

JHBC PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

SPRING 2026



Department of
Public Administration



NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT CHAIR, DR. ROBERT STOKES



Dr. Robert Stokes
DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Welcome to the Spring 2026 edition of the department's newsletter. This issue highlights key developments across our department, including new programs such as the Human Resources concentration, faculty accomplishments by Marc Fudge and Ki Eun Kang and reflections from the 2026 ASPA Conference. We also welcome our new faculty members, Chris Freeland and Olivia Sanchez.

The Public Administration department is proud to celebrate the achievements of our community, including Carson Fajardo's appointment as a CSU Student Trustee, as well as recognizing our 2026 Department Award recipients, Josefina Ruggeiro and Princess Cunanan. This issue also highlights the success of our Pi Alpha Alpha chapter and honors Cesar Navarrete as our Alumni of the Year. Together, these accomplishments reflect our shared commitment to leadership and public service.

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DR. CRAIG SEAL ON SHRM, PUBLIC SECTOR HR, AND THE FUTURE OF THE MPA HR CONCENTRATION



WHO IS CRAIG SEAL?

Dr. Craig R. Seal is a Professor of Management in the Jack H. Brown College of Business and Public Administration at California State University, San Bernardino, where he also serves as the inaugural Director of the Graduate Programs Office. He previously held leadership roles at CSUSB, including Associate Vice President and Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Associate Dean of Student Success & Assessment, and MBA Director.

WHAT IS SHRM AND HOW DOES IT RELATE TO THE PUBLIC SECTOR?

The Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) is the leading professional association for HR practitioners, setting standards for effective, ethical, and strategic human resource management. Its framework emphasizes not only technical HR knowledge, but also the behavioral and leadership competencies needed to support organizations and their employees. For public sector professionals—particularly in California—this foundation is especially important, as managers operate within complex regulatory environments, civil service systems, and often highly unionized workforces.

WE HEARD THERE IS A NEW HR CONCENTRATION IN THE MPA PROGRAM. CAN YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT THAT?

The HR concentration in the MPA is designed to build the above mentioned foundation by introducing students to core HR principles while aligning coursework with current, practice-based standards reflected in SHRM. This helps ensure that graduates are prepared to navigate workforce challenges with both compliance awareness and strategic perspective.

SO WHAT'S NEXT? HOW DOES THE JACK H. BROWN COLLEGE PLAN TO SUPPORT THE MPA AND HRM PROGRAMS?

To further support this preparation, we are launching a new course in Spring 2027, HRM 6983: Culminating HR Experience, which will be available as an elective within the MPA HR concentration. This course will integrate a real-world consulting project with structured preparation for the SHRM certification exam, providing students with applied experience as well as a pathway toward professional credentialing.

PROFESSOR TWILLEA D. EVANS-CARTHEN: A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP, SERVICE, AND PURPOSE



Professor Twillea D. Evans-Carthen has dedicated her career to public service, human resources, education, conflict resolution, and community leadership. With more than 30 years of HR experience, over 35 years as a college administrator at Cal State University, San Bernardino, and more than 30 years as a professor and lecturer, she has spent her life helping individuals, organizations, and communities succeed.

After beginning her HR career in the private sector, Evans-Carthen joined CSUSB's Human Resources Department and later served as the University's Ombuds Officer/Director, providing confidential support and guidance to faculty, staff, students, and community members. In retirement, she continues to serve as an HR and Ombuds consultant for public and private organizations.

A dedicated educator, she has taught HR and public administration courses at CSUSB for approximately 15 years and has also served on the faculties of UC Riverside, Chapman, Brandman, and UMass Global University. Her expertise includes leadership development, conflict management, communication, diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging.

Beyond her professional work, Evans-Carthen is active in numerous civic and professional organizations, including Society for Human Resource Management, American Society for Public Administration, the League of Women Voters, the National Council of Negro Women, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., where she continues to support public policy and community initiatives.

Her many honors include the 2023 CSUSB Black Faculty, Student Staff Association Pioneer Alumni Legacy of Excellence Award, the 2022 Community Service Perseverance Award, and the 2022 Educational Leadership and Community Service Award. A CSUSB Distinguished Alumna, she holds an MPA from CSUSB and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from CSU Long Beach.

Evans-Carthen's career reflects a lifelong commitment to leadership, service, and empowering others. She continues to model what it means to lead with knowledge, grace, service, and heart. Her career is not only a story of professional excellence, it is a powerful example of purpose in action.

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CSUSB PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION FACULTY WERE WELL REPRESENTED AT THE ASPA CONFERENCE HELD IN HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA IN MARCH 2026

- **Dr. Marc Fudge** served as the moderator for the Marc Holzer Public Performance Symposium
- **Dr. Pamela Medina Gutierrez** served as a presenter for “FBO’s as Mediating Structures for Undocumented Immigrants.” Her work focused on how faith-based organizations can function as mediating/support structures for undocumented immigrants.
- **Dr. Robert Stokes** served as a presenter for “Overcoming Equity Challenges to Energy Efficiency Programs: The Case of I-REN.” His presentation examined equity challenges in energy-efficiency programs through the Inland Regional Energy Network case.
- **Dr. Ki Eun Kang**, Assistant Professor, served as both moderator and presenter of “Protecting the Transit-Dependent: Governance and Equity in Urban Resilience.” Her contribution addressed governance, equity, and resilience for transit-dependent populations.
- **In Hae Noh**, who will be joining the CSUSB Public Administration faculty in the Fall 2026 semester, served as a presenter for “Understanding brokers in discourse networks: a case in the Delaware River Basin.” Her contribution focused on brokers in discourse networks, using the Delaware River Basin as a case.

Overall, CSUSB faculty contributions at American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) Conference 2026 spanned immigrant support systems, energy equity, environmental governance and discourse networks, transit equity, and urban resilience, with faculty serving as both presenters and moderators.



FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DR. MARC FUDGE PUBLISHES HIS BOOK, “IMPROVING EQUITY THROUGH FISCAL POLICY - DASHED DREAMS (2025)” WITH CO-AUTHOR MARC HOLZER



Dr. Marc Fudge is a distinguished scholar and leader in public administration whose research focuses on public finance, social equity and justice, and performance management. A professor in the Department of Public Administration at the Jack H. Brown College of Business and Public Administration at CSUSB, his work has been featured in leading academic journals including the *Journal of Public Budgeting, Accounting and Financial Management*, *Public Financial Management*, and the *International Journal of Public Administration*.

Fudge has demonstrated impactful leadership across higher education and the public administration profession, serving as former President of the Conference of Minority Public Administrators (COMPA) and former Chair of the Section on Public Performance

and Management. He earned his BA from Howard University, his MPA from Fairleigh Dickinson University, and his Ph.D from Rutgers University in Newark. In 2025, he co-authored *Improving Equity through Fiscal Policy: Dashed Dreams* with Marc Holzer, a timely work examining the pursuit of equity through fiscal policy and public governance. Read all about it below.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Improving Equity through Fiscal Policy: Dashed Dreams explores the delivery of key services to the public and to what extent equity is considered when government allocates resources. Authors Marc K. Fudge and Marc Holzer examine the key topics in a typical public budgeting, finance or policy course including taxation, public choice and political economics from an equity-based lens. They then offer a deep dive into the development of US public policies, tackling a complex history of policies written expressly to undermine or suppress the advancement of Blacks and people of color. The result is a timely supplement to public budgeting and finance courses that encourages readers to recognize and reckon with the persistence of deep disparities—and the ways in which contemporary public budgeting cannot be understood without considering equity.



FOR BOOK INFO

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DR. KI EUN KANG RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING SCHOLARLY ACHIEVEMENT AND EMERGING LEADERSHIP IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



Congrats!

DR. KI EUN KANG HAS BEEN NAMED THE JACK H. BROWN COLLEGE'S 2026 EMERGENT SCHOLAR!

Dr. Ki Eun Kang, Assistant Professor of Public Administration at CSUSB has quickly established an impressive record of scholarly achievement since joining the university in 2023.

Her research appears in highly respected journals, including *Urban Affairs Review*, *Economic Development Quarterly*, *Journal of the American Planning Association*, *Policy Studies*, and *Risk Analysis*. Between 2020 and 2025, Kang authored or co-authored ten peer-reviewed journal articles addressing topics such as local economic development, urban resilience, environmental policy, public participation, and public perceptions of science and technology.

Kang's scholarship is recognized for its methodological rigor, interdisciplinary collaboration, and focus on addressing important public challenges. She frequently serves in lead author roles, demonstrating her strong intellectual leadership and research contributions.

In addition to her publication record, Kang is actively engaged in collaborative and applied research initiatives across campus. She currently serves as a Faculty Research Fellow with the Leonard Transportation Center and also contributes to the Research Institute for Public Management and Governance through its recent IREN grant project. She also participates in a National Science Foundation-funded collaborative team examining online learning outcomes in STEM education. Alongside this work, she contributes to grant-funded projects supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. She also received a 2025 Summer Research Fellowship at CSUSB.

Beyond her research accomplishments, Kang is recognized as a dedicated educator and supportive colleague, earning strong student evaluations and contributing meaningfully to the university community.

With multiple projects currently under review and in development, Kang continues to build a distinguished and impactful career in public administration and public policy.

DR. CHRIS FREELAND



Ethical Leadership & Management of Public Organizations

A proud graduate of the California State University system, Dr. Chris Freeland brings more than 30 years of public sector experience, including 25 years in municipal government. His local government career began in 2001 as a Management Analyst II in the City Manager's Office for the City of West Covina. Over the next 18 years, he advanced through a series of leadership positions in West Covina, including

Deputy City Manager, Community Services Director, Human Resources Director, Community Development Director, Assistant City Manager, and ultimately City Manager.

Since 2019, Dr. Freeland has served as City Manager for the City of Indian Wells. His extensive experience and commitment to public service have earned him recognition throughout the local government profession. He remains actively involved in several professional organizations, currently serving as President-Elect of the League of California Cities City Managers Department. He is also a Credentialed Manager through the International City/County Management Association and a member of the American Society for Public Administration and the California City Management Foundation.

In his first year at California State University, San Bernardino, Dr. Freeland taught PA5010: Ethical Leadership during Fall 2025 and PA6640: Management of Public Organizations in Spring 2026. He has greatly valued the opportunity to teach at CSUSB and engage students through the practical application of public administration principles, drawing on real-world experiences to bridge the gap between theory and practice in local government.

DR. OLIVIA SANCHEZ



Sustainability Policy and Management

Olivia Sanchez, DPA, MBA, serves as the Environmental Programs Manager for the Western Riverside Council of Governments and brings more than 25 years of experience in solid waste, recycling, sustainability, and environmental policy. In addition to her regional government work, she teaches PA 5200: Sustainability Policy and Management, where students examine environmental governance, climate policy, waste reduction, energy systems, transportation, and sustainability challenges / opportunities facing California and the Inland Empire. Her course emphasizes practical public-sector applications, regional collaboration, and real-world policy implementation.

ABOUT *me*

After earning both her undergraduate and master's degrees in business administration, she made a bold and inspiring pivot, a new course toward a Doctorate in Public Administration, where her passion for leadership and public impact truly came to life.



WHAT IS PI ALPHA ALPHA?

Pi Alpha Alpha is the Global Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration, with more than 160 chapters located at NASPAA member schools around the world. The society recognizes and encourages outstanding scholarship and achievement in public affairs and administration while promoting integrity, professionalism, and excellence in public service education and practice. Membership in Pi Alpha Alpha reflects the highest levels of academic achievement and dedication to careers in public service.

FALL 2025

DECEMBER 13th, 2025

- Alondra Loera
- Brianna Rodriguez
- Carlos Godoy
- Christian Rodriguez
- Christina Slay
- Francisco Sanchez-Carcano
- Gabriel Garcia
- Grace Montgomery
- Jeremiah Thomas
- Jorge Ojeda
- Lauren Lyon
- Linda Martinez
- Margarita Munoz
- Nancy Loza
- Rebecca Sandoval
- Ronald Donis Alvarado
- Ryan Henley
- Sarah Bartlett
- Stephanie Gandara
- Stephanie Wells
- Taylor Hosey
- Yanely Perez
- Yaquelin Aranda-Aguayo

SPRING 2026

APRIL 25th, 2026

- Yovani Alas
- Claude Baldwin
- Diana S. Cruz Alvarado
- Princess Cunanan
- Anahi Fernandez Robles
- Isaac Gabriel
- Andy Gonzales-Diaz
- Raul Gudino
- Chris Harris
- Crystal Hernandez
- Jose Luiz Hernandez
- Breanna Marquez
- Samantha Martinez
- Raelyne Moreno
- Quinn Nguyen
- Isaac Perez
- Josiel Perez
- Jonathan Rangel
- Bernadette Reece
- Daisy Rivera
- Alyssa Rodriguez
- Praneet Row
- Sandra Amorim Ruiz

- Josefina Francesca Ruggeiro
- Ryan Samuels
- Karen Sanzon
- Melanie Slater
- Kamille Stevens
- Maria Tejada
- Jadira Tello
- Orlando Tilford
- Trisha Tillotson
- Des'ree Valenzuela
- Dieudonne Wankwe
- Hanna Woodman



ALUMNI OF THE YEAR AWARD

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR AWARD: CESAR NAVARRETE



Cesar Navarrete, MPA, is a respected nonprofit executive and philanthropic leader whose career has been defined by a commitment to equity, collaboration, and community impact throughout the Inland Empire. With more than 20 years of experience serving children, youth, and families, Cesar has built a reputation for advancing innovative, community-driven solutions that create lasting change.

As President and CEO of Children’s Fund, Cesar leads the organization’s strategic vision and operational growth while championing partnerships that ensure vulnerable children and families have access to Support, Opportunity, and Hope. Under his leadership, Children’s Fund was recognized as a 2025 California Nonprofit of the Year, reflecting the organization’s transformative work and regional impact.

Cesar’s leadership and dedication to service have earned him numerous honors, including the 2024 Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award from the CSUSB Randall W. Lewis Center for Entrepreneurship at the Spirit of the Entrepreneur Awards and the 2020 Bank of America Neighborhood Builder Award.

A proud two-time CSUSB alumnus, Cesar earned both his Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and Master of Public Administration. Beyond his professional accomplishments, he remains deeply engaged in civic leadership through service on regional boards, advisory councils, and policy bodies. His work continues to exemplify mission-focused leadership grounded in equity, public service, and meaningful community impact.

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT LEADER TURNED CSU TRUSTEE, CARSON FAJARDO



A native of Rancho Cucamonga, California, Carson Fajardo has built a strong foundation in leadership, advocacy, and public service through his work both on campus and throughout the Inland Empire community. Before stepping into his new role as a CSU Student Trustee, Fajardo made campus history at CSUSB by serving two consecutive terms as Associated Students, Incorporated (ASI) President, representing more than 19,000 students. After graduating in May 2025 with a Bachelor of Arts in Administration with a concentration in Management, he immediately continued his academic journey in CSUSB's Master of Public Administration (MPA) program, further strengthening his understanding of public sector leadership and organizational management.

In addition to his academic and student leadership roles, Fajardo serves full-time as a Strategic Initiatives Associate at Neighborhood Partnership Housing Services (NPHS), a nonprofit housing developer and HUD-certified educator serving the Inland Empire. In this role, he leads municipal and stakeholder engagement efforts, coordinates strategic planning initiatives, and works closely with community partners. Fajardo credits the MPA program with helping shape both his professional growth and leadership philosophy, allowing him to apply classroom learning in real time while reflecting on his experiences as both an elected student leader and nonprofit executive.



STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS



CARSON, CAN YOU SHARE HOW YOU WERE SELECTED TO SERVE ON THE CSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES? IS THIS AN ELECTED OR APPOINTED POSITION, AND WHAT DOES THE SELECTION PROCESS INVOLVE? ALSO, HOW LONG IS THE TERM FOR THIS ROLE?

I was appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom to serve on the CSU Board of Trustees on June 20, 2025 to serve a two year term as one of two Student Trustees. This was a competitive and lengthy process that took nearly 5 months. I initially had to interview with the California State Student Association (CSSA), which is the official voice of nearly 470,000 CSU students across our 22 campuses. From there, my name was forwarded to the Governor's Appointments Office so that they could interview me. After one formal interview with the Governor's Office and three supplemental phone calls, I was finally informed that I would be appointed to the Board.

WHAT DOES THE ROLE OF A CSU TRUSTEE ENTAIL, AND HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU TYPICALLY DEDICATE TO IT? HOW OFTEN DOES THE BOARD MEET, AND WHAT KIND OF INFORMATION DO YOU REVIEW TO HELP MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS? ALSO, WHAT ROLE DO YOU BELIEVE THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE PLAYS ON THE BOARD?

As a Student Trustee, I participate as a voting member and full participant in all Board of Trustee meetings which take place every other month for two to three days at a time. In these meetings I serve on multiple committees including: Institutional Advancement, Finance, University Faculty & Personnel, Campus Planning & Grounds, Collective Bargaining, and Audit. At our meeting in May, I was appointed as Chair of the Institutional Advancement Committee, which marks the first time a Student Trustee has ever been appointed chair of any committee of the Board. Additionally, the Board of Trustees interviews and hires each of the Campus Presidents. Each Trustee gets an opportunity to serve on individual search committees for these positions. I am currently sitting on the search committee for CSUSB's next President!

Board of Trustees meetings require reviewing extensive materials in advance, often hundreds of pages that cover topics such as budget allocations, academic program development, systemwide policies, and long-term planning initiatives. Given the CSU's multi-billion-dollar budget, it is critical to approach each discussion with a strong understanding of both the data and its real impact on students and campuses.

In regard to time commitment, it varies significantly from week to week. The week leading up to each Board meeting tends to be heavier due to reviewing our materials and scheduling meetings with stakeholders as needed. Additionally, I attend the CSSA Board of Directors meetings, where I am able to connect with Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) presidents and representatives from across our 22 campuses. CSSA meets every month and every other month in person at a different CSU campus, where I give a report conveying what the Board of Trustees has been up to. I also get the opportunity to schedule formal visits to CSU campuses to chat with various stakeholders and to better understand the uniqueness of each campus.

I view the role of the Student Trustee as essential to shared governance within the CSU. It has been an honor of a lifetime to represent students on the Board of Trustees, especially as a CSUSB student, alumnus, and former ASI President. However, in this role I need to keep in mind that I represent all stakeholder voices within the CSU. Although, I bring a student-informed and student-lived perspective to the Board, my duty is to serve the people of California and to ensure that the CSU continues to impact our students of tomorrow.

STUDENT REFLECTIONS

REFLECTIONS FROM MI RA PARK'S MPA JOURNEY: WHERE THEORY MEETS PUBLIC SERVICE

When I first started my MPA program at California State University, San Bernardino, I didn't imagine I'd engage in the "science of muddling through" or consider "wicked problems".

Returning to the classroom after years of working in local government finance and human resources has given me a practical lens for my studies. I am not learning public administration as an abstract subject. I am studying ideas that I see every day in budgets, organizations, communities, board and city council meetings, and public decisions.



What has been most meaningful is gaining language for what I have observed in practice. Concepts such as Rittel and Webber's "wicked problems," Lipsky's "street-level bureaucracy," and Lindblom's "science of muddling through" describe the real conditions of public work such as incomplete information, competing values, limited resources, and decisions that still must be made.

These ideas have resonated with me enough that I started a LinkedIn series called *Public Matters*. The series gives me a way to reflect on my learning, make sense of the readings, and connect theory to the real work of local government. It is also a way to share my thoughts publicly, engage with others, and deepen my understanding through conversation.

For me, *Public Matters* is both a learning practice and a professional one. It allows me to think out loud in a public forum, contribute to conversations about public service, and become more visible as a thoughtful and engaged resource in the field. And yes, my cat occasionally joins me on the journey, and some levity and chuckles along the way.

I look forward to continuing these short reflections because the best learning does not stay on the page. It connects ideas to real work, real communities, and the public good.

I invite others to connect with me on LinkedIn and share their thoughts on the *Public Matters* posts. I am sure many public sector professionals, students, and community members have experiences that will resonate with these ideas, just as they have for me.

BIO

Mi Ra Park is a public sector leader with experience in government finance, human resources, and operations, currently serving as Finance Officer at the Transportation Agency for Monterey County. Her previous leadership roles include Chief Operating Officer at Kestrel 360 and Director of Human Resources and Administrative Services at Central Coast Community Energy. She also serves on the boards of the Elkhorn Slough Foundation and Art Abilities, supporting environmental conservation and community empowerment initiatives. A Monterey County resident since 1998, Mi Ra earned her degree in Earth Systems, Science, and Policy from California State University, Monterey Bay, and remains committed to sustainability, public service, and her community.

CONNECT WITH MI RA
VIA LINKEDIN



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT ON JOSEFINA RUGGEIRO: TURNING MY LIVED EXPERIENCE INTO HOUSING POLICY

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO PURSUE PUBLIC SERVICE, AND HOW HAS THE MPA PROGRAM HELPED SHAPE YOUR NEXT STEPS?



I grew up in San Diego and spent some of my early teenage years in Santa Fe, New Mexico. I take pride in my Mexican-Italian roots, the places that shaped me, and the unwavering support

of a family that encouraged me to stay curious, go against the grain, and pursue my education at every stage of life.

I completed my undergraduate degree at UC Berkeley, where a scholarship gave me the freedom to study what I was truly passionate about. I majored in Gender and Women's Studies and minored in Global Poverty and Practice. My academic path was deeply shaped by my background as the granddaughter of immigrants, my experiences as a woman, and the example of my mother, who has spent nearly 40 years as a nonprofit fundraiser and executive director working in human rights and gender-based violence.

After graduating, I stayed in the Bay Area with a strong desire to give back to the community that had made my education possible. I began teaching and consulting for nonprofits before joining a San Francisco nonprofit law and social services organization that supports low-income tenants facing eviction. In that role, I saw firsthand how housing instability often intersects with gender-based violence, mental health challenges, and addiction.

That work is where I fell in love with fighting for housing rights in SF, a city marked by deep disparity. Many people come to the city to benefit from booming industries like tech, AI, and consulting.

After more than three years of direct client service, I realized that lasting change requires not only supporting individuals but also shaping the programs and budgets that serve them. That realization led me to CSUSB's MPA program, where I focused on community development and planning to combine frontline experience with a deeper understanding of public administration.

My goal is to create housing policy that reflects the realities of those it serves. I am currently pursuing policy analyst roles and hope to become a policy director or program administrator, helping shape housing policy for the city that taught me both what is broken and what is possible.

CSUSB's MPA program has prepared me immensely for this next stage of my career. I have gained a strong foundation in collecting and sharing data, identifying social issues, building and managing budgets, developing strategic plans, and communicating across departments and with the community. Before this program, I had the practice. Now I have the praxis as well.

I highly recommend the MPA program, especially to students who are working professionals. My advice is to make the most of every assignment. Write about topics connected to your interests and future career. Research the policies that confuse or compel you. When a project invites you to reach out to someone in the field, actually do it.

Everything you receive from this experience reflects what you put into it. Ask yourself what mark you want to make on the world and what legacy you hope to leave behind. CSUSB's professors are experts in their fields, and in my experience, they genuinely care about supporting students on that journey.

PRINCESS CUNANAN: SERVING COMMUNITY THROUGH COMMUNICATION AND LEADERSHIP



CLASS OF 2026

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO PURSUE PUBLIC SERVICE, AND HOW HAS THE MPA PROGRAM HELPED SHAPE YOUR NEXT STEPS?

I was raised here in SoCal/Inland Empire. My undergraduate was in Business Administration - Human Resource Management Concentration.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE A CAREER IN PUBLIC SERVICE?

As cheesy as it may sound, my passion for public service derives from my desire to serve the community. Since childhood, my experiences and cultural values have always emphasized the importance a community can have in a person's life - in celebration, grief, resilience, and so on. To be in community with one another requires a measure of vulnerability and accountability, saying "I'm showing up because this is important to me and we're in this together". By pursuing a career in public service, I want to connect and advocate for the unheard voices of everyday people to create meaningful impacts that shape our communities for the better.

WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT JOB AND HOW DID YOU GET IT?

Currently, I am a Communications Specialist with the City of Beaumont, where I grew up. I originally started as an unpaid communications intern and progressed into the role of a Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) fellow, placed within the same organization. Throughout my work, I've been able to integrate my creative, artistic passions with my dedication towards accessible and educational messaging for the public. I had been truly thriving alongside this role, so I was thrilled for the opportunity to apply when a full-time position became available. My supervisor and I have since become a mighty duo - as recognized by the "Best Small Shop of Two" EPIC award received at the latest California Association of Public Information Officials (CAPIO) conference. (My supervisor is actually also a double alumnus of CSUSB/JHBC - funny enough!) Regardless, it has been truly an honor to be able to do this for a community that holds sentimental value for me, and I could not have asked for a better start to my career. (And a big shoutout to the MPA program for giving me the push that started it all!)

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR CURRENT STUDENTS IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION?

My advice to current students is to reach out and connect with the JHBC faculty earlier on in the program. They are all eager to help you succeed and have a wealth of knowledge/expertise that will be tremendously helpful throughout the program. Also, don't be afraid to message and connect with your peers. Even though the program is online and reaches far beyond the limits of San Bernardino County, it may be a smaller world than you think!



Princess Cunanan received the 2026 Department Chairs Award at the JHBC Student Awards Luncheon on May 5, 2026. At the same event, Josefina Rugeiro was honored with the Outstanding MPA Student Award.

JACK H. BROWN COLLEGE

BUSINESS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



Jack H. Brown College
Business and Public Administration

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Master of Public
Administration



Department of
Public Administration

A newsletter from the Department of Public Administration
Cal State University, San Bernardino