

LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

LEGISLATIVE STAFF TRAINING

SEPTEMBER 2021



Institute for Public Policy
and Social Research
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

SHORT-TERM BUDGET SURPLUSES AND SUSTAINABILITY

JIM STANSELL

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR AND SENIOR ECONOMIST
HOUSE FISCAL AGENCY
STATE OF MICHIGAN

Jim Stansell is the Senior Economist and an Associate Director at the Michigan House Fiscal Agency, and has been with HFA for the past 20 years.

His responsibilities include forecasting economic conditions for the United States and Michigan, developing revenue estimates of Michigan's major taxes, and working with legislators and staff on tax and revenue issues.

Prior to joining the legislature, he taught at Kalamazoo College, Michigan State University, and the University of North Carolina – Charlotte, and has also held positions at the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR) at Michigan State and the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Unemployment Research in Kalamazoo. He holds an undergraduate degree in economics from Purdue University and a graduate degree in economics from Michigan State University.



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DAVID ZIN

**CHIEF ECONOMIST
SENATE FISCAL AGENCY
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David Zin is the Chief Economist with the Michigan Senate Fiscal Agency, a non-partisan agency that serves the Michigan Senate. His responsibilities include preparing economic forecasts for the U.S. and Michigan economies, estimating future state government revenues, estimating the potential fiscal impact of proposed tax legislation and evaluating tax policy issues.

Zin has also worked as an economist specialist for the Office of Revenue and Tax Analysis in the Michigan Department of Treasury. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in economics and physics with honors from Washburn University and a Master's Degree in economics from Michigan State University.



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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

RECONNECTING WITH WORK AND COLLEAGUES



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ANGELA HALL, J.D., PH.D.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR
GRADUATE STUDIES, SCHOOL OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND
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Angela Hall is the Associate Director for Graduate Studies and an Assistant Professor in the School of Human Resources and Labor Relations at Michigan State University. She received her law degree from Florida State University, College of Law and her doctorate from Florida State University, College of Business.

She has taught a wide variety of courses at the undergraduate, masters, and doctorate levels including business law, organizational behavior, human resources, leadership, and employee training and development. Angela has also authored learning modules and cases for the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)

She has previously been on the faculties of Florida State University and the University of Texas at San Antonio. Prior to pursuing an academic career, Angela practiced law fulltime. Her research interests include employee accountability.

CYBERSECURITY FOR CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE



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DAN SCRIPPS

CHAIR
MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF MICHIGAN

Dan Scripps was appointed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to the Michigan Public Service Commission in 2019 and was designated Chair in 2020 for a term ending in 2023.

Scripps has been an active participant in a number of state energy advisory groups, including the Upper Peninsula Energy Task Force, the Michigan Dam Safety Task Force, and the Michigan Council on Climate Solutions.

Scripps is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and serves on the Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, Recovery, and Resiliency. He is active with its Committees on Critical Infrastructure, Gas, and International Relations, and the Washington Action Program.

He previously served in the Michigan House of Representatives and chaired the Banking and Financial Services committee. He also served on committees overseeing energy, telecommunications, and environmental protection. He is a graduate of Alma College and the University of Michigan Law School.

JIM BEECHEY

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SECURITY
CONSUMERS ENERGY**

Jim Beechey is Executive Director, Security at Consumers Energy where he leads all aspects of physical and cyber security.

During his 20-year career, Beechey has served in various technical and leadership positions focusing on IT Infrastructure and Cyber Security.

He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science and Business Management from Northwood University and a Master's of Science in Information Security Engineering from the SANS Technology Institute.

Beechey is a regular presenter at security conferences and has served in an advisor/board member for several organizations including Center for Internet Security's Critical Security Controls.



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KATIE ABRAHAM

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION**

Katie Abraham is the Executive Director of the Michigan Municipal Electric Association (MMEA).

Prior to joining MMEA in 2018, Katie served as Associate Director at the American Petroleum Institute (API) Michigan where she worked with state lawmakers and executive and regulatory leaders to advance energy policies.

As Environmental and Tourism Policy Advisor and Assistant Legal Counsel in the Michigan House of Representatives from 2013 to 2015, she advised policymakers on energy and environmental legislation.

Abraham earned her law degree and Master of Environmental Law and Policy from Vermont Law School, and her Bachelor's from Kalamazoo College.

PANDEMIC RECOVERY ROUNDTABLES

LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION



Steve Woodbury, Ph.D.
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STEVE WOODBURY, PH.D.

PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
SENIOR ECONOMIST
W.E. UPJOHN INSTITUTE FOR EMPLOYMENT RESEARCH

Steve Woodbury is a professor of economics at Michigan State University and a senior economist at the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research. He researches issues in unemployment, unemployment insurance, and nonwage compensation.

During 1993–1994, he was deputy director of the Advisory Council on Unemployment Compensation in the U.S. Department of Labor and during 2014–2015, he was a visiting professor in the economics department at Princeton University.

His work has been published in journals such as the *American Economic Review*, *Journal of Labor Economics*, *Health Economics*, *National Tax Journal*, and *Labour Economics*. He earned his doctorate in economics at the University of Wisconsin–Madison in 1981.

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION



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JOE BORGSTROM

PRINCIPAL
PLACE + MAIN ADVISORS

Joe Borgstrom works in the areas of downtown redevelopment, community and economic development. His 20-year career includes executive management, project financial structuring and evaluation, fund development, foreign direct investment recruitment, program management, public speaking and consulting.

Borgstrom is a principal in the consulting firm, Place + Main Advisors, LLC, which he co-founded.

He was formerly the Director of Downtown & Community Services at MSHDA, which included the national award winning Michigan Main Street program. He was a founding member of the Community Assistance Team and served as its director at MSHDA and at the MEDC.

MENTAL HEALTH



Kea Norrell-Aitch
Youth and Teen Mental Health
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KEA NORRELL-AITCH

YOUTH AND TEEN MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID INSTRUCTOR
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Kea Norrell-Aitch is a 4-H Educator with Michigan State University Extension. She spent the first seven years of her career in Detroit overseeing a 4-H mentoring program.

Currently, she is a Youth and Teen Mental Health First Aid Instructor, ACE (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Community Champion and provides statewide support to 4-H healthy living programs in mental health and emotional wellness.

She earned a Bachelor of Science in Family and Community Services from Michigan State University and a Masters in Family Counseling from Spring Arbor University. Her career goals have been dedicated to positive youth development through community education and building resilience especially by providing more opportunities for youth and families with limited resources



Abigail Cudney
Community Behavioral Health
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ABIGAIL CUDNEY

**COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM INSTRUCTOR
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Abigail Cudney is a Health Program Instructor for Michigan State University Extension with an emphasis on behavioral health, substance misuse prevention, and trauma and its impact across the lifespan.

She is a licensed State of Michigan social worker and offers educational programming for adults through the State Opioid Response grant, as well as, the Michigan Substance Use Prevention, Education, and Recovery grant project (MiSUPER). Cudney is a certified instructor for Mental Health First Aid and is a trained presenter for the Michigan Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Initiative.

She is trained to deliver courses focused on Stress Less with Mindfulness, RELAX Alternatives to Anger, Chronic Pain PATH, Youth and Adult Mental Health First Aid training.

VACCINATION



Dawn Contreras, Ph.D.
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DAWN CONTRERAS, PH.D.

**SENIOR SPECIALIST, HEALTH AND NUTRITION INSTITUTE
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION**

Dawn Contreras is Senior Extension Specialist with the MSU Extension Health and Nutrition Institute. She is currently the PI or Co-PI on seven health grants including projects related to substance misuse prevention among older adults, sleep interventions, caregiver self-care, falls prevention education, rural health and resiliency, and immunizations. She is a primary author/co-author on 34 articles published in peer-reviewed journals.

Contreras started her career with MSU Extension in 1981 as an Extension Home Economist; serving in Sanilac and Tuscola Counties and in Clinton County. From there, she took a position on campus as a Program Leader within Children, Youth, and Family Programs and became an adjunct faculty member for the Department of Human Development and Family Studies.

All three of her degrees are from Michigan State University. She is also a graduate of the MSU Program in Public Health certificate program.

STAFF TRAINING PROGRAM COUNCIL

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 Professor of Political Science at Michigan State University.

His book, [Red State Blues: How the Conservative Revolution Stalled in the States](#), published in 2019, 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.

His latest book, just published this summer is titled *How Social Science Got Better*. The work is the result of scores of personal interviews and survey research tracing developments delivering more accurate and profound social science discoveries.

Grossmann's the author of numerous books and articles and serves 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 was named IPPSR Director in 2016. Under his leadership, Grossmann 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.

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.



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ARNOLD WEINFELD

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

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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.



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KATHLEEN M. WILBUR, PH.D.

*SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
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Kathleen Wilbur is Michigan State University's senior vice president for government relations. Wilbur served at Central Michigan University, is the only woman to direct three State of Michigan departments, and served on the MSU Board of Trustees.

Before her MSU appointment, Wilbur, who joined Central Michigan University in 2002, was vice president for government and external relations. She also served as interim president for one year and then was vice president for development and external relations.

Prior to that she was 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 was chief of staff to State Senator William Sederburg, who chaired the Senate Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee, among other assignments.

She was elected to the MSU Board of Trustees in 1984 and served unto 1991. Her peer reviewed journal publications and conference presentations focus on the role of institutional trustees and governing boards in higher education.

A 2007 inductee into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame, Wilbur earned a doctorate in higher education administration, a Master's Degree in higher education administration, and Bachelor's Degree in journalism from MSU.



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DAVID BERTRAM

*ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR STATE AFFAIRS
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As Associate Vice President for State Relations within the MSU Office of Government and External Relations, Bertram is responsible for all state relations activities with Michigan legislators, executives and department directors, as well as provide analyses of legislation and legislative actions.

He serves as the day-to-day point person representing MSU before the Michigan Legislature, Governor's Office and state departments. His role also involves working in collaborative efforts on higher education and state issues with other state universities and other stakeholders.

Prior to his responsibilities at MSU, Bertram, spent nearly 15 years with the Michigan Township Association.

He 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.



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JEFF DWYER, PH.D.

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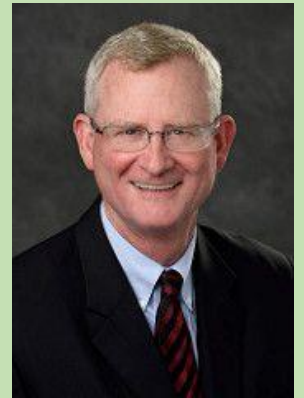
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Jeff Dwyer was director of Michigan State University (MSU) Extension from 2016 - February 2021. He added the title of senior associate dean of outreach and engagement of the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources to his responsibilities in 2017.

A sociologist by training, Dwyer focused his energies on finding new ways to bring transformational education to Extension's traditional audiences while expanding the organization's reach to new audiences. MSU Extension's roughly 600 faculty and staff members follow this philosophy in the hopes of making Michigan a better place to grow a business, raise a family, operate a farm or thrive as a community.

Previously, Dwyer was the senior associate dean for research and community engagement in MSU's College of Human Medicine. There, he honed his skills in facilitating multi-site collaboration, establishing university-wide linkages and building the infrastructure needed to sustain a statewide research network. He continues those practices in his role with MSU Extension where he has challenged the organization to act quickly to help Michigan residents get in front of emerging issues, such as the Flint water crisis, the increase of suicide rates in the agriculture community, the opioid epidemic and the effects of contaminated drinking water.

Dwyer has a bachelor's degree in sociology from California Lutheran University and a doctorate in sociology from the University of Florida.



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DRU MONTRI

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Dru Montri is the Director of Government and Stakeholder Relations for MSU's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR), MSU Extension, AgBioResearch and the College of Veterinary Medicine. In this role, she works closely with elected and appointed officials and their staff members, MSU government relations staff and administrators, and key stakeholders to advance the interests of MSU. She is also an adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Community Sustainability.

She received a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture from MSU, a Master of Science in Horticulture from The Pennsylvania State University, and a dual degree Doctor of Philosophy in Horticulture and Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies with a Graduate Specialization in Gender, Justice and Environmental Change from MSU.

Previously, she was the Executive Director of the Michigan Farmers Market Association (MIFMA) from 2006 to 2017. She is serving her second term on the Governor appointed bipartisan Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development.



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ERIC WALCOTT

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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.

Walcott previously worked in the Michigan House of Representatives, and holds a Master's of Public Policy degree from Michigan State University.



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STACEY MURRAY

*PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR
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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.

She is a graduate of Michigan State University.



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CYNTHIA KYLE

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

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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 multiple 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 twice past president of the Mid-Michigan Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.



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TATIANA MAINE-BROWN

COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT

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Tatiana Maine-Brown works as a communications assistant at the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research. She is pursuing a master's in human biology and graduated from Michigan State University with a human biology degree with a pre-med focus in the Honors College. She was a Charles Drew Scholar at MSU.

In the Honors College, she served 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 been a Dean's List honoree and is looking forward to pursuing a career in women's health.



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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 support of 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 weinfeld8@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, Information Technologist Jes Sprague and Program Coordinator Katherine Cusick.

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 Jason Wentworth and House Democratic Leader Donna Lasinski. Stacey Murray, professional development coordinator for the state House of Representatives, is vital to this effort.