

Research Week Presentations

Public Affairs and Public Administration Program

Convener: Dr. Michael O. Adams, Professor and Director of the MPA Program Texas Southern University

Science, Technology and the Future of Public Service: Flexible Platforms in Public Administration that Increase Accountability and Collaboration

Presenter: *Dr. Michael O. Adams*

Presenter: *Subria Lapps (Graduate Research Assistant)*

Cloud Computing: Taking Historically Black Institutions to the Frontlines of Technology and Severing an Institutional Divide

The emergence of cloud computing has flourished throughout the private sector as businesses seek to increase efficiency and lower cost within an economy toppled by recession. At the same time, the use of cloud computing in the public sector specifically in higher education has the ability to increase the overall functioning efficiency of universities both academically and administratively while reducing cost and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) are lagging. First we will examine the evolution of cloud computing, its components, its function in the public sector and its sustainable features. Secondly, we will examine the substantial privacy and security risks posed by cloud computing in education as well as internal resistance that prevent the integration of cloud computing. Finally, we will provide insight and tools institutions of higher learning can use in order to implement cloud computing resources while demonstrating productivity and transition models that will help HBCUs move into the technological platform of the 21st century.

Presenter: *Oluponmile Olonilua, Ph.D. (MPA Program-Professor)*

**How important is intergovernmental relations in reducing impact of hazards? An
Assessment of Collaboration in Hazard Mitigation Plans under the Disaster Mitigation
Act of 2000**

This paper assesses the extent to which plans submitted by multi-jurisdictions in response to Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA2K) comply with the requirement of intergovernmental relations both during the planning process and in their mitigation action plans. DMA2K requires collaboration and coordination of mitigation activities with neighboring jurisdictions, agencies and departments, businesses, academic institutions, and the media during the planning process. Collaboration among neighboring political and administrative jurisdictions is particularly important because several hazards and their impacts cut across political boundaries. Large-scale hazard events such as hurricanes can impact many areas and thousands or even millions of people beyond the community's jurisdictional boundaries (Mileti, 1999). An evaluation of 202 hazard mitigation plans in 18 states show that much is still needed to produce an efficient and effective hazard mitigation plan that will ensure that communities collaborate to reduce the impact of hazard events.

Keywords, Hazard Mitigation, Collaboration, Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000

Presenter: *Dr. Antoinette Christophe (MPA Program-Professor)*

E-Governance: Facilitating Coordination in Disaster Management

The study will examine in the context of accountability for two national public and one non-profit disaster management organizations, namely the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Red Cross. By summarizing and synthesizing the findings from the literature relating to the missing links between support and accountability will be explored. Section two will explore these missing links on the basis of FEMA, EPA, and the Red Cross and how it has impacted their performance in the area of coordination. The third section will suggest improvement strategies, in the area of coordination, using E- Governance as a plausible IT framework to enhance performance, for balancing support, and achieving accountability in the area of disaster management generally, mitigation and recovery, specifically. Finally, in the last section I will draw the relevant conclusions.

Presenter: *Dr. Michael O. Adams* (Director of the MPA Program)

Presenter: *Subria Lapps* (MPA Student and Graduate Assistant)

E-governance, The Digital Revolution and the Digital Divide: *Who Participates in the Developing World?*

This study will examine the phenomenon of the digital divide between developed and underdeveloped countries as it relates to public management. Exploration into factors that persist the digital divide and the challenges that e-governance will face specifically access to multifaceted technological resources that are relevant to effective administration. Finally, we will develop an analysis on how leadership through local governmental officials, foreign government officials, and nongovernmental organizations can effectively help develop a framework and the environment for the framework to work in order to close the gap of the digital divide for developing countries, their governments, and citizens.

Presenter: *Carroll G. Robinson Esq.* (MPA Program-Professor)

The Department of Homeland Security and Public Administration Theory: Insightful Concepts
and Frameworks

The study will exam the evolution of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and how the Department of Homeland Security will develop in the future. An in dept analysis of a security breach that occurred at Newark International Airport in 2009 will be used as a case study. A real-time account will be given followed by structural and protocol restructuring that is required in order for DHS to attain the goal of security.