



Great Plains Government Finance Officers Association
Thursday and Friday, October 21 & 22

2021 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

For More Information:

[GREAT PLAINS GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION](https://www.gpgfoa.org/)
<https://www.gpgfoa.org/>

Conference Questions:

Ellen Freeman-Wakefield, MPA
Director Professional Programs
School of Public Administration, University of Nebraska at Omaha
efreemanwakefield@unomaha.edu

Continuing Education Hours:



Thanks to Our Sponsors:



THURSDAY, OCT. 21 PROGRAM

8:00 – 8:30 AM

Welcome and Business Meeting

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Being Human in the Age of Digital Innovation

Jeff Butler – Jbutler International

Digital innovation not only changes corporations but also who we are as humans. Technology continues to evolve at an exponential rate, swiftly collapsing industries that took decades to build. As cutting-edge technology seems to update every day, questions arise such as: How will this evolution change the way we humans work? What does this mean for the next generation? The reality is that every industry will be affected just as any other.

Jeff Butler unravels which technological changes to anticipate (such as autonomous vehicles, Blockchain and artificial intelligence) and how their integration impacts the workforce, not only from a business perspective but sociological, psychological, and existential as well. How might this wave of change affect industries—and us as the people that work for them—faster than experts originally anticipated? While inevitable, one of the most important things that people can do now is learn where the tide is coming from, ... and be prepared for its impact. Jeff's timely presentation will help guide and navigate conference attendees through this meteoric challenge called "technology change."

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Break

10:30 AM – Noon

Building an Effective Multi-Generational Work Force

Jeff Butler – Jbutler International

Today's workplace has four generations working under one roof. Baby Boomers, Generation Xers, Millennials and soon Generation Z all work together to accomplish common organizational goals. But with differences in each of this generation's viewpoints, upbringings, culture, ideas, beliefs, and experiences, it is likely to see some tiffs or clashes within the organization. This makes managing four different generations in the workplace an extremely difficult task to accomplish, though not impossible. With the right guidance, support and advice, the task of managing these four generations under one roof is achievable. That support may come in various forms, one of which is this program.

In this program, best-selling author Jeff Butler, backed by a decade of psychological research, shares insights about motivations, differences, and communication styles of these four generations. You will learn how organizations across various industries are thriving with a multigenerational workforce. And how yours can too. Through this program you'll find specific actionable strategies to manage your cross-generational challenges and turn your multigenerational workforce into a competitive advantage.



Noon – 1:00 PM Lunch Break

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM **An Inside Look at the State Budget**

Will Lee, State Budget Administrator

This session is an overview of the state budgeting process and some of the tactics/strategies necessary to successfully plan for both short and long terms. Understanding some key principles like forecasting, process, and administration are all important components in the process.

Participants will also discuss the national health emergency that provided significant federal stimulus into the State and necessitated expedited oversight and administration of these programs provided by state government.

Budgeting is a process that is often cyclical in nature but can throw curve balls your way. The presenter hopes this session provides an overview of how the state budgeting process functions and the critical components of adjusting, if necessary, at various stages of the process.

2:00 PM – 2:20 PM Break

2:20 PM – 3:20 PM **Budget Trends and Challenges Currently facing Nebraska Cities and Counties**

John Bartle, Ph.D., Moderator - University of Nebraska at Omaha

Heath Mello - University of Nebraska

Heather Allemang - South Dakota Emergency Management

Robert Messbarger - University of Nebraska at Omaha

Stacey Roach - University of Nebraska at Omaha

These panelists are presenting their research on the trends and patterns in revenues, expenditures, and the budget process of a city or county. The governments examined are Fremont, Central City, Norfolk, and Sarpy County. After reviewing the trends for each government, and the components of spending and revenues, each presenter will examine the major issues facing each government. These include revenue sources and diversification, expenditure pressures, capital budgeting, public participation, and performance measurement. The moderator will summarize the common trends, and exemplary practices used by these governments.

While each of these governments are well-managed, they all face challenges. The panel will identify the challenges facing each government, and the steps the managers have taken to address them. This will provide public managers ideas they may consider in their work. It will also identify positive and problematic trends facing these four governments, which will suggest broader policy issues facing Nebraska local governments.



3:25 PM – 4:25 PM

Collaborative Risk Leadership

Peter Young, Ph.D. – University of St. Thomas

Developments in the risk management field have introduced several important conceptual and practical ideas; risk leadership being perhaps the most significant. In public sector settings risk leadership places a high value on the role of collaboration—both within a public organization, but among other organizations—public, private, or not-for-profit. Early investigation provides some interesting insights for improving collaborative risk management, which are highly relevant when placed alongside the challenges of global risks such as climate change and pandemics.

Currently, the need has never been greater to better understand and apply risk management responses to large scale public risks such as climate change and pandemics. An exploration of recent developments in risk management and leadership thought and practice highlight several developments that may offer promise in responding to such challenges.

FRIDAY, OCT. 22 PROGRAM

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Keeping up with the GASB

Amy Shreck – BKD CPAs and Advisors

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board has issued several statements and implementation guides over the last year. This session will help you recognize the upcoming accounting changes that will affect your organization to develop a plan for implementation.

You will be able to evaluate the potential impact of various accounting statements that could affect your organization.

9:00 AM – 9:15 AM

Break

9:15 AM – 10:15 AM

Benefits of Engaging a Municipal Advisor

Susanne Gerlach - PFM Financial Advisors LLC

During this session participants will discuss: 1) each party's role in a municipal bond transaction; 2) what it means to be a fiduciary; 3) the role of a municipal advisor in competitive and negotiated sales; 4) additional municipal advisor services provided including credit expertise and ongoing financial planning; and 5) how the advice of a municipal advisor helps reduce overall cost of capital. Also, this session includes a panel discussion with bond and disclosure counsel, county and city issuers, and a municipal advisor to discuss recent experiences, actual cost savings, and to answer your questions.

Participants will understand which parties are contractually obligated to represent participants best interests in a bond transaction. You will understand when it is appropriate to use a competitive or a negotiated bond sale process, along with the understanding of the cost savings that come from executing a plan of finance vs. executing transactions.



10:20 AM – 11:20 AM

COVID-19, Effects and Municipal Responses

Craig Maher, Ph.D. – University of Nebraska at Omaha

Participants will learn the varying degrees to which local governments were affected by the pandemic. Those fiscal effects caused by the pandemic produced a variety of response strategies, both short-term and long-term. What were those response strategies and how can we learn from this experience as we move forward?

11:25 AM – 12:25 PM

ARPA Roundtable Discussion and Report

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

Ethics in Government: An Overview of Approaches and Practices

Christian Janousek, Ph.D., J.D. – University of Nebraska at Omaha and Creighton University

This session addresses the understanding and application of ethics for government. This includes an overview of approaches to ethical deliberation, the components of ethics in public service, and ethics in practice.

Participants will gain a broader understanding of ethics in government and public service, the underlying morals and values of ethical practice, and the application and management of individual and organizational ethics.

CLOSING REMARKS



BIOGRAPHIES

Jeff Butler

Jeff Butler, Jeff Butler – Jbutler International

*Being Human in the Age of Digital Innovation
Building an Effective Multi-Generational Work
Force*

Jeff is CEO of JButler International and the author of two provocative books - The Authentic Workplace and The Key To The New You. Having written over 100 articles on workplace dynamics, his insights have been featured in dozens of media outlets such as Forbes and HR News. In addition, he has appeared on TEDx in both 2016 and 2017 with both talks focusing on psychology. Before Jeff founded his workplace consulting company, he spent almost a decade in Silicon Valley working as a Software Engineer which is where his initial interest in organization psychology developed. Since then, he has personally addressed over 100 organizations internationally on workplace dynamics issues such as Google, Amazon, LinkedIn, and Wells Fargo. He lives in Boston, MA, with his family.

Will Lee

Will Lee, State Budget Administrator

An Inside Look at the State Budget.

Originally from Pittsburgh, PA, Will attended the Indiana University of PA for his undergraduate, and received his MPA from the University of Pittsburgh. He met his wife in the city and she convinced him to come Live the Good Life here in Nebraska. He was provided an opportunity to be a budget analyst in the Budget Division and then was made Deputy Director three years later.

After two years of serving as Deputy Director, Nebraska's experienced long tenured Budget Administrator retired, and Mr. Will was appointed by Governor Ricketts in September 2020.

John Bartle

John Bartle, Ph.D., (moderator)

*Budget Trends and Challenges Currently
facing Nebraska Cities and Counties*

John is Dean of the College of Public Affairs and Community Service, and a Professor of Public Administration at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. He is the author or editor of three books: Management Policies in Local Government Finance, Sustainable Development for Public Administration, and Evolving Theories of Public Budgeting. His Bachelor's degree is from Swarthmore College, MPA from the University of Texas, Ph.D. from The Ohio State University, and an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the State University of New York.

Heath Mello

Heath Mello (presenter)

*Budget Trends and Challenges Currently
facing Nebraska Cities and Counties*

Heath is the Vice-President of External Relations for the University of Nebraska. For eight years, Mello served as a Nebraska State Senator and spent four years as chairman of the Legislature's Appropriations Committee. While in the Legislature, Mello also served on the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee, the Legislature's Planning Committee, Building Maintenance Committee, Legislative Performance Audit Committee, Rules Committee, the Legislature's Executive Board and a number of select committees and task forces. Mello is the past co-chair of the Economic Development Committee for the Council of State Governments Midwestern Legislative Conference.

Heather Allemang

Budget Trends and Challenges Currently facing Nebraska Cities and Counties

Heather Allemang (presenter)

Heather serves as the State Hazard Mitigation Officer for the State of South Dakota Office of Emergency Management. Prior experiences include instructing for The Blue Cell, deploying to Maricopa County, AZ, for Emergency Operation Center (EOC) planning staff, and working for the American Red Cross. Ms. Allemang is an AmeriCorps Alumnus and received her undergraduate degree from the University of South Dakota in 2014. As a current student in the Master of Public Administration program at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Ms. Allemang maintains a 3.9 GPA and has an expected graduation date of May, 2023.

Robert Messbarger

Budget Trends and Challenges Currently facing Nebraska Cities and Counties

Robert Messbarger (presenter)

Robert is originally from Kearney, NE, where he attended Kearney Catholic High School. He graduated from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in 2018 with a bachelor's in criminal justice. Following graduation, Robert served as a deputy sheriff for the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office for three years. In July of 2021, Robert began working as the city administrator for Fairbury, Nebraska. He is currently a student at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and expects to earn his Master of Public Administration in May of 2022 with a concentration in local government. He is married to his wife, Julia, and they have a one-year-old son, Michael.

Stacey Roach

Budget Trends and Challenges Currently facing Nebraska Cities and Counties

Stacey Roach (presenter)

Stacey is a graduate student in the School of Public Administration at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Over the course of her career, she has worked in the public, private and non-profit sectors, which has helped develop her passion for the community. Stacey currently leads the Public Engagement team at Olsson, a national engineering firm headquartered in Lincoln. She's energized by building and maintaining relationships with communities and their stakeholders, and seeks to bring people together to listen, share information, and build consensus.



Peter Young

Collaborative Risk Leadership

Peter Young, Ph.D.

Peter holds the 3M Endowed Chair in International Business, and in that position is responsible for global business education initiatives at the University of St. Thomas' Opus College of Business. From 1994-2011 he held the E. W. Blanch, Senior Chair in Risk Management in the Opus College of Business. In that capacity, he was (and remains) responsible for the MBA courses and non-degree programs in risk management, which includes a leadership role in the actuarial science program—now designated as a Center for Actuarial Excellence.

Professor Young has been a visiting professor to City University in London and Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo and has held a distinguished honorary professorship at Glasgow Caledonian University in Scotland. He was selected as a Distinguished Alumnus of the Year for the University of Nebraska at Omaha, was honored with the ALARM-UK Lifetime Service award, and was selected as an Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Risk Management in London.

Amy Shreck – BKD

Keeping Up With the GASB

Amy Shreck

Amy is an audit director in the Omaha office of BKD and has more than 15 years of experience working with governmental entities. She leads the BKD Center of Excellence for the Public Sector, an internal committee of public sector leaders across the firm who discuss a variety of issues important to the public sector. She completed a two-year term as a practice fellow with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) at its headquarters, where she helped to formulate standards and assisted with technical inquiries. Amy is a member of the American Institute of CPAs and Nebraska Society of Certified Public Accountants. She is a graduate of Leadership Omaha Class 37 and serves on the Nebraska BKD Foundation Advisory Committee. Amy is a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a B.S. degree in business administration and a Masters of Professional Accountancy degree.

Susanne Gerlach

Benefits of Engaging a Municipal Advisor

Susanne Gerlach

Susanne is a Director in the Des Moines, IA, office of PFM Financial Advisors LLC. Since joining the firm in August 2006, Ms. Gerlach has managed and supported the execution of thousands of transactions including general obligation, limited tax, bond anticipation notes, certificates of participation, sales tax, annual appropriation, urban renewal, special assessment, water, sewer, electric, stormwater, natural gas, and education debt transactions. She provides municipal advisor services to over 50 clients throughout the Midwest including the City of Lincoln and Sarpy County, NE. In addition, she actively manages credit strategy for many highly rated entities including four Aaa/AAA rated clients. Ms. Gerlach is a registered Municipal Advisor Representative (Series 50).



Craig S. Maher

COVID-19, Effects and Municipal Responses

Craig S. Maher, Ph.D.

Craig is Director of the UNO School of Public Administration. As a Professor of Public Administration he teaches graduate-level courses in public budgeting, financial management, research methods, and capstone. His primary research interests include public finance with emphases in revenue policy, fiscal federalism, and fiscal condition analysis.

He has served on the Board of Directors for the American Society of Public Administration's (ASPA) Section on Public Performance and Management, the National League of Cities and Urban Institute's Advisory Legislating-for-Results Advisory Committee and the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) service efforts and accomplishments (SEA) Task Force. He was appointed to Wisconsin Governor Doyle's Task Force on Milwaukee County Finances. He was also elected and subsequently reelected to the Wauwatosa, WI, City Council from in 2004 and 2008.

Christian Janousek

Ethics in Government: An Overview of Approaches and Practices

Christian Janousek, Ph.D., J.D.

Christian is an instructor and researcher at the UNO School of Public Administration and Department of Political Science. He also serves as Associate Director and faculty for the UNO School of Public Administration Professional Programs, which provides professional development and management training for public and nonprofit organizations in Nebraska. Dr. Janousek has conducted research and outreach with state, local, and professional organizations in Nebraska for the last 10 years. He has presented research at national and international conferences and has published articles in several leading academic journals in the field. He holds a Ph.D. in public administration from UNO and a J.D. from Creighton University School of Law.

ONLINE MEETINGS

The Four Agreements for Meeting Online

Avoid distraction; minimize open windows and tabs

Use the chat to indicate a question or comment

Grab a squeeze ball or fidget toy; avoid the urge to "always be clicking"

Have grace with yourself and others; we're all figuring this out together.

