MPLP Program Overview

The Michigan Political Leadership Program at Michigan State University is a bi-partisan program that identifies individuals from across the state committed to community service and brings them together to engage in a public policy and leadership curriculum.

The curriculum incorporates practical politics, public policy analysis and process, personal leadership development and effective governance. Since 1992, nearly 600 MPLP graduates have put the skills and relationships acquired through the program to work in their communities and in statewide office. MPLP Fellows gain the expertise to tackle public policy issues as candidates for office, as government officials or as citizen activists. Most notably, 15 MPLP graduates are now serving in the Michigan State Legislature.

This innovative program is directed by Anne M. Mervenne and Steve Tobocman. Ms. Mervenne is President of Mervenne and Company, a governmental relations consulting firm and is currently serving on the board of directors of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. Previously, she served for 12 years in the Engler Administration in a number of capacities including Chief of Staff to First Lady Michelle Engler, Director of the Governor’s Southeast Michigan office, Executive Director of the Michigan Women’s Commission, and Director of Appointments for the Governor. She has also held elected office as an Ingham County Commissioner. Mr. Tobocman is the managing partner at New Solutions Group, LLC and currently serves as the Director of Global Detroit, a regional economic development initiative focusing on Metro Detroit’s immigrant, international and global connections to create jobs and raise incomes. Mr. Tobocman served in the Michigan House for three consecutive two-year terms (the maximum allowed under Michigan’s term limits laws.) He was elected Majority Floor Leader, the second-highest position in the Michigan House, during his third term. Together, Mervenne and Tobocman use their considerable public service and government experience to guide 24 men and women chosen annually to participate in MPLP.

MPLP is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization and is a program of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR) in MSU’s College of Social Science. The only bi-partisan public policy and leadership training program in Michigan, MPLP is distinguished as one of only a handful of such programs in the nation.
Advisory Board
2014-2015

★ Co-directors: Anne M. Mervenne and Steve Tobocman

★ Chair: Lindsay Huddleston,* CEO, The Huddleston Consulting Group, LLC

Chair-Elect and Finance Committee Chair: Cathy Wilson, Executive Director, State Governmental Affairs, Consumers Energy

★ Amy Baumer, Director of Business Development, The Christman Company

★ Cheryl Bergman, President, Bergman Inc.

Kim Brennen Root, Vice President, Spartan Media

★ T.J. Bucholz,* President, Vanguard Public Affairs

Dianne Byrum, MSU Trustee and President, Byrum & Fisk Advocacy Communications

★ Robert M. Campau, Chief Operating Officer, Michigan Association of REALTORS®

★ Daniel Cherrin,* Founder, North Coast Strategies

Richard Cole, Ph.D., Professor and Former Chair, Department of Advertising and Public Relations, College of Communication Arts and Sciences, Michigan State University

Craig M. DeRoche,* Former Speaker, Michigan House of Representatives

★ Patrick J. Devlin, CEO, Michigan Building & Construction Trades Council

Debbie Dingell, Chair, Manufacturing Initiative, Automotive Policy Group

★ David Finkbeiner, Senior Vice President, Advocacy, Michigan Health & Hospital Association

★ Patrick Harrington, President, Muchmore Harrington Smalley & Associates and former Representative, Michigan House of Representatives

★ Gary Heidel,* Chief Placement Officer, Michigan State Housing Development Authority

Paul Hillegonds, Former Speaker, Michigan House of Representatives

Mitch Irwin, Owner, The Irwin Group, LLC.

★ Lynn Jondahl, Former State Representative, Michigan House of Representatives

Calvin Jones, CTA,* Director of Governmental Affairs & Community Relations, Lansing Board of Water and Light

Kristin Judge,* Executive Director, Center for Internet Security Alliance

William Kandler, Partner, Cusmano Kandler & Reed, Inc.

★ Matt Kunta,* Associate, Karoub Associates

★ Terri Lynn Land, Former Secretary of State, State of Michigan and Kent County Aeronautics Board Member

★ Rick Lantz, Manager, Government Relations, Delta Dental of Michigan

★ Mark Lemoine, Director, Government Affairs, Spectrum Health System

★ Daniel J. Loepf, President and Chief Executive Officer, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan

★ Rusty Merchant,* Partner, McAlvey, Merchant & Associates

★ Gary Mescher, Past President, MSU Alumni Association

Dave Murley,* Deputy Legal Counsel, Office of Governor Rick Snyder

Nicole G. Nystrom, President, Midwest Strategy Group of Michigan

Aaron Payment,* Tribal Chairperson, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Dan Pero, President, Pero Consulting

Dick Posthumus, President and CEO, Compatico Inc. and former Lt. Governor of Michigan

Scott Ray,* Director of Program Development, The Governor John Engler Center for Charter Schools, Central Michigan University

John T Reurink, Publisher and Co-Owner, Michigan Information & Research Service, Inc.

★ Douglas B. Roberts, Ph.D., Director, Institute for Public Policy and Social Research, Michigan State University and former State Treasurer, State of Michigan

Kelly Rossman-McKinney, CEO, Truscott Rossman

★ Ed Sarpolus, Target Insyght

AnnMarie Schneider, Program Planning and Policy Education Director, Institute for Public Policy and Social Research and Canadian Studies Center Director, Michigan State University

Sam Singh,* State Representative, Michigan House of Representatives

Mark Skidmore, Ph.D., Professor, Michigan State University

★ Jacqueline Taylor, Ph.D., Consultant, Pondera Advisors, LLC

★ Steven Webster, Chief Executive Officer, Prima Civitas Foundation, and the Turkish Center of North America

★ Richard N. Wiener, Executive Director, Detroit Land Bank

MPLP Curriculum Outline

Defining Ourselves and Our Work
★ Introduction of Fellows
★ Determine Personal Leadership Style
★ Review Program Goals and Curriculum
★ Establish and Share Individual Goals
★ Understanding the State Budget
★ Authentic Leadership in Public Service
★ The Election Cycle

Understanding Leadership
★ Learn the Power of Group Interaction
★ Identify Influences Affecting Political Leadership Styles
★ Develop Solid Presentation and Interaction Techniques
★ Situational Leadership
★ Global Michigan and Michigan’s Economic Future via Immigration

Local Government Leadership
★ Understand the Evolution of Local Government in Michigan
★ Examine How Local Governments Work And Why
★ Discuss Key Issues Facing Local Government
★ Explore Tribal Government and Development

Intergovernmental Relations, Urban Policy, and Social and Economic Development
★ Explore Economic Development Strategies
★ Consideration of Urban Strategies
★ Examine Models of Intergovernmental Cooperation
★ Detroit Consent Decree
★ Woodward Corridor Initiative
★ Anchor Institutions Strategy and Detroit Revitalization Fellows Program

Health Care and its Role in Michigan
★ Examine Perspectives in Health Care
★ Understanding Evidence Informed Health Policy
★ End of Life and Health Policy

Campaign Development and Perspectives in Policy
★ Perspectives on Decision to Run for Office
★ Overview of the Kalamazoo Promise
★ Prepare Yourself for Campaign Management
★ Develop the Campaign Plan, Website and Literature
★ Envision Michigan’s Future Economy
★ Values Based Messaging

Politics and Media
★ Understand the Role of the Media
★ Practice Effective Media Techniques
★ Learn to Present Yourself to the Electronic Media
★ Experience Working with Media Professionals

Perspectives in Policy, Fundraising and Social Media
★ Examine Models of Intergovernmental Cooperation
★ Learn about the Changing Demographics in Michigan
★ Grassroots and Online Activism
★ Parliamentary Procedures

Ethics in Campaign and Governing, and Translating Knowledge Into Action
★ Ethics in Campaigns and Governing
★ Political Fundraising
★ Understand the Role of Agriculture on Michigan’s Economy
★ Understand Conflict Resolution and Negotiation Skills

Effective Governance
★ Understand Institutional Change
★ Understand the Role of Policy Advocates
★ Review Michigan Citizens’ Priority Issues
TRIBAL GOVERNMENT
Terri Fitzpatrick - Former Board Secretary, Housing and Utility Authority, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
DJ Hoffman - Tribal Board Secretary, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
Aaron Payment - Chairman, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

STATE GOVERNMENT
Theresa Abed - House of Representatives, District 71
Jamie Clover Adams - Director, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
Richard Ball - Former House of Representatives, District 85
Nannette Bowler - Former Director, Family Independence Agency
Michael Callton - House of Representatives, District 87
Philip Cavanagh - House of Representatives, District 17
Ed Clemente - Former House of Representatives, District 14
Rev. Robert Dean - Former House of Representatives, District 75
Craig DeRoche - Former Speaker of the House of Representatives, District 38
Pan Godchaux - Former House of Representatives, District 40
Tim Greimel - House of Representatives, Minority Leader, District 29
Gail Haines - House of Representatives, District 43
Tricia Harney - Trustee, Board of Pharmacy
Rudy Hobbs - House of Representatives, Democratic Floor Leader, District 35
Kenneth Horn - Former House of Representatives, District 94
Carolyn Kane - Former Advisory Board Member, Michigan Snowmobile and Trails Advisory Commission
Wayne Kuipers - Former State Senate, District 30 and Former House of Representatives, District 90
Peter MacGregor - House of Representatives, District 73
Sean McCann - House of Representatives, District 60
Marc Milburn – Member, Michigan Board of Social Work
Margaret O'Brien – Associate Speaker Pro Temp, House of Representatives, District 61
Amanda Price - House of Representatives, District 89
Nida Samana - Former Chair, Liquor Control Commission
Harvey Santana - House of Representatives, District 10
Katherine Segal - Minority Floor Leader, House of Representatives, District 62
Andrea Schroeder - Director, State Board of Cosmetology
Wayne Schmidt - House of Representatives, District 104
Deb Shaughnessy - Member, Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board, Former House of Representatives, District 71
Sam Singh - House of Representatives, District 69
Maureen Stapleton – Former House of Representatives, District 4, and Former Precinct Delegate, Wayne County
Marc Shulman - Former Chair, Appropriations Committee, House of Representatives, District 39
Tom Watkins Jr. – Former Superintendent, Michigan Department of Education

COUNTY
Jamie Clover Adams - Former Commissioner, Clinton
Christine Alwood - Planning Commission, Former County Commissioner, Isabella
James Bailey - Former Chairperson, Barry
William Barnett - Mayor, Cadillac and Former Commissioner, Wexford
Ed Boettcher - Commissioner, Antrim
Nannette Bowler - Former Chief Probate Judge, Ionia
Robert Brackenbury - Former Commissioner, Washtenaw
Karen Buie - Former Clerk, Muskegon
Tom Cameron - Judge, 3rd Circuit Court, Wayne
Leona Clark-Restieau - Former Commissioner, Genesee
Dale Copedge - Commissioner, Ingham
Debbie De Leon - Commissioner, Ingham
Susan Doherty - Commissioner, Macomb
Brian Elder - Commissioner, Bay
Roger Elkins - Commissioner, Oscoda
Katheryn Elliott - Former Road Commissioner, Isabella
Jennifer Flood – Member, Women’s Commission, Ingham
Sandra Frost Parrish - Commissioner, Kent
Gary Giguere Jr. - Judge, 9th Circuit Court, Kalamazoo
Tim Greimel - Former Commissioner, Oakland
Mandy Grewal - Former Commissioner, Washtenaw
Mark Hackel - County Executive, Macomb
Julia Heilig - Former Commissioner, Huron
Jo Anne Holbert - Former Commissioner, Oakland

Kenneth Horn - Former Commissioner, Saginaw
David Jaroch - Former Commissioner, Huron
Dichendra Johnson – Board Member, Women’s Commission, Ingham
Kristin Judge - Former Commissioner, Washtenaw
Nadine Klein - Former Commissioner, Kent
Ken Lampar - Commissioner, Macomb
Tina Leary - Clerk, Van Buren
Jan Letzgus - Former Treasurer, Gladwin
Judith Lincoln - Former Commissioner, Saginaw
Lisa Lund - Former Commissioner, Montcalm
Lynn Mason - Commissioner, Ionia
Sean McCann - Former Commissioner, Kalamazoo
Janice McCrane - Former Commissioner, Manistee
Florence Mentel - Commissioner, Monroe
Elizabeth Misuraca - Trustee, Wayne County Retirement Board, Chair, Wayne County Art Authority
Marc Milburn - Commissioner, Roscommon
Greg Moore - Former Commissioner, Calhoun
Mark Neitzke - Former Commissioner, Gratiot
Mary Nellenbach - Former Commissioner, Lapeer
Camille Nerkowski - Youth & Recreation Committee, City of Alpena
Denise (Massey) Noble - Former Commissioner, Van Buren
Michael O’Hare - Commission Chair, Saginaw
Debra Panozzo - Commissioner, Berrien
Roger Phillips - Former Commissioner, Alpena
G. Scott Pierangeli - Probate Judge, Kalamazoo
Robert Reddy - Former Commissioner, Wexford
Amanda Roggenbuck - Former Chief Probate Judge, Family Court Judge, Tuscola
Wayne Schmidt - Former Commissioner, Grand Traverse
Katherine Segal - Former Commissioner, Calhoun
Don Shemel - Former Commissioner, Branch
Omar Sims - Commissioner, Genesee
Bradley Slagh - Treasurer, Ottawa
Connie Sysak - Planning Commission, Jackson
Roger Trudell - Commissioner, Isabella
Jon Van Allsburg - Circuit Court Judge, Ottawa
Carol Vernon - Clerk, Gratiot
Mark Vroman - Former Commissioner, Ionia

TOWNSHIP
Vance Bates - Supervisor, Alcona
Eric Bacyinski - Former Deputy Clerk, Plymouth, Trustee, Plymouth District Library
Rick Bernhardt - Former Supervisor, Kinross

The first class of MPLP fellows graduated in 1992. Since that time, MPLP is proud to report that nearly half of our alumni are serving or have served in an appointed or elected capacity. We congratulate those alumni, and invite you to view the latest updates at http://ippsr.msu.edu/mplp/MPLPElected.pdf
Paul Bigford - Supervisor, Sweetwater
Ann Bollin - Clerk, Brighton
Kevin Bowman - Former Supervisor, Blackman
Mike Brady - Former Trustee, Chesaning
Susan Burton - Clerk, Ada
Marlene A. Chockley – Planning Commission Chair, Northfield
Ronald Cischke - Supervisor, Goodland
Brenda DeKuiper - Treasurer, Blair
Elke Doom - Supervisor, Huron Charter
Joseph G. Ferrari - Treasurer, Oxford Charter
Mandy Grewen - Former Clerk, Pittsfield
Maggie Grobben - Former Clerk, Wakeshma
Joel Hondorp - Clerk, Byron
Ray James - Zoning Board of Appeals, and Former Chair, Cascade
Douglas W. Jones - Former Supervisor, Grosse Ile
Todd Kaminski - Former Trustee, Marengo
Daniel Kelly - Former Trustee, Independence
Julie Knight - Former Treasurer and Trustee, Dexter
Tracey Schultz Kobylarz - Supervisor, Redford
Tina Leary - Former Trustee, Hamiton
Deborah Macon - Former Trustee, West Bloomfield
Delmar Martin - Former Supervisor, Fabius
Gerald Masters - Former Trustee, Richfield
Rusty Merchant - Trustee, Grand Rapids
Sheryl Mitchell - Parks & Recreation Commissioner, West Bloomfield
Dwayne Parker - Supervisor, Buena Vista
Mary Pitcher - Trustee, Lake, Former Commissioner, Benzie
Amanda Price - Former Supervisor, Park
Patricia Raab - Supervisor, Porter, Former Deputy Clerk
Robert Randall - Former Supervisor, Wescow
Scott Ray - Former Trustee, Bath
Michael Rochholz - Former Clerk, Prairie Ronde
Milton L. Scales - Trustee, Meridian
Andrea Schroeder – Trustee, Independence
Bradley Slagl - Former Supervisor, Zeeland
Sherri Solomon - Former Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Commission, Oneida
Kurt Soper - Supervisor, Davison
Roger Swaim - Former Trustee, Grand Blanc
Marie Tuite - Supervisor, Alpena
Andrew F. Wardach - Former Supervisor, Brighton
Pat Watkins - Former Clerk, Buena Vista
Angela Wilson - Trustee, Meridian
Terry Wright - Supervisor, Grayling

CITY
Elizabeth Agius - City Councilperson and Former Chair, Dearborn Heights
Laurie Arora - Councilperson, Grosse Pointe Park
Michael Armitage - Mayor, Milan
Nancy Banks - Clerk, Southfield
Bryan Barnett - Mayor and Former Councilperson, Rochester Hills
William Barnett - Mayor, Cadillac
Kevin Beard - Councilmember, East Lansing
Jill Brandana - Former Chair Pro Tem, Taylor
Chris Brown - Former Councilperson, Coopersville
Marlon Brown - Councilperson, Mason
Mary Bush - Former Mayor and Councilperson, Farmington
Kenneth V. Cockrel, Jr. - Former Mayor and Councilperson, Detroit
Sarah Bydalek – City Clerk, Walker
Fred Collins - Former Councilperson, Berkley
Robert Coughlin - City Commissioner, Kentwood
John Daly, III - Former City Manager, Three Rivers
Burnet Davis - Former Mayor and Former Councilperson, Alma
Rev. Robert Dean - Former Commissioner, Grand Rapids
Craig DeRoche - Former Councilperson, Novi
Robert Dickerson - Former Mayor and Former Councilperson, Wayne
Jane Drake - Councilperson and Former Planning Commissioner, Fremont
Terri Fitzpatrick - Former Planning Commissioner, St. Ignace
Randolph Gear - Mayor Pro Tem, Romulus
Vicki Granger - Mayor Pro Tem, Grosse Pointe Woods
Stella Greene - Commissioner and Former Mayor, Plymouth
Gail Haines - Former Councilperson, Lake Angelus
Gail Haines – Board Member, Grand Haven Brownfield Redevelopment Authority/Economic Corporation
Diontrae Hayes - Trustee, Charter Twp Lansing
James Heath - Inspector General, City of Detroit
Brad Heffner - Former Manager, Ithaca
Jo Anne Holbert - Former Deputy, Pontiac
Mary Kerwin - Former Mayor Pro Tem, Troy
Jeff Jenks - Former Mayor Pro Tem and Former Commissioner, Huntington Woods
Shaula Johnston - Planning Commission,

VILLAGE
Frederick J. Borowski - Former Councilperson, Estral Beach
Katheryn Elliott - Former Councilperson, Shepherd
David Wineman - Former Councilperson, Sebewaing

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY
Doug Adams - Former Trustee, Schoolcraft College
Ed Clemente - Former Trustee, Wayne County Community College
Andrew Everman - Trustee, C.S. Mott Community College
Bob Guyot, III - Former Trustee, Northwestern Michigan College
Chris Laverty - Trustee, Lansing Community College
Garnet Lewis - Trustee, Northern Michigan University
Robert Proctor - Trustee, Lansing Community College

SCHOOL BOARD
Allyson Abrams - Former Trustee, Oak Park
Richard Ball - Trustee, Owosso
Annie Brown - Trustee and Former Secretary, South Haven
Darryle Buchanan - President, Southfield
Brenda Carter – Trustee, Pontiac and Trustee, Michigan Association of School Boards
Mike Colucci - Trustee, Saginaw
Sharalyn Davis - Former Trustee, Climax-Scotts
Lawrence Dudley - Former Trustee, Pontiac
Carol Elfring - Former President, Novi
Ron Evans - Former Treasurer, Waverly
Pan Godchaux - Former Trustee, Oakland and Birmingham
Ann Glubzinski - Treasurer, Novi
Tim Greimel - Former President, Rochester School Board
Rudy Hobbs - Former Treasurer, Southfield
Mike Hubert - Former Trustee, Fowlerville
Teri Hunter - President, Grosse Ile Township
Darlene Janulis - Former President, Rochester
Dichondra Johnson – Trustee, Detroit
Calvin Jones – Treasurer, Waverly
Terre Junkin - Trustee, Lamphere
Carol Kane - Former Trustee, Montabella
Mary Kerwin - Former President, Troy
Carol Klenow - President, Utica Community Schools
Judith Lincoln - Former Trustee, Saginaw Township
Lindsay Case Macomber - Secretary, Grand Ledge
Rob Macomber – Board Member, Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy Charter
Deborah Macon - Former Trustee, Bloomfield Hills
Michael Marcelli - Former Trustee, Southgate
Lynn Mason - Michigan Education Association National Board
Terrance McClain - Former Trustee, Westland
Michael Michniak - Former Trustee, Chippewa Valley
Barbara Miller - Former Trustee, Kalamazoo
Brent Mishler - Trustee, Beaverton
Rural Schools
Kathleen Moore - President, Lakeview
Joel Morales - Former Trustee, Fennville
Kim Morley - Treasurer, Roscommon
Sue Murray - President, Southgate
Anne Nichols - Former Trustee, Flint
Dennis O’Connor - President, Novi
Tom Owczarek - President, Fitzgerald
Gladys Peeples Burks - Former Trustee, Benton Harbor
Michael Rochholz - President, Schoolcraft
Scott Russell - Trustee, Van Buren Public Schools
Andrea Schroeder - Director, ACE Academy Charter School Board
Felix Sharpe - Trustee, Okemos
Dean Smaleggen - Secretary, Wexford/Missaukee ISD, Former President, McBain Rural Agricultural
Peter Spadafore - Trustee, Lansing
Denise Spencer - Former Trustee, Midland
Debbie Squires - Former Trustee, Huron Valley and Oakland ISD
Deborah Stellini – President and Former Treasurer, Taylor
Tony Strange - Former Trustee, Davison
Kathleen Webb - Former Trustee, Farmington
Shelli Weisberg - Former Trustee, Birmingham
Joel Wortley - Former Trustee, Grand Ledge
Michael Wyman - Secretary, Big Rapids

POLITICAL PARTY/ELECTION
Theresa Abed - Former Precinct Delegate, Eaton County
Laurie Arrour - Former Precinct Delegate, Wayne County
Cindi Bauer - Former Precinct Delegate, Alcona
Jocelyn Benson - Precinct Delegate, 13th Democratic Congressional District
Edgar Boettcher - Former Chair, Antrim County Republican Party
Marlon Brown - Precinct Delegate, Ingham County
Susan Burton - Precinct Delegate, Kent County
Tom Cameron - Former Precinct Delegate, Oakland County
Daniel Cherrin - Former Precinct Delegate, Oakland County
Marlene Chockley - Treasurer and Former Chair, Washtenaw County Committee
Dave Cluley - Former Precinct Delegate, Kent County
Bob Coughlin - Former Precinct Delegate, Kent County
Rose Dady - Precinct Delegate and Corresponding Secretary, 13th Democratic Congressional District
William Doan - Precinct Delegate, 1st Congressional District, Ontonagon County
Theresa Davis - Precinct Delegate, Lapeer, Republican Executive Committee
Kimberly Emmons - Chair, Clare County Republican Party
Marty Jo Fleser - Former Chair, Allegan County Democratic Party
Diontrae Hayes - Former Precinct Delegate, Ingham
William Ivan - Republican Precinct Delegate, Ingham
Jeff Jenks - Former Precinct Delegate, Eaton County
Carmen Johnson - Republican Executive Committee, Former Precinct Delegate, Oakland County
Gregory Johnson - Precinct Delegate, 14th Democratic Congressional District
Rose Jones - Precinct Delegate, Wayne County
Todd Kaminski - Precinct Delegate, Marquette
Mary Kerwin - Former Precinct Delegate, Oakland County
Justin Kimpson - Precinct Delegate, 13th District
Sara Linsmeier-Wurfel - Former Precinct Delegate, Ingham County
Yvette McElroy - Precinct Delegate, 14th Democratic Congressional District
M. Chiquita McKenzie-Bennett - Precinct Delegate 408-13th District, Wayne County, Michigan Democratic Party-Chair
Environmental and Energy Caucus
Diane McMillan - Precinct Delegate, Wayne County
Eileen McNeil – former Vice-Chair, State Outreach, MI GOP, former GOP Committee Member, Kent County, former Precinct Delegate, 3rd Republican Congressional District
Mia McNeil - Precinct Delegate, Ingham County
Elizabeth Misuraca - Precinct Delegate, Wayne
Sheryl Mitchell - Former Precinct Delegate, Oakland County
Greg Moore - Precinct Delegate, Calhoun
Andrew Mutavdzija - Democratic Precinct Delegate, Ingham
Dennis O’Connor - Precinct Delegate, 11th Congressional
Laura Packard - Former Precinct Delegate, Washtenaw County
Jan Peabody - Chair, Republican Party, Lapeer, Precinct Delegate, Lapeer
Scott Ray - Former Republican Committee, Clinton County
Kristin Revere - Precinct Delegate, Kent
Randall St. Laurent - Chair, 10th Republican Congressional District
Milton L. Scales - Democratic Precinct Delegate, Ingham County
Andrea Schroeder - Democratic Precinct Delegate, Oakland County
Maureen Stapleton - Former Precinct Delegate, Wayne County
Bryan Taylor - Precinct Delegate, Ingham County
Patrick Tiedt - Precinct Delegate, Oscoda County
Charles Tischer - Precinct Delegate, Oakland County
Kim Trent - Precinct Delegate, Wayne County
Jon Williams - Former Chair, Republican Party
Gwendolyn Winston – Former Precinct Delegate, Wayne County
Hey, you! Want to help run Michigan?

By Doug Roberts

It’s the Friday night opening of the famed Media Weekend at the Michigan Political Leadership Program.

Two of the state’s sharpest wits – PR star Kelly Rossman-McKinney of Truscott Rossman and veteran journalist John Lindstrom of Gongwer News Service – are preparing the 24 MPLP Fellows to meet the press.

This Friday night, the Fellows are paying close attention, anxious about tomorrow. That’s when they’ll be interviewed, videotaped and critiqued over and over again until their presentation is well-polished.

This is the latest class of the Michigan Political Leadership Program, a program that has helped prepare many of the state’s top leaders over the past 20 years. Among them are a former mayor of Detroit and a former Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives.

This class includes a former West Michigan mayor, an outreach director, a self-employed attorney, a public health educator, an automotive marketing manager, a board-certified dermatologist and two members of the National Guard who’ve seen service in Afghanistan.

The Fellows are Republicans, Democrats and Independents, and they hail from all corners of Michigan. This group drove from as far away as Gladwin, Kalamazoo, Traverse City and southeast Michigan to spend the weekend training for public service.

**Learning to govern**

Before next February’s gala graduation, this group of 12 men and 12 women will spend two days a month for 10 months training for public office at every level. They’ll earn a certificate of participation from Michigan State University and bring MPLP’s alumni to just shy of 600.

Sessions will take them from Lansing to Grand Rapids to Detroit and back again, on tours of economic development and community revitalization, and in spirited discussion with each other and some of the state’s leading authorities on the economy, campaign finance, media relations, social media practices and personal leadership.
As this Friday winds up, I can’t resist sharing a story or two of my own. After nearly 30 years in state government, 10 of them as State Treasurer, I have a few stories I can tell.

One of my first television interviews lasted 20 minutes – forever to me – and left my stomach in knots. I needn’t have worried: those 20 minutes were cut to eight seconds. As I told Friday night’s group, there wasn’t enough of my time on TV to justify the butterflies.

Now, as I plan for retirement in 2015, this Media Weekend opening night was bittersweet, cause for quiet reflection and just a little pride.

During my 11 years as Director of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research where MPLP makes its home at MSU, I’ve seen MPLP nearly double in alumni. MPLP’s two fundraising events – a late February dinner in Livonia followed the next day by a breakfast in Grand Rapids – are among the state’s largest bipartisan events.

We bring in nationally known speakers to the fundraisers, and the events are great draws for the must-hear speakers. We also know that the dinner and breakfast are must-attend events for the networking opportunities alone!

**Record of success**

Our MPLP graduates include former Detroit Mayor Kenneth V. Cockrel, Jr., former House Speaker Craig DeRoche, former Sen. Wayne Kuipers, House Minority Leader Tim Greimel and Aaron Payment, chairman of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

During the election of 2012, 14 MPLP graduates were elected to Michigan’s House of Representatives — all serving at the same time.

Our Co-Directors have extensive experience in state House leadership and state executive administration. Co-Director Anne Mervenne was a member of Gov. John Engler’s executive office, and Steve Tobocman, a former state House Majority Floor Leader. Our Fellows benefit from their bipartisan approach. Anne is a Republican. Steve is a Democrat.

This summer, we are welcoming applications for the MPLP Class of 2015. Applications are due Friday, Sept 5. There’s more information, plus application forms, on our website. Each applicant is interviewed and the next class announced before a new year of training starts in February.

An MPLP Fellow’s cost is a $1,000 administrative fee, incidental costs and the time and energy to invest in an excellent program. Each fellowship is valued at $12,000, money raised through MPLP’s dinner and breakfast, sponsorships and donations.

I’m proud of our Fellows and our graduates, and I’m proud of our program as it continues to grow and prosper.

*Doug Roberts is director of Michigan State University’s Institute for Public Policy and Social Research, where the Michigan Political Leadership Program makes its home. He is also a former state treasurer.*
The Michigan Political Leadership Program at Michigan State University is a bipartisan fellowship program designed for those seeking greater involvement in the public policy process, through elective office or through citizen activism.

MPLP is distinguished as one of only a handful of programs of its kind in the nation. Since its 1992 inception, over 500 MPLP fellows have participated in our 10-weekend curriculum which focuses on practical politics, public policy analysis and process, personal leadership development, and effective governance. More than half of MPLP’s graduates have served in elected office and/or assumed leadership positions.

Each year, fundraising events take place in Grand Rapids and the Detroit area to raise the necessary funding to support the 24 fellowships that are awarded to aspiring policy leaders. Each fellowship is valued at approximately $12,000.

During the event’s history, MPLP has hosted an impressive group of our nation’s top political and policy leaders. Dignitaries such as Robert Gibbs, Karen Hughes, Ari Fleischer, Eugene Robinson, Dana Perino, Michael McCurry, Governor Jim Blanchard, Governor John Engler, Haley Barbour, Paul Begala, Bill Bradley, Pat Buchanan, Tucker Carlson, James Carville, Lynne Cheney, Mario Cuomo, Howard Dean, Geraldine Ferraro, Martin Fitzwater, Harold Ford, Jr., Ed Gillespie, Jack Kemp, Bill Kristol, Mary Matalin, Terry McAuliffe, George Mitchell, Mike Murphy, Dee Dee Myers, Leon Panetta, Warren Rudman, Alan Simpson, George Stephanopoulos and J.C. Watts have served as MPLP’s guest speakers.

MPLP is a program of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research in MSU’s College of Social Science.

For More Information

LINDA CLEARY
Program Administrator
Michigan Political Leadership Program
(517) 353-0891

CAROL CONN and
REBECCA BAHAR-COOK
Capitol Fundraising Associates
(517) 485-9127

SPONSOR LEVELS
$5,000
$2,500

TABLE PRICE
$1,500

DRESS
Business Attire
Few people know their way around the West Wing as well as Douglas Sosnik. He served for six years as senior advisor to President William Jefferson Clinton, and played a key role in policy, strategy, and communications decisions. A consummate Washington insider and represented exclusively by Leading Authorities, Sosnik draws on his years in the political arena to take audiences inside the White House, and offers numerous practical examples of how leaders earn the loyalty and support of people.

In times of crisis, he knows the play-by-play. His vast experience and leadership has taken Sosnik to new and varied heights. He currently advises prominent U.S. Fortune 100 corporations, the National Basketball Association, as well as U.S. Senators and Governors, in crisis management and strategic planning. His expertise has made him an MVP in his field.

Putting his experiences into practical lessons, Sosnik is the coauthor of the New York Times best-selling book *Applebee’s America: What Political, Business, and Religious Leaders Can Learn from Each Other*. He teamed up with senior George W. Bush strategist Matthew Dowd and award-winning Associated Press political reporter Ron Fournier to write a tome that explains how politicians, business leaders, and religious leaders must adapt in order to succeed in this era of immense change.

Policy and Strategy in Washington. During the 1996 presidential reelection campaign, Sosnik was the White House political director. For Clinton’s second term, he served as senior advisor for policy and strategy. He is a valued advisor to any campaign, governing body, business leader, or organization. His passion and drive have taken him on a fast break to the top. He speaks with enthusiasm about his own success in politics and the public sector, and offers sound advice on how others can strive for a similar fate.
Nicolle Wallace
Best-Selling Author, Co-Host of The View, and Former Assistant to the President and White House Director of Communications

SPEAKER BIO

Nicolle Wallace is a best-selling author, a political analyst for MSNBC, a co-host on ABC’s The View, a top strategist for the GOP, and the former special assistant to the president and director of communications at the White House under President George W. Bush. The New York Times called her a “tough, savvy, and hard-charging conservative political operator,” and her White House colleague, presidential political advisor Mark McKinnon, called her a “rare talent in politics.” Funny and charming, she shares fascinating stories from her time in the White House, on the campaign trail with Sarah Palin, and from the studios at MSNBC and ABC. Exclusively represented by Leading Authorities speakers bureau, Wallace is a master storyteller as she looks at the latest in politics and the media and offers audiences the rundown on today’s biggest players and issues.

From Inside the White House. Wallace served as the communications chief for George W. Bush's White House and re-election campaign and was credited with “injecting a tremendous amount of realism” into White House deliberations. According to the Washington Post, she served as “a voice for more openness with reporters.” The New York Times story announcing her presidential appointment carried the headline: “New Aide Aims to Defrost the Press Room,” and she was described by former colleagues as “very persuasive in the halls of the West Wing.”

Wallace also served as senior campaign advisor for the McCain-Palin campaign in 2008. She appeared frequently on network and cable news programs as the campaign's top spokesman and defender. In the 2012 film Game Change, she was portrayed by Sarah Paulson.

Before her time in the White House, she was a press secretary for Governor Jeb Bush (R-FL). She is also a former political analyst for CBS Evening News.

Best-Selling Political Author. Wallace is the author of a series of New York Times best-selling contemporary political novels, which includes Eighteen Acres, It’s Classified, and Day in the Life. The books feature women in top political roles, including president, secretary of defense, chief of staff, and White House correspondent.

She is a California native and graduate of the University of California, Berkeley and Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism.
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