

Michigan Political Leadership Program

Since the 1992 implementation of term limits in Michigan, the Michigan Political Leadership Program at Michigan State University has recruited, trained, and inspired public policy leaders, offering them the vision, commitment and skills necessary to govern effectively.

In a bipartisan learning environment, a diverse group of 24 individuals from across the state engage in a public policy and leadership curriculum. The 10-month program incorporates practical politics, public policy analysis and process, personal leadership development and effective governance. More than 500 MPLP graduates have put the skills acquired through the program to work in their communities.

MPLP is administered by the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR), guided by an Advisory Board, and co-directed by Anne M. Mervenne and Steve Tobocman. It is a non-profit entity, supported by the MSU Office of the Provost, College of Social Science and the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research. Grant funding from the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation of Midland, Michigan, MASCO, as well as generous contributions from Michigan associations, corporations, labor organizations, MPLP alumni and individuals, sustain the program.

Anne M. Mervenne is CEO of Mervenne & Company, a governmental relations consulting firm. Previously, she served for 12 years in the Engler Administration as the Director of Appointments, Executive Director of the Michigan Women's Commission, Director of the Governor's Southeast Michigan office, and Special Advisor to the Governor and First Lady. She has also held elected office as an Ingham County Commissioner. Anne served on the Transition Team for Governor Rick Snyder as Vice-Chair for Talent.

Steve Tobocman served in the Michigan House from 2003-08, representing Southwest Detroit. In his last term, he was elected Majority Floor Leader, the second-highest position in the Michigan House. Since then, Steve has been the managing partner at New Solutions Group, where he has helped spearhead Global Detroit, the WE (Welcoming Economies) Global Network, the Michigan Foreclosure Task Force, the Community Development Advocates of Detroit, and other nonprofit and public policy initiatives.