



NEWS RELEASE

August 22, 2016

NASPAA Establishes a Five-Year Affiliation Agreement with the University of Virginia Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy for its Student Simulation Competition

Washington, D.C. – NASPAA announced a five-year affiliation agreement to partner with the University of Virginia Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy for its Student Simulation Competition. This collaboration will allow NASPAA and the Batten School to develop and operate a world-class quality competition. It will also further the nonprofit education and research missions of NASPAA and the Batten School. The agreement was signed recently in Washington, D.C. by NASPAA Executive Director, Laurel McFarland, and the University of Virginia Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy Dean, Allan C. Stam. The Simulation Competition will be named “The NASPAA-Batten Student Simulation Competition” and will take place in eight regional host sites across the globe each February.

“This affiliation reinforces NASPAA’s commitment to quality in public policy education through the alignment of the Simulation Competitions with NASPAA’s universal competencies and public service values, and demonstrates the tremendous learning opportunities gained by using simulations to immerse students in scenarios where they are able to immediately see the complexities and systemic aspects of public policy and management challenges,” said McFarland.

The additional outcomes of this competition include opportunities to showcase MPA/MPP students’ skills and abilities for the public, prospective students and employers, while bringing awareness to excellence in public service education at public policy schools. In addition, the partnership will popularize simulations for use in public policy school educational pedagogy and demonstrate the value of the simulation platform as a vehicle to advance system thinking about public policy/management problems.

Furthermore, this will provide an opportunity for MPA/MPP students to rapidly perceive the complexity of public policy problems, to experience unintended consequences of actions and to see intergenerational impacts of public policy decisions in order to gain a greater appreciation of the systemic effects of their actions. This will also provide an opportunity for MPA/MPP student engagement with public policy problems of global interest.

“The UVA Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy is delighted to be partnering with NASPAA on the international Student Simulation Competition. We believe that computer-assisted models and simulations are the way forward for schools of public affairs, public administration and public policy in the 21st century. Students gain valuable leadership experience in these simulations which prepare them for the challenges of the modern world,” said Dean Stam.

NASPAA, the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration, is the global standard in public service education with a twofold mission to ensure excellence in education and training for public service and to promote the ideal of public service. It is the membership organization of graduate education programs in public policy, public affairs, public administration, and public and nonprofit management. NASPAA is also the recognized accreditor of master’s degree programs in these fields. Its over 300 members are located across the U.S. and in 14 countries around the globe.

###