



## **MPLP ALUMNI CONFERENCE**

**Friday, November 11, 2016 • 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

East Lansing Marriott • 300 M.A.C. Avenue • East Lansing, MI 48823 • (517) 337-4440

### **8:30-9:00 A.M.**

**Coffee and Networking**

### **9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.**

**Opening Session: *Policy vs. Politics: Lessons Learned from Detroit Public Schools***

Moderated by: **Nic Wells Stallworth**, Assistant Vice President Government and Community Relations, Oakland University

Guest Speakers: **Dan Quisenberry**, President, Michigan Association of Public School Academies, **Sarah Reckhow**, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Michigan State University, **Buzz Thomas**, Partner, Thomas Group Consulting, **Dan Varner**, CEO, Excellent Schools Detroit

### **10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**

#### **Session A - Networking 2.0**

*Learn how to make the most of a room full of people and how to use your skills to best engage people you may not know.*

Moderated by: **Michelle Busuito**, Assistant General Counsel, Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (MPLP 2012)

Presenters: **Jimmy Greene**, President/CEO, Associated Builders and Contractors – Greater Michigan (MPLP 2008), **Peter Spadafore**, Vice President, Michigan Independent Colleges and Universities (MPLP 2008)

#### **Session B - Fundraising 2.0**

*Show me the money! Learn proven techniques and strategies to raise political campaign funds and support.*

Presenter: **Rebecca Bahar-Cook**, CEO, Capitol Fundraising Associates

### **12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**Lunch and Networking**



**1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.**

**Session A - MPLP Inside of Lansing**

*MPLP graduates can be found throughout Lansing and are regulars in the halls of the Capitol building. This session will explore how MPLP alumni are taking advantage of the skills learned at MPLP and how others can build upon their experiences. From building relationships and coalitions to effective lobbying and policymaking, panelists will share war stories, insights and how MPLP helped shape their careers in politics.*

Moderated by: **Brad Wever**, Director of Public Policy, The Governor John Engler Center for Charter Schools at Central Michigan University (MPLP 2010)

Presenters: **Jen Flood**, Government Policy Advisory, Dykema (MPLP 2013), **Rusty Merchant**, Partner, McAlvey Merchant & Associates (MPLP 1996), **Mia McNeil**, Associate, Kelley-Cawthorne (MPLP 2009), **Bill Zaagman**, Associate, Government Consultant Services, Inc. (MPLP 1996)

**Session B - MPLP Outside of Lansing**

*The MPLP reach goes beyond those in Lansing. This session will cover what MPLP graduates are doing outside Lansing and the impact they are having in the communities they serve. These panelists will share their experiences and key learnings in the areas of policy and community collaboration.*

Moderated by: **Kim Morley**, President, Roscommon School Board (MPLP 2013)

Panelists: **Aaron Payment**, Chairman, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians (MPLP 1992), **John Helmholdt**, Executive Director of Communications & External Affairs, Grand Rapids Public Schools (MPLP 2004), **Rebecca Thompson**, Executive Director, Good Jobs Now (MPLP 2013), **Sarah Kile**, Executive Director, 211 Northeast Michigan (MPLP 2014)

**2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.**

**Closing Session: *Policy vs. Politics: Lessons Learned from the Flint Water Crisis***

Moderated by: **Sarah Kile**, Executive Director, 211 Northeast Michigan (MPLP 2014)

Guest Speakers: **The Honorable Brian Calley**, Lt. Governor, State of Michigan, **Scott Dzurka**, Chief Executive Officer, Michigan Association of United Ways, **The Honorable Dan Kildee**, U.S. Congress, 5<sup>th</sup> District, Michigan

**4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m**

***Election Wrap-up***

Hosted by the Michigan Political History Society and the Michigan Political Leadership Program

**6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

**RECEPTION – Hors d' oeuvres and cash bar**