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.
Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., was selected by the Michigan State University Board of Trustees as MSU’s 21st president, effective Aug. 1, 2019.

Since his arrival at MSU, Dr. Stanley has moved decisively to ensure the university is a safe, respectful and welcoming place for all. Student success and well-being, and continuing to grow MSU’s extraordinary regional and global impact, are his continuing top priorities.

Committed to first listening to and learning from members of the campus community, he has visited each of the university’s 17 degree-granting colleges and met with thousands of students, faculty, staff and alumni, as well as other groups and external stakeholders.

In his first few months, Dr. Stanley oversaw several changes in the institution’s administration, organization and programs to improve accountability, operations and services. These include reorganizing oversight of the university’s three medical colleges and its clinical services. He seeks to continue to expand the university’s research portfolio, exceeding $715 million in 2018 expenditures, recognizing MSU’s role in creating new knowledge and addressing the world’s most significant challenges.

Dr. Stanley has launched a comprehensive strategic planning process for the university. He also named a diversity, equity and inclusion planning committee and has commissioned a feasibility study for a multicultural center. He appointed two expert presidential advisers who are directing the development and implementation of an action plan for the university to become a leader in preventing relationship violence and sexual misconduct.

Prior to becoming MSU’s 21st president, Dr. Stanley served as president of Stony Brook University on Long Island in New York. As its fifth president, he recorded the most successful fundraising year in the university’s history and championed legislation that helped Stony Brook hire more than 240 new faculty over five years. At Stony Brook, he also focused on improving campus diversity and student success and elevated the university’s research profile through means such as a new institute for artificial intelligence. He chaired the board of Brookhaven Science Associates, which manages Brookhaven National Laboratory on behalf of the U.S. Department of Energy.

Born in Seattle, Dr. Stanley earned a Bachelor of Arts in biological sciences (Phi Beta Kappa) from the University of Chicago. After earning his medical degree from Harvard Medical School in 1980, he completed resident-physician training at Massachusetts General Hospital and then went to Washington University in St. Louis in 1983 for a School of Medicine fellowship in infectious diseases.

A distinguished biomedical researcher, Dr. Stanley was one of the nation’s top recipients of support from the National Institutes of Health for his research focusing on enhanced defense against emerging infectious diseases. He is an expert in the biological mechanisms that cells employ when responding to infectious agents, such as parasites, bacteria and viruses — a process known as the inflammatory response.
LEGISLATIVE LEADERS ROUNDTABLE

**Rep. Jason Wentworth**
Speaker-elect
Michigan House of Representatives

Rep. Jason Wentworth is the Speaker-Elect of the Michigan House of Representatives. He was first elected in November 2016 to represent the 97th District of Michigan. Prior to his role as House Speaker, he was chair of the Legislative Council Committee and a member of the Select Committee on Reducing Car Insurance Rates.

He previously served in the United States Army, completing a tour as a military police officer in South Korea. After his military service, Wentworth worked in public and private sector law enforcement. Before his election, he was the East Central Michigan Regional Coordinator for the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency.

**Rep. Donna Lasinski**
House Democratic Leader-elect
Michigan House of Representatives

Rep. Donna Lasinski is serving her second term in the House of Representatives, representing Michigan’s 52nd House District.

She has been elected House Democratic Leader. She also serves as the Democratic Vice Chair of the Energy Committee and Select Committee on Reducing Car Insurance Rates. She is a member of the Insurance Committee and Tax Policy Committee.

Previously, she served as the treasurer for the Ann Arbor School Board, director of the Washtenaw County Association of School Boards, leader of the Education Millage Team, parent liaison for the Great Start Collaborative for Early childhood in Washtenaw County, and as an interim director for Success by Six in Washtenaw County.

She earned her bachelor’s degree in business administration from the University of Michigan and a Master of Business Administration degree from Northwestern University.
Sen. Mike Shirkey is the Senate Majority Leader. He was elected in November 2014 and represents Michigan’s 16th Senate District. He has served as Senate majority leader since January 2019.

Shirkey has chaired the Senate Health Policy and Michigan Competitiveness committees. He currently chairs the Government Operations Committee.

Prior to joining the Senate, Shirkey served four years in the Michigan House of Representatives, representing the 65th District.

Shirkey is the founder and owner of Orbitform, a leading engineering company that manufactures forming, fastening, joining and assembly equipment for a wide range of industries and applications. He also worked for General Motors in managerial and engineering roles for 13 years.

Shirkey earned a bachelor’s degree from General Motors Institute (GMI) and a master’s degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.
SEN. JIM ANANICH
SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER
MICHIGAN SENATE

Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich has served in the Michigan Senate since 2013, when he won a special election to fill the 27th Senate District seat. He is now in his third term (second full term) in the Senate.

Ananich was elected Senate Minority Leader by his peers following his reelection to the Senate in 2014, and again in 2018. He is the first to be elected the leader of a Senate caucus more than once in the era of term limits.

Prior to his inaugural term in the Senate, Ananich represented portions of Flint and Genesee County for one full term and one partial term in the Michigan House of Representatives. He also served four years on the Flint City Council, including one year as its president.

During his tenure in the legislature, Ananich has been at the forefront of addressing the Flint Water Crisis. He continues to push for answers and champion long-term solutions to the critical infrastructure, health, and economic needs the community now faces.

Ananich led efforts to help create good-paying jobs, improve workforce development, prevent scrap metal theft, and keep unused prescription drugs off the streets. His bill to make Flint a promise zone was signed into law in 2017, awarding Flint students the opportunity to attend college or trade school tuition-free.

He is a former civics and government teacher at Carman-Ainsworth and Flint Community Schools and also worked as an education coordinator for Priority Children, where he helped train Genesee County youth to secure internships and jobs.

Ananich graduated from Flint Central High School and earned a bachelor’s degree in political economics from Michigan State University, as well as a secondary education certificate in social studies. He also holds a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Michigan-Flint.

Sen. Jim Ananich
Senate Democratic Leader
Michigan Senate
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EXECUTIVE OFFICE PERSPECTIVE

GEORGE W. COOK III
DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

George Cook is the Director of Legislative Affairs for Governor Gretchen Whitmer. He was appointed to the position in October 2020.

Cook formerly worked at Toyota North America as a Senior Manager and Regional Director of Government Affairs.

While at Toyota, his work focused on vehicle technologies, safety and infrastructure policy, dealer franchise laws and workforce development policy. Before Toyota, Cook served in a variety of government affairs positions.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from Kenyon College, a Master’s of Public Administration from Central Michigan University, and a Master’s Degree of Management Science from Troy University.
Mary Ann Cleary is the Director of the Michigan House Fiscal Agency, a nonpartisan agency with the Michigan House of Representatives. Agency personnel provide confidential, nonpartisan assistance to the House of Appropriations Committee and all other members of the House on legislative fiscal matters.

Prior to her appointment as Agency Director, Mary Ann was the Deputy Director of the House Fiscal Agency. She has been employed with the agency since 1990 and has more than 15 years of school finance experience. She received her bachelor’s degree from Michigan State University’s Eli Broad College of Business.

Chris Harkins is the Director of the Senate Fiscal Agency. Previously, he worked as a Senior Strategist of Government Relations for Jackson, a financial services company in Lansing. He has also worked in the Michigan State Budget Office, the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget, the Michigan House of Representatives, and the Michigan Senate, all in policy advisory roles.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from Michigan State University and a master’s degree in Community and Economic Development from Penn State University.
Peter Anastor has led the Agriculture Development Division at the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development since 2015 and specializes in helping Michigan food and agriculture companies accelerate their growth.

Prior to MDARD, he held several positions at the Michigan Economic Development Corporation leading efforts in business development, community development and logistics and supply chain activities.

Anastor is a member of the Transportation Research Board Food and Agriculture Transportation Committee and serves on the Logistics and Supply Chain Collaboration Commission on behalf of MDARD.

He received his B.A. in American Public Affairs, James Madison at Michigan State University and his Master of Public Administration from Syracuse University.
NATHAN KARK

**LEGISLATIVE LIAISON**
**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Nathan is legislative liaison for the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

He grew up in rural Minnesota and was deeply immersed in agriculture from a young age. He moved to Michigan in 2009 to obtain his Juris Doctorate Degree from the Western Michigan University, Thomas M. Cooley Law School and quickly found himself working as an intern with former Senate Minority Floor Leader, Morris W. Hood, III, who represented Michigan’s Third Senate District.

Kark immediately found himself fascinated with the Michigan Legislature and continued to work with Senator Hood as his Legislative Aide, Director of Legislative and Constituent Affairs, and eventually served as his Chief of Staff.

He has also worked in the Kent County Administrator’s Office as a Management Analyst.

Following term-limits in 2018, Kark was appointed by Director Gary McDowell to serve as the Legislative Liaison for the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, where he currently advances the Department’s legislative priorities and works with the Michigan Legislature on a daily basis.

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LORI MULLINS

**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES**
**MICHIGAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Lori Mullins is the Director of Community Development Incentives at the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. She also serves as an instructor of Urban and Regional Planning at Michigan State University.

Mullins’ professional experience has encompassed a range of design, project management, economic development and finance roles, with many years spent in municipal planning and economic development at the City of East Lansing.

She has served on the MSU Landscape Architecture Alumni Advisory Board as the treasurer, and has been active with the Michigan ASLA where she also served as treasurer. She is also proud to have been a founder and board member for the Grand River Connection, a young professional networking organization serving the Lansing metro area.

She earned a bachelor of landscape architecture and a master of urban and regional planning both from MSU.
Patrick McCarthy
Director, Bureau of Finance and Administration
Michigan Department of Transportation

Patrick J. McCarthy works for the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) as the Bureau Director for Finance and Administration. He has been in this position for a year and a half and at MDOT for a total of 22 years.

The Bureau is responsible for all contractor and consultant contracting and procurement activities, the department’s budget development, all general accounting and federal project accounting activities and supports the general accounting functions of three other state departments.

Prior to his current position McCarthy served as the Financial Operations Division Administrator for four years. For six years before that, Patrick oversaw the MDOT project accounting and Information Security units. He also supervised the general ledger staff responsible for MDOT’s annual financial closing and publication of MDOT’s Annual Financial Report. He earned his bachelors’ degree from Central Michigan University.

Larry Doyle
Administrator, Development Services Division
Michigan Department of Transportation

Larry Doyle is Development Services Division Administrator in Lansing, including Real Estate, Permit/Utilities/Agreements and Local Agency Programs sections for the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).

He has held many other positions with MDOT during his 24 years working in MDOT’s Central Office and University, Southwest and Bay Regions. His former positions include Road Design Engineer, Project Manager, Development Engineer, TSC Manager, and Local Agency Programs Engineer. He received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Michigan State University in 1995. He has been a registered professional engineer since 2001.
**STEFANIE GLIDDEN**  
**CHIEF OF STAFF**  
**MICHIGAN UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AGENCY**

Stephanie Glidden is the Chief of Staff at the Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency. She also works as the MUIA’s Legislative Liaison.

Prior to her roles at MUIA, Glidden served in a variety of public affairs roles including Director of Government Affairs for the Michigan AFL-CIO, Regional Field Director and Legislative Director for Representative Gretchen Driskell, and Campaign Manager for Dian Slavens.

Glidden earned a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Policy, Political Science and Leadership from Central Michigan University.

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**TODD COOK**  
**LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY**

Todd Cook is the legislative director of the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, and has extensive experience in government and the private sector. A native of Detroit, he attended Oakland University.

In the 1990s he was deputy communications director for then Speaker Curtis Hertel. He was also an aide to then state Sen. Gary Peters and as an aide to U.S. Rep. Bob Carr. He was legislative affairs director for former Michigan Democratic House Leader Samuel (Buzz) Thomas.

From 2002-2007, he was vice president for legislative affairs for the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce. He was also vice president of Mainstreet Strategies before becoming chief of staff for Michigan Democratic House Leader Tim Greimel in 2015.

Cook also worked for the Service International Employees Union in both Detroit and Washington, D.C. He also has served on the board of the Capitol Region International Airport Authority.
BRENT HILL
IDAHO STATE SENATE PRO-TEMPORE
DIRECTOR
NEXT GENERATION PROGRAM
NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CIVIL DISCOURSE

Brent Hill served in the Idaho State Senate for 19 years. He was the highest-ranking member of the Idaho State Senate for ten years, making him the longest-serving President Pro Tempore in Idaho’s history. He did not seek reelection in 2020.

He now directs the Next Generation program for the National Institute for Civil Discourse. He works directly with various legislatures throughout the country to promote civil discourse and create a culture where engaging differences constructively leads to better public policy development.

He is a retired Certified Public Accountant and Certified Financial Planner with over thirty-five years of business and financial experience. Born and raised in Idaho, he graduated valedictorian from Madison High School and earned his accounting degree from Utah State University where he has been honored as the university’s Outstanding Accounting Graduate and Alumnus of the Year. For more than 20 years, he was CEO of an accounting and business consulting firm with offices in Idaho and Montana. He has also served on boards and advisory councils for various corporations, banks, charitable organizations, and universities.

Hill is a frequent contributor to newspapers and other publications and authored the book, A Matter of Principle that explores the fundamental ideals that guided America’s Founders. He is also a featured speaker at universities, seminars, and conferences.
LEADERSHIP WELCOME

TERESA K. WOODRUFF, PH.D.
PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Teresa K. Woodruff, Ph.D., is Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at Michigan State University. She is an MSU Foundation Professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Biology, and the Department of Biomedical Engineering.

Woodruff is an internationally recognized expert in ovarian biology and reproductive science. In 2006, she coined the term “oncofertility” to describe the merging of two fields: oncology and fertility. In addition, she championed the new National Institutes of Health (NIH) policy mandating the use of females in fundamental research.

As a leading research scientist, Woodruff was awarded the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Mentoring by President Obama in an oval office ceremony in 2011. Most recently, Woodruff was a recipient of the Endocrine Society’s 2021 Laureate Award, a top honor that recognizes the highest achievements in the field of endocrinology.

She holds 13 U.S. Patents and is an elected fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2020), the National Academy of Medicine (2018), the National Academy of Inventors (2018), the American Institute for Medical and Biomedical Engineers (2017), and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (2006).
CHARLES BALLARD
DIRECTOR
STATE OF THE STATE SURVEY
PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Charles Ballard has been on the Economics Department faculty at Michigan State University since 1983, when he received his Ph.D. from Stanford University.

In 2007, he became Director of the State of the State Survey, in MSU’s Institute for Public Policy and Social Research. Also in 2007, he won the Outstanding Teacher Award in MSU’s College of Social Science.

In 2011, he joined the Board of Directors of the Michigan League for Public Policy. He has served as a consultant with the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Health & Human Services, and Treasury, and with research institutes in Australia, Denmark, and Finland. His books include *Michigan at the Millennium* and *Michigan's Economic Future*.

GABE EHRLICH
DIRECTOR
RESEARCH SEMINAR IN QUANTITATIVE ECONOMICS
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Dr. Gabriel M. Ehrlich is an economic forecaster at the University of Michigan, where he is the director of the University’s Research Seminar in Quantitative Economics (RSQE). He received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan. His work has been discussed in the *Economist*, the *Financial Times*, and the *Washington Post*, and he has published articles recently in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, the *Review of Economics and Statistics*, the *Journal of Urban Economics*, and the *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*.


Prior to joining RSQE, he worked in the Financial Analysis Division at the Congressional Budget Office, where he forecast interest rates and conducted analysis on monetary policy and the mortgage finance system.
COVID-19: LONG-TERM STRATEGIES FOR MICHIGAN PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTING/TRACING INNOVATIONS

LEO KEMPEL

DEAN
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Leo Kempel is the Dennis P. Nyquist Endowed Professor of Electromagnetics and Dean of Engineering at Michigan State University.

He joined Mission Research Corporation in 1994 as a Senior Research Engineer after earning his PhD degree from the University of Michigan. At MRC, he led several projects in support of national defense. He joined Michigan State University in 1998 as an Assistant Professor. Kempel was awarded a CAREER award by the National Science Foundation and the Teacher-Scholar award by Michigan State University in 2002. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), the Applied Computational Electromagnetics Society (ACES) and the Engineering Society of Detroit (ESD).

He has served in administrative roles at Michigan State University as Inaugural Director of the High-Performance Computing Center at MSU, Associate Dean, Acting Dean, and now as Dean of Engineering since July 2014. He served twice as an IPA with the U.S. Air Force (USAF) Sensors Directorate and is serving as a member of the USAF Scientific Advisory Board. His assignments on the SAB includes leading S&T reviews of technical directorates, vice chair of a study on the use of VR/AR technologies in learning and training, and currently as the chairperson of FY21 S&T Quality Review for the Air Force Research Laboratory. His recent research activity has focused on conformal apertures and additive manufacturing for antennas.
JACK LIPTON, PH.D.
CHAIR AND PROFESSOR OF TRANSLATIONAL NEUROSCIENCE
COLLEGE OF HUMAN MEDICINE
GRAND RAPIDS RESEARCH CENTER
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Jack W. Lipton received his undergraduate degree from the University of California, Berkeley in 1988 in Psychology. He went on to earn his Ph.D. in Behavioral Neuroscience at UCLA in 1993.

After finishing a postdoctoral fellowship at Rush Children's Hospital in Chicago, Dr. Lipton was offered an assistant professorship at Rush University Medical Center (RUMC) in the Department of Pharmacology in 1996 where he established a research program examining the consequences of fetal exposure to cocaine and ecstasy on the developing brain.

Lipton joined the MSU College of Human Medicine in July of 2009 and is currently Chair of the Department of Translational Neuroscience. His work has been continuously funded by the NIH since 1993 through the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the National Institute on Neurological Disorders and Stroke and the Michael J. Fox Foundation. He is the author of more than 50 papers and book chapters on the pharmacology and toxicology of drugs of abuse and the neurobiology of Parkinson's disease.

JOAN B. ROSE, PH.D.
HOMER NOWLIN ENDOWED CHAIR IN WATER RESEARCH
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Joan B. Rose holds the Homer Nowlin Chair in Water Research at Michigan State University.

She is a member of the National Academy of Engineering (2011) and the winner of the 2016 Stockholm Water Prize. She is an international expert in water microbiology, water quality and public health safety.

She has published more than 300 manuscripts. She currently leads the International Water Associations Task Force on COVID19. She is also in charge of the Global Water Pathogens Project www.waterpathogens.org.

She is a member of the IWA Board of Directors (2016-current). Dr. Rose earned her Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Arizona, Tucson and Master's Degree from the University of Wyoming.

She is currently collaborating with research on the statewide program on wastewater surveillance for COVID-19.
Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian earned an Master’s in Public Health Degree in molecular epidemiology, completed Internal Medicine residency and Infectious Disease fellowship at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Bagdasarian has numerous peer-reviewed publications in the field of infectious diseases and epidemiology, including several publications on COVID-19.

Dr. Bagdasarian consults for the World Health Organization on international outbreak preparedness and response. Since July 2020, she has served as Senior Public Health Physician at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services where she provides input on communicable diseases, outbreak and pandemic response and public health policy.

Current issues in K-12 Education Partnership Model Research Re-opening K-12 Schools and Recovering from Learning Loss
Katharine O. Strunk, PhD, is the faculty director of EPIC, and is the Clifford E. Erickson Distinguished Chair in Education and a professor of education policy and by courtesy economics at Michigan State University.

She is an expert on K-12 education governance, including teachers’ unions, collective bargaining agreements, and portfolio management models, as well as teacher labor markets, school turnaround, and accountability policies. Her work has been published in highly regarded peer-reviewed journals and as policy briefs to inform policymakers and practitioners.

She has worked extensively with district and state policymakers, including working with the Los Angeles Unified School District and the California and Michigan Departments of Education to help decision makers formulate, design, and revise policy. Strunk’s work has been supported by state and federal contracts and grants as well as by philanthropic organizations. She is also the President-elect of the Association for Education Finance and Policy, and a member of the Executive Leadership Board for the National Center for Research on Education Access and Choice (REACH).

She received her doctorate in Educational Administration and Policy and her Master’s Degree in Economics from Stanford University, and her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Public Policy from Princeton University.
CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE POLICY AND PRACTICE

PAUL ELAM
CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER
MICHIGAN PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE

Paul Elam is the Chief Strategy Officer for the Michigan Public Health Institute.

He is responsible for diversifying the Institute's portfolio to address cutting edge issues that affect the health and well-being of our society. His deep understanding of youth violence and prevention, crime and justice, and child maltreatment is nationally recognized.

Elam brings a wealth of knowledge and experience measuring racial and ethnic disproportionality and believes that sound public policy analysis should include an examination of whether all people are being treated fairly and equitably. His current leadership efforts include mentoring and training professionals from historically underrepresented groups in culturally responsive and equitable engagement to ensure that the people who are most impacted are at the center of conversations which seek to find solutions to problems affecting them.

Elam works closely with governmental, philanthropic, university, and nonprofit clients, providing strategic consultation to advance decisions in ways that improve lives, advance social justice and produce equitable outcomes. He earned a doctorate in Family and Child Ecology, a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice and Urban Studies, and a Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice, all from 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.


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.
Arnold Weinfeld
Associate Director
Institute for Public Policy and Social Research
Michigan State University

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.
KATHLEEN WILBUR, PHD
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR GOVERNMENT AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS
MSU GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

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
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

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), Polyfluoroalkyl (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.
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.

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.
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.
LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM FACILITATORS
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**JULIE PIOCH**

**DISTRICT 13 DIRECTOR**

**MSU EXTENSION**

**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**

Julie Pioch began her career with MSU Extension in 1994 and over that time has developed expertise in a variety of program areas including community and economic development, natural resources, community food systems, land-use planning, public policy and leadership.

She is currently serving as the District 13 Director for the seven county MSU Extension offices in southwest Michigan. As a Professional Registered Parliamentarian, Julie continues to be a resource for MSUE in parliamentary procedure education.

She is active in her local community and serves as the Chair of the Village of Paw Paw Zoning Board of Appeals and currently serves as the President of the Michigan State Association of Parliamentarians. She earned her Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees from Western Michigan University.

**EMILY PROCTOR**

**TRIBAL EDUCATOR**

**MSU EXTENSION**

**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**

Emily Proctor, MSW, BASW, earned her degrees from Michigan State University - School of Social Work.

She is a citizen of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Harbor Springs, Michigan, and serves as a Tribal Extension Educator, Community, Food & Environment Institute for Michigan Trial Communities, with her home office located in Emmet County, Michigan State University Extension.

As the Tribal Extension Educator her projects include the development, delivery, and evaluation of educational programs in the areas of Tribal Governance, Gerontology, Diversity, and youth leadership.

She currently is a board member of the Michigan Indian Education Council. She has also worked as a Child Protective Services Worker, as an associate Child Welfare Commissioner and was elected for the third time to be the Speaker of the Annual Community for her Tribal Nation.
**LINDSEY GARDNER**  
**GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITY VITALITY EDUCATOR**  
**MSU EXTENSION**  
**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**

Lindsey Gardner is an Educator with MSU Extension based in Cheboygan County. She provides training and support to local officials and residents in land use planning and zoning, facilitation, and conflict resolution.

Gardner has a broad range of experience in community development and as a former organizer, she provides a unique perspective on public engagement.

She has a Bachelor of Science in Human and Organizational Development and a Master of Education in Community Development and Action from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

**RITCHIE HARRISON**  
**CO-DIRECTOR, GREAT LAKES LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**  
**MSU EXTENSION**  
**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**

Ritchie H. Harrison is the co-director of the Great Lakes Leadership Academy (GLLA) at the Michigan State University Extension. He has led programs targeting neighborhood improvement and revitalization in the City of Detroit. His range of experience and expertise includes community and economic development, urban planning and land-use, and civic engagement.

Prior to joining Michigan State University Extension, Harrison was the community planner for the Detroit RiverFront Conservancy where he led extensive planning and development efforts targeting the Detroit Riverfront. His work demonstrates successful achievements through collaboration, diverse civic participation and engagement.

He is an alumni of the GLLA, Leadership Advancement Program. He has a Bachelor of Science Degree in urban planning and a graduate certificate in entrepreneurship from Eastern Michigan University. He holds a master of community development from the University of Detroit-Mercy.

Harrison has also completed the Larson Center for Leadership Program through the Michigan Urban Land Use Institute and the Detroit Revitalization Fellows Program at Wayne State University.
JOHN AMRHEIN
GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITY VITALITY EDUCATOR
MSU EXTENSION
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

John Amrhein is a Government and Community Vitality Educator with MSU Extension.

His dedication to community goes deep and he’s extensively published on the details and innerworkings of local governance.

Among his writings, are pieces exploring the intricacies of Michigan’s Open Meetings Act, the question of whether government can be run like a business, how are county commissioner districts created, fiscal sustainability and what happens to legislation that never makes it to a final vote.

He can often be found in front of local community groups helping facilitate discussions of organizational success, long-term strategic thinking, legacy costs and community management and land use.

John has been a co-leader of Extension’s governmental education programs since 1999, and has been with MSUE since 1994. His prior experience includes County Extension Director, non-profit organization management, agriculture, and broadcasting. He earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree and Masters of Business Administration from MSU.

BETHANY PRYKUCKI
LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EDUCATOR
MSU EXTENSION
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Prykucki delivers programs statewide in Leadership and Government/Public Policy. The areas of focus include: facilitation skills development, communicating through conflict, Real Colors Personality Assessment, effective meetings through parliamentary procedure, and good governance skill building with local and Tribal units of government.

She has worked for MSU Extension since 2002, where she began her career working with the Michigan 4-H Program in Cheboygan and Otsego counties.

She holds a Master of Science in Public Administration from Central Michigan University and Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies and Applications from Michigan State University with a specialization in Environmental Economics and Policy.
LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM SUPPORT STAFF

CYNTHIA KYLE
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER
INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND SOCIAL RESEARCH
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

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.

TATIANA MAINE-BROWN
STUDENT COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT
INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND SOCIAL RESEARCH
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

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 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.