

Biographies:

UNO School of Public Administration Alumni, Teaching & Scholarship Awards for Excellence in Public Service, 2024

Awarded to individuals who demonstrate, through their daily deeds and greatest achievements, the finest attributes of public service: integrity, stewardship, volunteerism, leadership, and a commitment to social justice and human dignity.

Bachelor Science in Emergency Management Alumni Award

Ali Webb, CBCP (*she/her/hers*)

Senior Resilience Analyst | National Indemnity Company

Ali Webb is on a mission to make emergency navigation easier for all. Currently working as a Senior Resilience Analyst for National Indemnity Company and Berkshire Hathaway Homestate Companies (NICO & BHHC), her work is dedicated to the areas of business continuity, disaster recovery, and crisis management. For the past five years, Ali has also served as the community service employee group chair at NICO, coordinating and hosting multiple donation drives and volunteer opportunities each year with organizations such as the Blue Bucket Project, Women's Center for Advancement, the Nebraska Diaper Bank, the Bellevue Veterans Home, and Youth Emergency Services. As of 2023, Ali was also recognized by the Disaster Recovery Institute International as a Certified Business Continuity Professional. She is an active board member of the local Omaha nonprofit, Great Plains Contingency Planners, and currently holds the position of member at large. In this position, she is working to connect current students in the UNO Emergency Management program with internship opportunities in the private sector and expanding the potential job opportunities for graduates.

Ali's educational journey started in Omaha. She graduated from Millard North High School in 2014 and was awarded an International Baccalaureate Program diploma. In May 2019, Ali graduated from the University of Nebraska at Omaha with her Bachelor of Science in Emergency Management and Disaster Science, with concentrations in Public Administration and Planning & Preparing for Urban Hazards. Her capstone project focused on the need for nonprofits to have more accessible means to achieve resilience and continuity planning goals. During her time at UNO, Ali served on the development committee for the Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender Ally College Conference, MBLGTACC, which brought over 1300 students from across the nation to the campus. Ali also served as a student senator in 2018-2019 at UNO, representing the College of Public Affairs and Community Service. When not "nerding out" over disasters and the resilience of communities and the planet, Ali Webb spends her time hiking around the driftless bluffs in Decorah, Iowa and travelling with her wife, Jaime, and dog, Gigi. Ali is also an avid reader of natural history writing, painting and drawing, and anything that requires crafting.

In Ali's words: "I believe that my education with UNO's College of Public Affairs and Community Service provided me the tools and knowledge I needed to begin my career as a young person in the world. I am incredibly thankful to feel the support and dedication that the institution holds for its students, even beyond my graduation date."

Minor in Fire Service Management Alumni Award

Lexy Hindt

Recovery Section Manager | RECOVERY

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

- education
 - Bachelor's of Science in Emergency Management
- positions
 - Recovery Section Manager with the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
- community involvement
 - I'm not involved in 1 specific community, but through my position and team, we assist local communities through FEMA's disaster recovery process
- accomplishments
 - Was the State Coordinating Officer for FEMA DR-4662-NE, and assisted Central City Public Schools with the development of a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Application to secure funding for their newly built tornado saferoom
- personal interests or hobbies
 - I enjoy spending time with family, friends, and my dog, Sadie. I also enjoy spending my time reading autobiographies and about history, and painting.
- and perhaps a quick statement about your education with UNO's School of Public Administration.
 - The staff at UNO's School of Public Administration are the reason I am where I am today. They believed in me and taught me to believe in myself. The staff assisted me with finding opportunities in my areas of interest.

Nebraska Certified Public Manager Program Alumni Award

Julie Jimenz

Julie is an Omaha native with a passion for social impact and international exchange. From a young age, she's been involved in service learning and community outreach projects in the Metropolitan community. She attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) as a Susan Buffett Scholar and was heavily involved in various organizations and groups on campus. Julie also served as a YALI mentor, one of the signature State Department international exchange programs, and discovered her passion for international exchange programs. During undergrad, she served around the world in areas of the U.S., Latin America, and the Middle East. She graduated from UNL with a Bachelor of Arts in Global Studies and Communication Studies.

After graduating from UNL, Julie began her Peace Corps service in the Dominican Republic (DR) as an Early Childhood Spanish Literacy Advisor where she served in rural communities on the Haitian-Dominican border for the first two years of service. She was later asked to join the leadership team as a Regional Supervisor overseeing volunteers and programs in the largest region of the DR. Following her Peace Corps service, she worked as Country Director for an international nonprofit organization in the DR called Outreach360. Julie oversaw all operations including diverse international staff and service-learning program.

In 2021, Julie moved back to join the UNO International Programs team as YSEALI Institute on Civic Engagement Administrative Director. One year later, she was brought on to other grant funded projects like the BOLD (Young Balkans Leaders) Civic Engagement Fellowship Program. In February 2023, Julie developed a new role called Assistant Director of Global Grants and began overseeing all federally grant funded initiatives in International Programs. Julie currently is involved in a number of international projects in areas of Southeast Asia, Europe - Balkan Region, and Central Asia in areas of Civic

Engagement - social justice and civil rights- and Education - environmental sustainability and English language.

Julie completed the Nebraska Certified Public Manager's Program in 2023 administered by CPACS under the leadership and guidance of Ellen Freeman-Wakefield. Since completing her CPM Certification, she joined the MPA program in January 2024 and looks forward to learning from the outstanding faculty.

Outside of UNO, she is a full-time mom of two, active member of the Jewish community, and on the board of the Nebraska World Affairs Council.

Minor in Tribal Management and Emergency Services Alumni Award

LaVada Pilcher

LaVada works at the Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition in within the Elders program as the Tired Moccasins Director. She is Ponca Tribe and Omaha Tribe of Nebraska.

Minor in Cross-Sector Collaborative Leadership Alumni Award

Angelica Fitzgerald

While Angelica is currently taking a break from community service and employment to be a full time caregiver to herFather-in-law, she has big plans for the fall.

Angelica was one of only five accepted into the Public Interest Scholars Program at Nebraska Law and she begins that journey in August.

She loves to go on walks, visit state parks, and play board games with her husband and two children. She is also an avid reader and also enjoy painting and traveling.

Master of Public Administration

Logan Seacrest (MPA, 2020).

Logan Seacrest is a resident fellow on the Criminal Justice and Civil Liberties team. He produces research and analysis on the judicial system with a focus on juvenile justice. Prior to R Street, Logan was a policy analyst at the Nebraska Legislature and a research analyst for the Nebraska Supreme Court. He also was the communications director at the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts.

Logan has been an active alum, participating in Capstone presentations and always willing to help support the School.

Master of Science in Urban Studies Alumni Award

Evan Schweitz

Evan is Senior Manager of Planning & Scheduling at Metro Transit Omaha where he facilitates data-driven decisions that improve the quality & performance of Omaha's public transportation system.

PhD in Public Administration Alumni Award

Angela Eikenberry

Dr. Eikenberry is D.B. and Paula Varner Professor in the School of Public Administration at UNO. Her research focuses on the social, economic, and political roles of philanthropy and nonprofit/voluntary organizations in democratic governance. She is recipient of the UNO Award for Distinguished Research and Outstanding Graduate Mentor and a Fellow in the National Academy of Public Administration. She will be starting as Director of the School of Public Policy at the University of Connecticut this summer.

Dr. Eikenberry's research has been featured on National Public Radio's All Things Considered and The Takeaway and in the Stanford Social Innovation Review. She recently co-edited a textbook on nonprofit management: Reframing Nonprofit Management: Democracy, Inclusion, and Social Change, 2nd edition (Melvin & Leigh, In press). She is a Fellow in the National Academy of Public Administration.

Education: Ph D, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, NE, Public Administration, 2005MPA, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, NE, Nonprofit Management, 1998BA, University of Nebraska at Omaha, International Studies, 1993

SPA Community Impact Award

Emily MacNabb

Emily is a Ph.D. with experience in researching, training, and teaching about hazards and disasters in complicated social environments and the workplace, focused on reducing risks to those most vulnerable. She has a passion for doing her part to create safer, more secure communities and is highly adaptable between both academic and practice-oriented environments. She works to help bridge the gap between research and practice to create safer communities for all.

She spent many years in the non-profit sector, as well as having international experience, completing a portion of her bachelor's degree at the University of Haifa, Israel where she focused her studies on counterterrorism, the politics of conflict, and nuclear proliferation. I have utilized this educational background in lobbying on Capitol Hill regarding a variety of policy issues.

She has published on topics relating to populations vulnerable to disaster impacts and public emergency

management efforts. Her dissertation research focused on community trust levels within various social groups regarding local emergency management and disaster response, exhibiting the detrimental impacts of COVID-19 on perceptions over government response to emergency and disaster events at large, as well as the impacts of social vulnerabilities on trust levels in government response.

Sixty Andrews Scholarship

The Sixty Andrews Difference Maker Scholarship is awarded to a currently enrolled UNO MSUS student who has made a positive impact on the community. The \$750 scholarship is from generous donations from Sixty's friends and colleagues, family, and faculty and staff of the SPA.

Clarice Dombeck

Clarice, an MSUS student, works at the Fabric Lab in North Omaha, where she was invested in making the community a better place to live and work. One way she has done this is in playing an instrumental role in the development of a community garden she named Healing Roots, which emphasizes the importance of gardening to bring neighborhoods closer and to support individual and community health.

Other SPA Scholarships

Samantha Redfern - Nebraska City Management Association Scholarship

Alyssa Travis - Mary Galligan Cornett Public Service Scholarship

Juliana Brehm - Mary & Rodrigo Lopez Fellowship for Professional Development

Katelyn Goeman - Public Administration Centennial Scholarship

Drew Preston - Public Administration Centennial Scholarship

Pi Alpha Alpha

(spring 2024)

- Brownwyn Peri Ohl Bahr
- Shayne M. Pearson
- Matthew Pajunen
- Marlee Anne Hart

(fall 2023)

- Stacey Roach
- Valeria Rodriguez
- John Weimer

SPA TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

SPA Full-Time Faculty Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring Award

Awarded to a current full-time faculty member in the SPA who has demonstrated superior efforts and techniques, dedication, and impact in teaching and mentoring.

Dr. Jodi Benenson

Dr. Jodi Benenson is an Associate Professor in the School of Public Administration at the University of Nebraska Omaha, where her primary research and teaching interests include civic engagement, nonprofit organizations, social policy, and social equity. Previously, she served as a Postdoctoral Scholar at Tufts University, as the Academic Director for the U.S. Department of State's YSEALI Institute on Civic Engagement, and most recently as the 2023-24 Fulbright Canada Research Chair in Governance and Public Administration at the Centre on Governance at the University of Ottawa. Her research has been published in a variety of academic and practice-based outlets, and she is engaged with several local, national, and international organizations that center civic engagement, equity, and representation. You will often find Dr. Benenson taking a walk outside, searching for the best ice cream in town, and voting.

SPA Part-Time Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award

Awarded to a current part-time faculty member in the SPA who has demonstrated superior efforts and techniques, dedication, and impact in teaching.

Felicia M. Sullivan

Felicia Sullivan is a director of research, evaluation, & analytics at the national nonprofit JFF (Jobs for the Future). She joined JFF in 2018. At JFF, Felicia seeks to make data and research insights actionable. She leads several monitoring, evaluation, and metric development workstreams supporting workforce and educational interventions geared toward improving economic mobility for those facing systemic barriers. She continues to bring a research lens to JFF's learning agenda around workforce credentials, technology-enabled learning interventions, and digital jobs working with training providers such as edX, IBM SkillsBuild, and Google Career Certificates. She also recently finalized a guide to navigating career decisions for adolescents for the College Board and a research-practice partnership in New Hampshire that created assessment rubrics for essential employability skills such as self-direction, collaboration, creativity, and communication.

Before joining JFF, Felicia was a senior researcher at the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) at Tufts University. There, she conducted diverse research and evaluations via mixed methods to inform policy and practice and promote greater equity in the civic and political spheres for marginalized and disconnected young people.

Felicia has over 27 years of experience teaching and learning in formal and informal settings. In addition to her teaching efforts at the University of Nebraska, Omaha, Felicia has also taught at Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU), the University of Massachusetts Boston, and Tufts University. She specializes in monitoring, evaluation, and learning, nonprofit organization and management, civic and community engagement, and human development, with a focus on adolescent behavior and skill development. She is also president of the Massachusetts Media Fund, which seeks to grow and strengthen independent journalism across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Felicia's community-based practice has been in multiethnic, urban settings, where she has developed innovative programs for diverse community needs. Her home and personal, civic, and political work are centered in Lowell, MA, USA. She is growing her skills as an archer.

SPA Student Teaching Award

Awarded to a current student teacher in the SPA who has demonstrated superior efforts and techniques, dedication, and impact in teaching.

Jonathan Wong

Jonathan Wong is an effective, enthusiastic, and inspiring teacher. He has taught in four countries (the U.S., Indonesia, Laos, and Thailand) while serving as the Graduate Assistant for the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Institute on Civic Engagement. Jonathan has also been successful as an instructor for PA 2000 Leadership & Administration in SPA. He uses applied exercises to engage students in meaningful ways, and challenges students to think critically about issues affecting different population groups.