

LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

LEGISLATIVE STAFF TRAINING

FEBRUARY 7, 2020



Institute for Public Policy
and Social Research
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

About MSU's Legislative Leadership Program

MSU's Legislative Leadership Program invites new members of Michigan's House of Representatives and Michigan Senate to engage in interactive sessions with content experts, including university faculty and practitioners, in the brief time between election and their first legislative sessions.

At its 1994 inception, LLP was designed to create a forum and the resources to help newly elected legislators meet the challenges of serving in a state with term limits. The program was meant to help legislators forge links to university policy resources.

Since that time, LLP has evolved into a broadened opportunity to gain insights into concepts that affect statewide constituencies, into evidence-based information on emerging issues and into the art and science of governing in divided times, such as under state House co-speakerships.

At the same time, IPPSR has evolved as a hub for policy expertise, information and outreach, a center for survey research training and excellence and an opportunity for training for those who seek leadership through elected office or public service. The program is built upon a series of specially designed events, including presenters, researchers and facilitated discussions. Sessions are focused on topics of compelling interest, from the state's revenue stream, to its expenditures, K-12 education, demographics and innovations.

IPPSR is proud that LLP has hosted a majority of newly elected legislators from each party and draws support from the Legislature's highest officers. The program continues to build on MSU's long-standing tradition of providing leadership training to state and county officials, community leaders, and aspiring public officials.

The LLP is consistent with the policy and research education efforts conducted both on and off campus in of support state legislators, their staffs and their communities. It resides at IPPSR as companion to IPPSR's Public Policy and Education, the Michigan Political Leadership Program, the State of the State Survey and Office for Survey Research. LLP draws on the resources and leadership of each of these outstanding programs.

A New Opportunity: Legislative Staff Training

A new opportunity was recognized in 2016, and by 2017 the very first LLP Legislative Staff Training program was introduced. It was built on the LLP model, adding expanded interactive elements, a new bipartisan partnership with Michigan's State House of Representative and Senate leaders. With the arrival of term limits, Michigan's Legislature allows for more turnover in legislating and in staffing. It also encourages more movement from staff to elected legislator.

To this new opportunity, career-building resources were added, along with more personalized attention through smaller roundtable discussions and closer event evaluations upon which new training components were built. State agency administrators and deputies were a greater part of the educational experience, giving legislative staff a well-rounded understanding of bottom-to-top state governance. Both programs remain cooperatively produced by IPPSR, MSU Extension and MSU's Office of the Vice President for Governmental Affairs.

This educational outreach allows IPPSR to meet its long-established educational missions bridging policy and practical applications of personal leadership, governing and economic growth. They also are in step with IPPSR's other enriching programs – including Public Policy Forums, Michigan Political

Leadership Program, the Rosenthal Internship Awards, Office for Survey Research, State of the State Survey and the newest addition, the Michigan Policy Insiders Panel.

For more information about LLP and all other IPPSR programs, please contact Arnold Weinfeld, Interim Director, Institute for Public Policy and Social Research, 509 E. Circle Dr., Room 321, East Lansing, MI 48824. He can be reached by phone at (517) 355-6672 or by email at weinfel8@msu.edu

Acknowledgments

IPPSR is proud of the many events and activities it undertakes throughout the year. They require exacting attention to detail, a strong desire to meet personal needs and an ability to answer the call to service and commitment.

Please join us in thanking those whose work may be behind the scenes, yet is still essential to LLP and other IPPSR operations: Administrative Assistant Iris Taylor Harper and Secretary Milly Shiraev, Information Technologist Jes Sprague, Communications Manager Cynthia Kyle and Staff Student Assistant Tatiana Maine-Brown. Katharine Cusick assisted.

The staffs at MSU's Office for Governmental Affairs and MSU Extension deserve great credit for their assistance. At the state Capitol, IPPSR is grateful for the assistance of Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey, Senate Democratic Leader Jim Ananich, House Speaker Lee Chatfield and House Democratic Leader Christine Greig. Stacey Murray, professional development coordinator for the state House of Representatives, is vital to this effort.

MEDICAID EXPANSION AND WORK RULES

JACKIE PROKOP, PH.D., MHA, RN

DIRECTOR

MEDICAID PROGRAM POLICY DIVISION
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
STATE OF MICHIGAN

Jackie Prokop, PhD, MHA, RN, is the Director of the Medicaid Program Policy Division which is located in the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

She has worked for state government for more than 27 years, with most of the years working in the Medical Services Administration, the agency responsible for the administration of the Medicaid program. In her current role, she oversees health policy related to Medicaid, the Healthy Michigan Plan, Maternal Outpatient Medical Services (MOMS), The Flint Waiver and the MI Child program.

She has a bachelor's degree in nursing, a master's degree in Health Care Administration, and doctorate in nursing with an emphasis on health policy. In addition, she has more than 10 years of clinical experience in a variety of health care settings.

Jackie Prokop, Ph.D., MHA, RN

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PHIL KURDUNOWICZ

ADMINISTRATOR

MEDICAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
STATE OF MICHIGAN

Phil Kurdunowicz is a state assistant administrator within the Medical Services Administration at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. He is currently coordinating the implementation of new work requirements and other policy changes for the Healthy Michigan Plan.

His previous work with the department included policy projects related to behavioral health services, long-term supports and services, and health information sharing. He graduated from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy in 2010 and a Master of Health Services Administration in 2017. He also participated in the Policy Fellowship program at the Center for Healthcare Research and Transformation.

Phil Kurdunowicz

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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

UNDERSTANDING CONSTITUENT DIVERSITY

NAZITA LAJEVARDI

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Nazita Lajevardi is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Science at Michigan State University. She received her Juris Doctor in 2012 from the University of San Francisco school of law and her PhD in 2017 from the University of California, San Diego.

As a political scientist and attorney, her work is related to race and ethnic politics, political behavior, voting rights, and immigration. Her research lies at the intersection of religion, race, ethnic politics, representation, and discrimination. Broadly, she examines one overarching question: How do marginalized groups fare in American democracy?

Her scholarship has been published in venues, such as *The Journal of Politics*, *American Political Science Review*, and *Political Behavior*, among others. It has also been featured in the popular media, including The Atlantic, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Vox Magazine, and The Huffington Post.

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ALFREDO HERNANDEZ

EQUITY OFFICER

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS

Alfredo Hernandez was born and raised in Panama. He moved to the United States in 1990 after graduating from high school and joined the U.S. ARMY at the age of 20. He spent five years stationed in Hawaii before moving to Illinois in 1997 and Michigan in 1998.

Hernandez obtained his bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies and Philosophy at Grand Valley State University where his work, *Language, Culture, Perception and Knowledge*, was published in the McNair Scholar Journal. He pursued his graduate studies at Western Michigan University where he earned a master's degree in Comparative Religion.

He has worked in the field of equity for numerous years developing inclusive strategies for organizational change; he teaches philosophy and anthropology courses at the college level.

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LUNCHEON

THE REPUBLICAN AGENDA IN THE STATES

MATT GROSSMANN

DIRECTOR

INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND SOCIAL RESEARCH

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Matt Grossmann is [Director of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research \(IPPSR\)](#) and Associate Professor of Political Science at Michigan State University.

His new book, [Red State Blues: How the Conservative Revolution Stalled in the States](#), is from Cambridge University Press. He finds that while the Republican Party has gained substantial political control of state governments but has largely failed to enact policies that advance conservative goals.

Grossmann is also co-author of [Asymmetric Politics: Ideological Republicans and Group Interest Democrats](#), published by Oxford University Press in 2016 (with David A. Hopkins) and winner of the Leon Epstein Outstanding Book Award from the American Political Science Association.

His previous books include [Artists of the Possible: Governing Networks and American Policy Change Since 1945](#), published by Oxford University Press in 2014 and [The Not-So-Special Interests: Interest Groups, Public Representation and American Governance](#), published by Stanford University Press in 2012. He is co-author of [Campaigns & Elections](#), the leading elections textbook from W.W. Norton.

Grossmann's a Senior Fellow at the Niskanen Center in Washington, DC, host of [The Science of Politics Podcast](#) and a regular contributor to FiveThirtyEight's online political analysis. He has also published op-eds in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*.

While on sabbatical from 2018-2019, he served as Visiting Associate Professor of Political Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and as Visiting Scholar at the Institute for Quantitative Social Science at Harvard University.

Grossmann has authored numerous journal articles on such topics as policy change, political party networks, the legislative process and public opinion. His research appears in the *Journal of Politics*, *Policy Studies Journal*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *American Politics Research* and fifteen other outlets.

His research on "Asymmetric Parties in American Policy Debates" was supported by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. His research project, "How Do the Rich Rule? Public Opinion, Parties, and Interest Groups in Unequal Policy Influence," was supported by the Russell Sage Foundation.

He was named IPPSR Director in January 2016. IPPSR is a policy, leadership and research unit within MSU's College of Social Science, conducting more than \$1.5 million in grant- or contract-funded research and raising more than \$300,000 in donations annually.

Under Grossmann's leadership, IPPSR added more than 60 affiliated faculty members from 25 different departments and nine colleges. Bringing the first student cohort to IPPSR, Grossmann has built a Policy Fellows Program with 20 graduate and undergraduate students per year. He expanded the Institute's

outreach capabilities, doubling the number of Public Policy Forums at the state capitol and launching the State of the State Podcast and the Michigan Policy Wonk blog.

Grossmann also created a policy-relevant research search engine and the Correlates of State Policy online database (1,000 variables measured for all 50 states each year), designed a new online survey panel of political insiders, established a new training program for legislative staff, transformed an internship award into a leadership certification for legislative interns, and created an event series for training faculty to engage policymakers.

He received a bachelor's degree from Claremont McKenna College, a master's degree in political science in 2002 and doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley, in 2007.

Matt Grossmann

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READ BY GRADE THREE EVALUATION

EMILY MOHR

MANAGING DIRECTOR

EDUCATION POLICY INNOVATION COLLABORATIVE
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Emily Mohr is managing director of EPIC and has spent her entire career working in the education sector.

Most recently, she served eight years at the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), working on strategic initiatives focused on human capital and district research partnerships. In the former role, she played a key part in the fundraising for and development and implementation of the district's new multi-measure teacher and school leader evaluation systems and school performance improvement systems.

Mohr also led a successful effort to create a human capital data warehouse and launch online reports for school and district leadership to better inform their decision making. She managed the district's employee learning management system, which she scaled district-wide.

In her role managing district research partnerships, she worked extensively to build external relationships that added research and analytic capacity to the district, and helped create systems aimed at using results to better inform policy and practice. Her appreciation for the importance of research to inform district and state policy and practice stems from her participation in the Harvard Strategic Data Project fellowship.

She received her Master in Public Policy from the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy Studies and her bachelor's degree in Public Policy Studies from Vanderbilt University.

Emily Mohr

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ROUNDTABLES

ROAD PROJECTS AND FUNDING

LARRY DOYLE

ADMINISTRATOR, DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Larry Doyle currently holds the position of Development Services Division Administrator in Lansing, which includes Real Estate, Permit/Utilities/Agreements and Local Agency Programs sections for the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).

Larry has held many other positions with MDOT during his 24 years having worked in MDOT's Central Office and University, Southwest and Bay Regions. His former positions include Road Design Engineer, Project Manager, Development Engineer, TSC Manager, and Local Agency Programs Engineer.

Larry received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Michigan State University in 1995. He has been a registered professional engineer since 2001.

Larry Doyle

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ADAM FELDPAUSCH, CPA

ADMINISTRATOR, FINANCIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION

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Adam Feldpausch is the Division Administrator of the Financial Operations Division for the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). He has been with MDOT for four years, most recently as the Section Manager for MDOT Project Accounting and Financial Support.

Prior to joining MDOT, he spent 10 years in various capacities at the Michigan Office of the Auditor General.

Adam graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in accounting, Lansing Community College with a degree in computer auditing, and is a Certified Public Accountant.

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RIISING LAKE LEVELS

MARK BREEDERLAND

SEA GRANT EDUCATOR, COASTAL COMMUNITIES DEVELOPMENT

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY

MSU EXTENSION

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Mark Breederland works as an Extension Educator for Michigan Sea Grant Extension / MSU Extension based out of Traverse City, MI, part of the NOAA National Sea Grant program. He is the Michigan Sea Grant team lead for Great Lakes levels variations / coastal erosion and has been giving programs on Great Lakes levels for more than 20 years.

His training includes a master's degree in Water Resources and a Bachelor of Science in biology along with 34 year's experience within Michigan on a variety of coastal community issues. For more than 50 years, the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program has supported coastal and Great Lakes communities through research, extension and education.

Sea Grant's mission is to enhance the practical use and conservation of coastal, marine and Great Lakes resources in order to create a sustainable economy and environment.

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RICHARD NORTON

PROFESSOR, URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

TAUBMAN COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN PLANNING

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Richard Norton is a professor with the Urban and Regional Planning Program and the Program in the Environment at the University of Michigan. He teaches and conducts research in the areas of planning law and coastal area management, focusing on the challenges of managing shorelands along the Laurentian Great Lakes.

He contributes actively to public service through community-engaged research and teaching by serving as chair of the board of directors of the Huron River Watershed Council, and by serving on the planning law committee of the Michigan Association of Planning.

Prior to joining UM, he earned his doctorate in city and regional planning and his juris doctor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, along with master's degrees in public policy studies and environmental management from Duke University. California.

Richard Norton

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CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

KATIE OCKERT

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE EDUCATOR

MSU EXTENSION

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Katie Ockert is the MSU Extension Chronic Wasting Disease Educator. She began this new role in Extension in November of 2019.

She has been with MSU Extension since 2005 serving as a county 4-H Educator from 2005 to 2011. In 2011, she was selected to lead youth animal science programs for the MSU Extension Institute of Children and Youth.

She has a Bachelor of Science from Michigan State University in Agriculture and Natural Resource Communications with a specialization in Animal Science and a master's in public administration from Penn State University specializing in homeland security.

Katie Ockert

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CHAD STEWART

WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Chad Stewart is the deer, elk, and moose management specialist for the Michigan DNR. He has served in that role for five years.

Previously, he was the state deer biologist for the Indiana DNR and a wildlife biologist for the Smithsonian's Conservation Biology Institute in Virginia.

Chad has a Bachelor of Science degree from Penn State University, and a master's degree from the University of Illinois. He is a certified wildlife biologist.

Chad Stewart

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DR. KELLY STRAKA

**WILDLIFE VETERINARIAN AND WILDLIFE HEALTH SECTION SUPERVISOR,
WILDLIFE DIVISION
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

Dr. Kelly Straka is the State Wildlife Veterinarian and Wildlife Health Section Supervisor for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources-Wildlife Division. She started her career with CWD in 2003, working check stations in the field for the Minnesota DNR.

She was a field biologist in Hawaii before returning to Minnesota to attend veterinary school. In 2012, she joined the Missouri Department of Conservation as that state's first wildlife veterinarian-the same year that CWD was detected in Missouri's free-ranging deer herd.

National CWD efforts have included assisting with rectal mucosal biopsies (RAMALT) in Kentucky, a vaccine trial in Wyoming, testimonies for several state legislatures and natural resources commissions, authorship and editing of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Best Management Practices for CWD as well as providing feedback on the USDA's CWD Program Standards.

In her current role, she oversees the Wildlife Disease Laboratory responsible for the CWD testing of more than 30,000 free-ranging cervids annually and is the chair of the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Health Committee. Dr. Straka holds a bachelor of science in Fisheries and Wildlife Management, a master's in Veterinary Public Health and a doctorate of Veterinary Medicine in Interdisciplinary Medicine from the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Kelly Straka

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EASTERN EQUINE ENCEPHALITIS

ADENIKE SHOYINKA, MD, MPH

MEDICAL DIRECTOR

INGHAM COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Before appointed Ingham County's Medical Director, Dr. Adenike Shoyinka completed medical school at University of Ibadan in Nigeria and her residency and internship at Harlem Hospital Center in New York. She moved to Detroit for a fellowship at Henry Ford Hospital.

Dr. Shoyinka has board certifications from the American Board of Internal Medicine in Infectious Disease and Internal Medicine.

At the Ingham County Health Department, Dr. Shoyinka works to promote healthy practices between animals and people in the community.

Adenike Shoyinka

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MICHELE SCHALOW

COMPANION ANIMAL, EXOTIC ANIMAL, AND EQUINE PROGRAM MANAGER
ANIMAL INDUSTRY DIVISION
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
STATE OF MICHIGAN

Dr. Michele Schalow earned a bachelor's degree in Veterinary Science from Michigan State University in 1999 and her doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from MSU in 2001. Upon graduation, Dr. Schalow worked at several private practices before eventually joining the Michigan Department of Agriculture, Animal Industry Division in 2005, serving as a Program Manager.

In her current role, Dr. Schalow oversees the companion animal, exotic animal, and equine programs for the state of Michigan, as well as the licensing and regulating of dead animal transporters and processors. Her job duties include receiving and acting on over 40 reportable diseases affecting these species, including Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). Dr. Schalow has been actively involved with EEE response since starting with the Department.

Dr. Schalow is also a member of the Michigan Arbovirus Working Group, a group with representatives from various sectors of government and academia working together to control and prevent diseases transmitted by insects, including EEE.

Michele Schalow

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BRIAN VERHOUGSTRAETE

PESTICIDE SECTION MANAGER
PESTICIDE AND PLANT PEST MANAGEMENT DIVISION
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
STATE OF MICHIGAN

Brian Verhougstraete serves as the Pesticide Section Manager in MDARD's Pesticide and Plant Pest Management (PPPM) Division. Prior to his current role, Brian worked for more than 13 years as the Pesticide Registration and Certification Program Specialist where he was responsible for registering pesticides and certifying applicators that apply pesticides.

Throughout his career with PPPM, Brian has also worked as a field inspector and served as both the BSE Program Coordinator and Feed Program Manager. Brian has a bachelor's degree in forestry from Michigan State University.

Brian Verhougstraete

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STAFF TRAINING PROGRAM COUNCIL

MATT GROSSMANN

DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND SOCIAL RESEARCH
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Matt Grossmann is [Director of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research](#) (IPPSR) and Associate Professor of Political Science at Michigan State University.

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outreach capabilities, doubling the number of Public Policy Forums at the state capitol and launching the State of the State Podcast and the Michigan Policy Wonk blog.

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He received a bachelor's degree from Claremont McKenna College, a master's degree in political science in 2002 and doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley, in 2007.

ARNOLD WEINFELD

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND SOCIAL RESEARCH

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Arnold is Associate Director of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR) at Michigan State University as well as Director for Workforce and Economic Development Partnerships for the Office of Public Engagement and Scholarship within University Outreach and Engagement.

Prior to joining MSU, Arnold served as CEO of the Prima Civitas Foundation, a community and economic development non-profit organization. He also has worked for the Michigan Municipal League where he served in a number of roles and co-founded the Michigan Sense of Place Council.

Arnold began his career with the Michigan House of Representatives where he worked as a legislative aide, policy analyst and policy director. He has served his own community as an elected member of the Waverly Community Schools Board of Education and is currently on his local planning commission.

He is also on the boards of local and statewide organizations such as the Michigan Sense of Place Council, Rural Partners of Michigan, Capital Area College Access Network. He is a graduate of Michigan State University's College of Social Science Multi-Disciplinary Program.



Arnold Weinfeld
Interim Director
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KATHLEEN WILBUR, PHD

*EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR GOVERNMENT AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY*

Kathleen Wilbur was named Executive Vice President for Government and External Relations on March 6, 2018, by MSU Interim President John Engler.

As Executive Vice President for Government and External Relations Wilbur oversees Advancement, Alumni Relations, Communications and Government Relations for MSU.

Wilbur has spent decades in higher education and state government, most recently serving as Vice President for Government and External Relations at Central Michigan University. She has also served as Interim President of CMU as well as Vice President for Development and External Relations. She was with CMU starting in 2002.

Prior to that, she worked in state government as Director of the Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry Services, Director of the Michigan Department of Commerce, Deputy Director of the Michigan Department of Commerce and Director of the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulation.

Wilbur is the only woman who has ever directed three different Michigan state departments. Earlier in her career, Wilbur served as Chief of Staff to state Senator William Sederburg, who chaired the Higher Education Appropriations Committee. She was elected to the MSU Board of Trustees in 1984 and served through 1990.

A member of the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame, Wilbur received her Doctor of Philosophy in Higher Education Administration, Master of Arts in Higher Education Administration and Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from MSU.

DAVID BERTRAM

*ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR STATE AFFAIRS
OFFICE FOR GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY*

David Bertram joined MSU in October 2011 as Assistant Vice President for State Affairs. Prior to working at MSU, Bertram, spent nearly 15 years with the Michigan Township Association, serving as the legislative team leader from 2000-11.

Bertram served in Gov. John Engler's office in a number of positions, working as the governor's lobbyist in the Michigan Senate for three years. He also served on Senate Majority Leader John Engler's staff, gubernatorial campaign staff and on the Engler transition team in 1990. Bertram has a Bachelor of Science in political science from Lake Superior State University.



Kathleen Wilbur, Ph.D.
Executive Vice President for
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JEFF DWYER

DIRECTOR

MSU EXTENSION

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Jeff Dwyer is the Director of MSU Extension; Senior Associate Dean of Outreach and Engagement for the College of Agriculture & Natural Resources and the Interim Director of the Health & Nutrition Institute.

He was named director of Michigan State University (MSU) Extension on April 1, 2016, after serving as interim director from January 1 to March 31, 2016.

Before joining MSU, Dwyer was the founding director of the Institute on Aging and a tenured professor of medicine at the University of Florida from 1999 to 2003. He was the director of the Institute of Gerontology and professor of sociology at Wayne State University from 1993 to 1999.

Dwyer received a bachelor's degree in sociology from California Lutheran University in 1982 and a doctorate in sociology from the University of Florida in 1988. In 1992, he was selected as a Brookdale National Fellow and in 1997, he was elected a fellow of both the Gerontological Society of America and the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education.



Jeff Dwyer
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DRU MONTRI

DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS

COLLEGES OF AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES AND VETERINARY MEDICINE

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Dru Montri took over her position at Michigan State University in January 2018 after managing the Michigan Farmers Market Association since its inception.

Her association responsibilities included overall leadership, long-term strategic planning, staff and volunteer management plus financial, membership, promotions and special events leadership.

She has served as executive secretary of the Michigan Meat Association and as a member of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development.

She has a background in horticulture, earning a Bachelor's Degree from MSU, her Master's Degree from Penn State and a doctorate from MSU.



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Dr. Eric Scorsone rejoined MSU in 2011 as an fixed-term Extension specialist, State and Local Government Program, in the Department of Agricultural, Food, And Resource Economics. He worked as senior Economist at the Michigan Senate Fiscal Agency in 2010 and returned to Michigan State University in 2011. He also worked at MSU from 2005 to 2010.

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Eric Walcott is a State Specialist with MSU Extension's Government and Public Policy programs. He works with faculty on campus and educators throughout the state to develop and implement educational programs related to state and local government.

Walcott's work focuses primarily on good governance, civic engagement, and fiscal sustainability, seeking to build capacity of state and local government officials as well as educate Michigan residents on issues related to state and local government and encourage their informed participation.

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Stacey Murray serves as the Professional Development Coordinator for the Michigan House of Representatives. She is responsible for continuing education of staff members, professional development, hiring assistance in member offices and implementation of the Michigan House of Representatives Legislative Fellowship Program.

Murray served as a staff member in the Michigan House of Representatives and the Michigan Senate for more than 20 years in several capacities. Her responsibilities have ranged from legislative director, floor director in the state Senate, fundraising and campaigns. Stacey also served as a lobbyist for the Michigan Townships Association.

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Cynthia Kyle is communications manager at Michigan State University's Institute for Public Policy and Social Research. Operationally, she helps to craft marketing communications, assists with brand management, strategic planning and visual communications, oversees media relations and implements the Institute's web, internet and social network educational strategies in traditional and digital formats.

She has written for magazines, newsletters, newspapers, radio and online publications. She has taught journalism at Ohio State University, Wayne State University and Michigan State University.

She is a founding member of the revitalized Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame, and past president of the Mid-Michigan Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.



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Tatiana Maine-Brown is a student assistant working at the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research. She is a third year Human Biology student with a pre-med focus in the Honors College and a Charles Drew Scholar.

In the Honors College, she serves as a peer mentor for the Honors Navigators Peer Mentorship Program acting as a guide for first-generation students, international students, and students of color in the College.

She's a Dean's List honoree and is looking forward to continuing her journey after MSU in medical school as she pursues a career in women's health. In her future career, she looks forward to working with patients and providers toward excellence in health for all.



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