



Southern Consortium of University Public Service Organizations 2012 Annual Conference

*April 2-4, 2012
Biloxi, MS*

Monday, April 2

2:30 pm

Take a Walk on Your Art Side

Come on down early to Mississippi and take a Walk on your Art-Side. Tour the Walter Anderson Museum of Art and paint your own print to take home! The Museum is dedicated to the celebration of the works of Walter Inglis Anderson, American master, whose depictions of the plants, animals, and people of the Mississippi Gulf Coast have placed him in the forefront of American painters of the 20th Century. The \$20 event cost includes a museum tour as well as a painting class with hors d'oeuvres and drinks! This will be followed by a Dutch treat dinner in Historic Ocean Springs for those not participating in the Director's Dinner.

6:00 pm

Directors' Reception and Dinner Mary Mahoney's Old French House

Join other center/institute directors for conversation and an elegant meal in one of the South's most unique restaurants. The Old French House was built during the French occupation of the coast and has been featured as "Biloxi's Oldest House" in National Geographic magazine.

Tuesday, April 3

8:00-8:30 am

Continental Breakfast

8:30-8:45 am

Conference Opening and Welcoming Remarks

- Marty Wiseman, Director, Stennis Institute of Government, Mississippi State University

8:45-10:15 am

Disaster Recovery: Lessons from the Gulf Coast

The Mississippi Gulf Coast was devastated by Hurricane Katrina, with Biloxi, Gulfport and surrounding communities being particularly hard hit. Local officials will share lessons learned from their experiences in responding to and recovering from this disaster – from communications challenges to getting services back up and running to planning for the future.

- David Staehling, Director of Administration, City of Biloxi
- Mayor Chip McDermott, Pass Christian
- Supervisor Windy Swetman, Harrison County
- Supervisor Lisa Cowand, Hancock County
- Demery Grubbs, Government Consultants, Inc.

10:15-10:45 am Break

10:45-11:45 am Breakout Sessions

1. Launching a New Program: Community Finance Access

The UNC School of Government received a commitment of \$1 million from the Local Government Credit Union in 2011 to launch a new Development Finance Initiative aimed at creating new opportunities for economically distressed communities in North Carolina by increasing their access to and use of innovative development finance instruments. Learn about the motivations behind the initiative, how the effort came together, and challenges and issues for the future. Engage in discussion about the challenges and opportunities involved in seeking out new partners and launching new initiatives.

- Tyler Mulligan, Assistant Professor of Public Law and Government, UNC School of Government

2. Facilitating Policy Discussions: A Role for Centers/Institutes

Looking beyond research reports, can public service organizations increase their impact by taking a more active role in convening stakeholders and facilitating public policy discussions in their states or jurisdictions? What are benefits – and potential pitfalls – of this more active role?

- Bernie Dworsky, Assistant Professor and Policy Scientist, Institute for Public Administration, University of Delaware
- Don-Terry Veal, Director, Center for Governmental Services, Auburn University

11:45-1:00 pm Lunch and Keynote Speaker

- Mike Chaney, Commissioner of Insurance, State of Mississippi

Commissioner Chaney served seven years in the Mississippi House of Representatives and eight years in the Mississippi Senate prior to his election as Commissioner of Insurance in 2007. During his time in the Mississippi Legislature he was named Legislator of the Year by the Mississippi Realtors, the Mississippi Homebuilders Association and the Mississippi School Superintendents. Commissioner Chaney has received numerous other awards for his legislative work in education, economic development and catastrophe recovery.

1:00-2:00 pm Breakout Sessions

1. Data: New Opportunities for Public Service Institutes

As access to data increases, it can be overwhelming to policymakers as well as the general public. What new opportunities exist for public service institutes in terms of providing analysis, training or information services that translate data into better decisionmaking and/or better management?

- Mark Weinberg, Director, Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs, Ohio University
- Laura Wyckoff, Senior Faculty Researcher, Institute for Governmental Service and Research, University of Maryland

2. Existing Strengths, New Audiences: Lean Government

The University of Tennessee's Institute for Public Service is helping state and local leaders apply "lean" principles that originated in the business sector to government operations. Learn more about their efforts and engage in a discussion about how existing institute/center strengths can be applied in new ways in order to reach new audiences.

- Keith Groves, Manufacturing Consultant, Center for Industrial Services, Institute for Public Service, University of Tennessee

- 2:00-2:30 pm** **Break**
- 2:30-3:45 pm** **Plenary Session: Engaging Citizens in Public Policy Solutions**
 Learn how SCUPSO members are engaging citizens in addressing public policy challenges. Highlighted programs will include Alabama State University's *Bridge Builders Breakfast Series*; and *Florida: Choosing the Future*, an initiative launched by the University of Florida's Askew Institute and partners with a PBS program in August 2010, followed by a series of regional events focused on starting a dialogue about the future of their respective communities. Hear how these, and other activities, are building bridges to new constituencies and raising the profile of these public service centers.
- Tom Vocino, Executive Director, Center for Leadership and Public Policy, Alabama State University
 - David Colburn, Executive Director, Askew Institute on Politics and Society, University of Florida
- 4:00-5:00 pm** **SCUPSO Business Meeting**
- 6:00 pm** **Scenic Shoreline Drive**
 Enjoy a scenic shoreline drive and tour enroute to our dinner in Long Beach.
- 6:45 pm** **Dinner at Steve's Marina, Long Beach**
 Steve's Marina offers delicious seafood and other local fare accompanied by a panoramic water view.

Wednesday, April 4

- 7:30 -8:30 am** **Buffet Breakfast**
 Come to breakfast early, at 7:30 am, if you're interested in joining Jeff Michael, Ann Cotton and others to follow-up on ideas raised at the fall directors' meeting in DC. Share your ideas about how we can better connect staff through virtual "Communities of Practice," including potential website enhancements, use of social media, and other tools.
- 8:30-8:45 am** **Update on Southern Growth Policies Board Activities**
 ➤ Ted Abernathy, Executive Director, Southern Growth Policies Board
- 8:45-9:45 am** **Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and the Gulf Coast Environment: Response, Restoration and Research**
 Local professionals discuss realities of the oil spill and its impact on the Gulf Coast environment.
- Mark LaSalle, Director, Pascagoula River Audubon Center
 - Jeff Lotz, Interim Director, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, University of Southern Mississippi
 - Moby Solangi, Executive Director, Institute for Marine Mammal Studies
- 9:45-10:30 am** **National Elections: Implications for Public Service Institutes**
 ➤ Marty Wiseman, Executive Director, Stennis Institute of Government, Mississippi State University
- 10:30-10:45 am** **Break**

10:45-11:45 am Plenary Session: A New Paradigm for Community Economic Development

How can public service institutes/centers help create a more holistic approach to community economic development? The linkages between planning, community development, and what is typically thought of as economic development are often weak. Join in a discussion of a new paradigm for community economic development and what roles institutes/centers can play in strengthening these linkages.

- Rick Duke, Director, Trent Lott Center for Excellence in Economic Development and Entrepreneurship, University of Southern Mississippi
- Joe Summers, Director, Economic & Community Development Institute, Auburn University

11:45 am Adjourn