

LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

FOR THE 101ST MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE

JANUARY 2021

MICHIGAN STATE | Institute for Public Policy
UNIVERSITY | and Social Research

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LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

About MSU's Legislative Leadership Program

MSU's Legislative Leadership Program invites new members of Michigan's House of Representatives and Michigan Senate to engage in interactive sessions with content experts, including university faculty and practitioners, in the brief time between election and their first legislative sessions.

At its 1994 inception, LLP was designed to create a forum and the resources to help newly elected legislators meet the challenges of serving in a state with term limits. The program was meant to help legislators forge links to university policy resources.

Since that time, LLP has evolved into a broadened opportunity to gain insights into concepts that affect statewide constituencies, into evidence-based information on emerging issues and into the art and science of governing in divided times, such as under state House co-speakerships.

At the same time, IPPSR has evolved as a hub for policy expertise, information and outreach, a center for survey research training and excellence, and an opportunity for training for those who seek leadership through elected office or public service. The program is built upon a series of specially designed events, including presenters, researchers and facilitated discussions. Sessions are focused on topics of compelling interest, from the state's revenue stream, to its expenditures, K-12 education, demographics and innovations.

IPPSR is proud that LLP has hosted a majority of newly elected legislators from each party and draws support from the Legislature's highest officers. The program continues to build on MSU's long-standing tradition of providing leadership training to state and county officials, community leaders, and aspiring public officials.

The LLP is consistent with the policy and research education efforts conducted both on and off campus in of support state legislators, their staffs and their communities. It resides at IPPSR as companion to IPPSR's Public Policy and Education, the Michigan Political Leadership Program, the State of the State Survey and Office for Survey Research. LLP draws on the resources and leadership of each of these outstanding programs.

A new opportunity was recognized in 2016, and by 2017 the very first LLP Legislative Staff Training program was introduced. It was built on the LLP model, adding expanded interactive elements, a new bipartisan partnership with Michigan's State House of Representative and Senate leaders. With the arrival of term limits, Michigan's Legislature allows for more turnover in legislating and in staffing. It also encourages more movement from staff to elected legislator.

To this new opportunity, career-building resources were added, along with more personalized attention through smaller roundtable discussions and closer event evaluations upon which new training components were built. State agency administrators and deputies were a greater part of the educational experience, giving legislative staff a well-rounded understanding of bottom-to-top state governance. Both programs remain cooperatively produced by IPPSR, MSU Extension and MSU's Office of the Vice President for Governmental Affairs.

This educational outreach allows IPPSR to meet its long-established educational missions bridging policy and practical applications of personal leadership, governing and economic growth. They also are in step with IPPSR's other enriching programs – including Public Policy Forums, Michigan Political Leadership Program, the Rosenthal Internship Awards, Office for Survey Research, State of the State Survey and the newest addition, the Michigan Policy Insiders Panel.

For more information about LLP and all other IPPSR programs, please contact Matt Grossmann, Director, Institute for Public Policy and Social Research, 509 E. Circle Dr., Room 321, East Lansing, MI 48824. He can be reached by phone at (517) 355-6672 or by email at grossm63@msu.edu

Acknowledgments

IPPSR is proud of the many events and activities it undertakes throughout the year. They require exacting attention to detail, a strong desire to meet personal needs and an ability to answer the call to service and commitment.

Please join us in thanking those whose work may be behind the scenes, yet is still essential to LLP and other IPPSR operations: Administrative Assistant Iris Taylor Harper and Secretary Milly Shiraev, Information Technologist Jes Sprague, Communications Manager Cynthia Kyle, Program Manager Katharine Cusick, Staff Assistant Tatiana Maine-Brown and IPPSR Undergraduate Fellow Michael Breslin.

The staffs at MSU's Office for Governmental Affairs and MSU Extension deserve great credit for their assistance. At the state Capitol, IPPSR is grateful for the assistance of legislative leaders House Speaker Lee Chatfield, House Democratic Leader Rep. Christine Greig, Senate Leader Mike Shirkey and Sen. Democratic Leader Jim Ananich and staff members from their offices.

FLOOR PROCEDURE



Sam Singh

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SAM SINGH

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
PUBLIC POLICY ASSOCIATES
FORMER HOUSE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

Sam Singh specializes in public policy development, nonprofit management, workforce development, and local government management as Chief Executive Officer at Public Policy Associates.

He has extensive experience working in community engagement and philanthropic initiatives ranging from facilitating strategic planning sessions to negotiating complex mergers of nonprofit organizations.

He was the president and CEO of the Michigan Nonprofit Association, a membership-based organization providing advocacy services, professional development and technical assistance to more than 1,200 nonprofit members. In addition, He served as a senior consultant for the New Economy Initiative for Southeast Michigan, where he managed the organization's grant portfolio for workforce and immigration initiatives.

Mr. Singh also has significant experience in both state and local government. He was elected to the Michigan Legislature as a State Representative for three terms from 2013-2018. He served on the Appropriations Committee for two terms with leadership positions on the Department of Education and Higher Education Subcommittees. On the local level, he served the community of East Lansing one term as mayor and three terms on the city's

council.



Ken Sikkema

Senior Fellow
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Former House Republican
Leader and Former Senate
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KEN SIKKEMA

SENIOR FELLOW

PUBLIC SECTOR CONSULTANTS

FORMER HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER AND SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

A former legislator, Ken is known for his stripes as a prominent Republican. While that distinction sets him apart from most people at a nonpartisan policy research company, he is squarely in the firm's center when it comes to finding effective policy solutions rooted in evidence-based research. His unusually broad perspective was shaped by serving, at various times, in the minority and majority, as well as during the historic two years of shared power in the Michigan House of Representatives.

PSC staff and clients value Sikkema for his ability to provide historical context on almost every public policy issue, as well as his extraordinary collegiality and statesmanlike conduct — attributes he honed while serving alongside five different Michigan governors. Ken is particularly skilled at helping PSC's clients think strategically about their projects — from the proper identification of the problem, to how policymakers think about issues, to the most persuasive ways of presenting findings to influence leaders. He is frequently sought out to provide commentary on and analysis of politics and current events, as well as to offer perspective and counsel to state government leaders.

Ken served in the Michigan Legislature for 20 years—12 in the House and eight in the Senate. He is the first legislator to have been a leader of his caucus in both the House and Senate. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in history BA in history with honors from Harvard

University and an MBA with distinction from University of Michigan.

MENTAL HEALTH

KEVIN FISCHER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS, MICHIGAN

Kevin Fischer is the Executive Director of NAMI Michigan. NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. A retired businessman, Fischer joined NAMI as a volunteer in 2011 after his oldest son Dominique was diagnosed with a mental illness in late 2007 and was lost to suicide in 2010. After serving on the NAMI Michigan Board of Directors as the NAMIWalks Chairperson for two years, and as Board Vice-President for two years, Fischer accepted the role of Executive Director in 2014.

A mental health and suicide prevention advocate, Kevin is also the founder and Director of The Dominique Fischer Memorial Foundation, serves on the Board of Directors of several behavioral health organizations throughout Michigan and is a member of Governor Gretchen Whitmer's Suicide Prevention Commission.



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ALAN BOLTER

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

Alan Bolter, Associate Director of the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan, has built a career spanning some 20 years working in leadership/decision making positions, including association management.

He can call upon a vast knowledge of public policy, including advocacy, navigating the legislative and appropriation processes, understanding how to collaborate with other groups and associations, supervise staff, manage annual budgets, work through and for a board and understand membership needs.

At the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan, Bolter has hands-on experience in association management as well as intimate knowledge of one of the most complex health policy issue areas.

He has worked on several major initiatives that have dramatically changed Michigan's community mental health system, including integration of mental health and substance use disorder services, restructuring of the behavioral health managed care system and many budget advocacy efforts.

As associate director, he's responsible for day-to-day state and federal legislative and public policy activities, providing membership with timely and accurate information regarding state and federal policy initiatives as well as speaking at multiple statewide and local meetings.

He has also considerable experience working in the Michigan Legislature. He served as Chief of Staff to state Sen. Bill Hardiman from 2004 to 2009, and as Legislative Director for state Rep. Jerry Kooiman.

He earned a Bachelor's Degree in political theory and constitutional democracy at Michigan State University's James Madison College.



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LYNDA ZELLER

SENIOR FELLOW, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

MICHIGAN HEALTH ENDOWMENT

Zeller is the Senior Fellow, Behavioral Health for the Michigan Health Endowment Fund. Her work is focused specifically on cross cutting goals of strengthening the workforce in behavioral health systems and seamless integration of services including social determinants of health and wellness.

Previously, she served seven years as the deputy director for the Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. In this position, she functioned as the state authority for all community based mental health, substance use disorder, intellectual and developmental disabilities policy and services; including all publicly funded treatment, prevention and supports; and was responsible for the five state psychiatric and forensic hospitals. For the three years prior, she served as the Health Services Administrator for the Michigan Department of Corrections, overseeing provision of all health, behavioral health and dental services for the state's prison system. Immediately prior to Michigan Department of Corrections, Zeller was the Chief Executive Officer for the Kent Health Plan, a safety net health coverage plan in Michigan.

Her most recent national board experience includes National Association for State Mental Health Program Directors (immediate past president), The Council of State Governments Justice Center, and the National Research Institute (current Vice President).

LLP 2021 PLANNING COMMITTEE

MATT GROSSMANN

DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND SOCIAL RESEARCH
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Matt Grossmann is [Director of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research \(IPPSR\)](#) and Professor of Political Science at Michigan State University.

His latest book, [Red State Blues: How the Conservative Revolution Stalled in the States](#), is from Cambridge University Press.

Grossmann is also co-author of [Asymmetric Politics: Ideological Republicans and Group Interest Democrats](#), published by Oxford University Press in 2016 (with David A. Hopkins) and winner of the Leon Epstein Outstanding Book Award from the American Political Science Association.

His previous books include [Artists of the Possible: Governing Networks and American Policy Change Since 1945](#) and [The Not-So-Special Interests: Interest Groups, Public Representation](#). He is co-author of [Campaigns & Elections](#), the leading elections textbook.

Grossmann's a Senior Fellow at the Niskanen Center in Washington, DC, host of [The Science of Politics Podcast](#) and a regular contributor to FiveThirtyEight's online political analysis. He has also published op-eds in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*.

While on sabbatical from 2018-2019, he served as Visiting Associate Professor of Political Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and as Visiting Scholar at the Institute for Quantitative Social Science at Harvard University.

Grossmann has authored numerous journal articles on such topics as policy change, political party networks, the legislative process and public opinion. His research appears in the *Journal of Politics*, *Policy Studies Journal*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *American Politics Research* and fifteen other outlets.

His research on "Asymmetric Parties in American Policy Debates" was supported by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. His research project, "How Do the Rich Rule? Public Opinion, Parties, and Interest Groups in Unequal Policy Influence," was supported by the Russell Sage Foundation.

He was named IPPSR Director in January 2016. IPPSR is a policy, leadership and research unit within MSU's College of Social Science, conducting more than \$1.5 million in grant- or contract-funded research and raising more than \$300,000 in donations annually.

Under Grossmann's leadership, IPPSR added more than 60 affiliated faculty members from 25 different departments and nine colleges. Bringing the first student cohort to IPPSR, Grossmann has built a Policy Fellows Program with 20 graduate and undergraduate students per year. He expanded the Institute's outreach capabilities, doubling the number of Public Policy Forums at the state capitol and launching the State of the State Podcast and the Michigan Policy Wonk blog.

Grossmann also created a policy-relevant research search engine and the Correlates of State Policy online database (1,000 variables measured for all 50 states each year), designed a new online survey panel of political insiders, established a new training program for legislative staff, transformed an internship award into a leadership certification for legislative interns, and created an event series for training faculty to engage policymakers.

He received a bachelor's degree from Claremont McKenna College, a master's degree in political science in 2002 and doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley, in 2007.



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ARNOLD WEINFELD

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

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Arnold is Associate Director of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR) at Michigan State University as well as Director for Workforce and Economic Development Partnerships for the Office of Public Engagement and Scholarship within University Outreach and Engagement.

Prior to joining MSU, Arnold served as CEO of the Prima Civitas Foundation, a community and economic development non-profit organization. He also has worked for the Michigan Municipal League where he served in a number of roles and co-founded the Michigan Sense of Place Council.

Arnold began his career with the Michigan House of Representatives where he worked as a legislative aide, policy analyst and policy director. He has served his own community as an elected member of the Waverly Community Schools Board of Education and is currently on his local planning commission.

He is also on the boards of local and statewide organizations such as the Michigan Sense of Place Council, Rural Partners of Michigan, Capital Area College Access Network. He is a graduate of Michigan State University's College of Social Science Multi-Disciplinary Program.



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KATHLEEN WILBUR, PHD

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR GOVERNMENT AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS
MSU GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
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Kathleen Wilbur was named Executive Vice President for Government and External Relations on March 6, 2018 by MSU Interim President John Engler.

As Executive Vice President for Government and External Relations Wilbur oversees Advancement, Alumni Relations, Communications and Government Relations for MSU.

Wilbur has spent decades in higher education and state government, most recently serving as Vice President for Government and External Relations at Central Michigan University. She has also served as Interim President of CMU as well as Vice President for Development and External Relations. She was with CMU starting in 2002.

Prior to that, she worked in state government as Director of the Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry Services, Director of the Michigan Department of Commerce, Deputy Director of the Michigan Department of Commerce and Director of the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulation.

Wilbur is the only woman who has ever directed three different Michigan state departments. Earlier in her career, Wilbur served as Chief of Staff to state Senator William Sederburg, who chaired the Higher Education Appropriations Committee. She was elected to the MSU Board of Trustees in 1984 and served through 1990.

A member of the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame, Wilbur received her Doctor of Philosophy in Higher Education Administration, Master of Arts in Higher Education Administration and Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from MSU.

DAVID BERTRAM

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR STATE RELATIONS
MSU GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
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David Bertram was named Associate Vice President for State Relations at Michigan State University in 2011, and was promoted to Associate Vice President in 2015.

Prior to joining MSU, Bertram spent nearly 15 years with the Michigan Township Association, serving as the legislative team leader from 1997-2011. Bertram also served in the Executive Office in Michigan in a number of positions, including as the governor's lobbyist in the Michigan Senate for three years. In addition, he served on Senate Majority Leader's staff, gubernatorial campaign staff, and on an Executive Office transition team.

As the Associate Vice President for State Relations, David, is the day-to-day point person representing MSU before the Michigan Legislature, Governor's Office and state departments. His role also involves working in collaborative efforts on higher education and state issues with other state universities and other stakeholders.

At MSU, he also serves as one a few point people on mobility strategy (autonomous and connected vehicles), Polyfluoroakyl (PFAS/PFOS) efforts and other state environmental and natural resources policy issues. Bertram has a Bachelor of Science in political science from Lake Superior State University.



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JEFF DWYER

DIRECTOR
MSU EXTENSION
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Jeff Dwyer is the Director of MSU Extension; Senior Associate Dean of Outreach and Engagement for the College of Agriculture & Natural Resources and the Interim Director of the Health & Nutrition Institute.

He was named director of Michigan State University (MSU) Extension on April 1, 2016, after serving as interim director from January 1 to March 31, 2016.

Before joining MSU, Dwyer was the founding director of the Institute on Aging and a tenured professor of medicine at the University of Florida from 1999 to 2003. He was the director of the Institute of Gerontology and professor of sociology at Wayne State University from 1993 to 1999.

Dwyer received a bachelor's degree in sociology from California Lutheran University in 1982 and a doctorate in sociology from the University of Florida in 1988. In 1992, he was selected as a Brookdale National Fellow and in 1997, he was elected a fellow of both the Gerontological Society of America and the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education.



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DRU MONTRI

DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS
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Dru Montri is the Director of Government and Stakeholder Relations for MSU's [College of Agriculture and Natural Resources \(CANR\)](#), [MSU Extension](#), [AgBioResearch](#) and the [College of Veterinary Medicine](#). In this role, she works closely with elected and appointed officials and their staff members.

Montri grew up in Frankenmuth, Michigan. She was introduced to the agricultural industry through her family's third-generation meat processing business, Bernthal Packing. She received a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture from MSU, a Master of Science in Horticulture from The Pennsylvania State University, and a dual degree Doctor of Philosophy in Horticulture and Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies with a Graduate Specialization in Gender, Justice and Environmental Change from MSU.

Alongside her husband, Adam, Dr. Montri owns and operates Ten Hens Farm in Bath, Michigan. In addition to managing their own farm, Dr. Montri has been committed to regional food system work since the early 2000s. She was the Executive Director of the Michigan Farmers Market Association (MIFMA) from 2006 to 2017. She is serving her second term on the Governor appointed bipartisan Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development.



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ERIC WALCOTT

STATE SPECIALIST, MSU EXTENSION
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Eric Walcott is a State Specialist with MSU Extension's Government and Public Policy programs. He works with faculty on campus and educators throughout the state to develop and implement educational programs related to state and local government.

Walcott's work focuses primarily on good governance, civic engagement, and fiscal sustainability, seeking to build capacity of state and local government officials as well as educate Michigan residents on issues related to state and local government and encourage their informed participation.

Walcott previously worked in the Michigan House of Representatives, and holds a Master's of Public Policy degree from Michigan State University.



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LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM SUPPORT STAFF

CYNTHIA KYLE

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER
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Cynthia Kyle is communications manager at Michigan State University's Institute for Public Policy and Social Research. Operationally, she helps to craft marketing communications, assists with brand management, strategic planning and visual communications, oversees media relations and implements the Institute's web, internet and social network educational strategies in traditional and digital formats.

She has written for magazines, newsletters, newspapers, radio and online publications. She has taught journalism at Ohio State University, Wayne State University and Michigan State University.

She is a founding member of the revitalized Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame, and past president of the Mid-Michigan Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.



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TATIANA MAINE-BROWN

STUDENT COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT
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Tatiana Maine-Brown is a student assistant working in all operations of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research.

She is a fourth-year, pre-med student with an interest in women's health and environmental policy and has returned to work with IPPSR for her fourth academic year.

She's a frequent Dean's List honoree and is looking forward to continuing her journey toward earning a position in medical school and working with patients and providers toward excellence in health for all.

MICHAEL BRESLIN

UNDERGRADUATE POLICY FELLOW
INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND SOCIAL RESEARCH
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Michael Breslin is an undergraduate policy fellow at IPPSR where he researches and writes about Michigan economic policy. He is a second-year political science student at MSU with minors in international development and history. His chief policy interest is local, national, and international economic policy.

Originally from Chicago, he formerly served as a Communications Intern for Mayor Lori Lightfoot. In addition to IPPSR, he also works as a writing consultant at the MSU Writing Center. Michael hopes to pursue a Master's in Public Policy and work in policy analysis and foreign affairs.



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