance were (left to right) Caitlyn N. Hakim, Oakland University; Dr. John Fick and Dr. Renady Hightower, Siena Heights University; Brian Madison, past-president of MCACHE; Dr. Beverly Mihalko, Eastern Michigan University; and Cathy Killaly University of Michigan.

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Master of Public Administration program at Oakland University advances excellence in public and non-governmental management through strengthening the leadership capacity, problem-solving skills, public service values, and community engagement of current and aspiring public and non-governmental executives.

The program is designed to deliver outstanding service to our students, the university community, and the public at large.

### DIVERSITY PHILOSOPHY

Oakland University's Master of Public Administration program is committed to creating a welcoming environment for all students, faculty and staff. We will work to inculcate an awareness of the value of diversity and to impart the ability to interact respectfully and productively with all stakeholders, regardless of race, ethnicity, sex, class, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, disability, age and/or veteran status.

*Making Leaders. Making Decisions. Making a Difference.*