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School of Public Affairs
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NEWS RELEASE

**Rutgers School of Public Affairs and Administration and National Academy
of Public Administration Host 18th Annual Social Equity Conference**

NEWARK, NJ – Rutgers University–Newark School of Public Affairs and Administration and the National Academy of Public Administration kick off a three-day conference today called *Achieving Social Equality in Turbulent Times: A Grand Public Administration Challenge*. New Jersey Lieutenant Governor Sheila Y. Oliver will deliver the conference’s keynote address at today’s luncheon.

“The theme of this year’s conference could hardly be more apt, as we witness increasing polarization in communities everywhere and the reality that achieving social equity for all continues to be one of the most vexing challenges facing our nation and our world,” said **Nancy Cantor, Chancellor of Rutgers University–Newark**. “Now more than ever, it is critical that we come together across all disciplines and backgrounds, pooling expertise across sectors to address head on issues such as racial and gender disparities in education, health, equitable growth, affordable housing, and treatment in the criminal justice system.”

“The issue of social equity is not any less urgent today than it was when it was first formulated in the 1960s,” said **Terry Gerton, President and CEO of the National Academy of Public Administration**. “In fact, it may be even more urgent as we struggle to understand and manage the impacts of rapid technological change on our social systems. Public administrators must be adept at experimentation and program evaluation in order to identify and share best practices, address equity as a policy objective, and develop effective and supportive solutions for new forms of work in the years to come.”

The Social Equity Leadership Conference brings together 125 scholars and practitioners to share their expertise on the best ways to address social justice issues, including racial and gender disparities in education, health, housing, and treatment in the criminal justice system. The conference includes five plenary sessions – including social equity in public administration; social equity and the private sector; social equity in Newark; and governance and social equity –

and 24 concurrent panel sessions that provide an in-depth look at the most critical questions related to social justice today.

The conference is taking place at Rutgers University's Newark campus in the Paul Robeson Campus Center. More information is available about the conference [itinerary](#) and detailed [program](#).

About the National Academy of Public Administration

Chartered by Congress to provide non-partisan expert advice, the Academy is an independent, non-profit, and non-partisan organization established in 1967 to assist government leaders in building more effective, efficient, accountable, and transparent organizations. Learn more at www.napawash.org

About Rutgers University–Newark School of Public Affairs and Administration

The School of Public Affairs and Administration (SPAA) at Rutgers University–Newark educates and motivates students to choose careers in public service and administration through its innovative and comprehensive undergraduate and graduate degrees and professional and graduate certificate programs. Rutgers SPAA's faculty generates knowledge and best practices in public affairs and administration, and collaborates with public and nonprofit organizations and professionals throughout the U.S. and the world. Learn more at <https://spaa.newark.rutgers.edu>

About Rutgers University–Newark

Rutgers University–Newark (RU-N) is a diverse, urban, public research university that is an anchor institution in New Jersey's cultural capital. More than 13,000 students are currently enrolled at its 38-acre campus in a wide range of undergraduate and graduate degree programs offered through the College of Arts and Sciences, University College, the Graduate School, Rutgers Business School-Newark and New Brunswick, the Rutgers Law School – Newark, the School of Criminal Justice, and the School of Public Affairs and Administration. RU-N is exceptionally well positioned to fulfill higher education's promise as an engine of discovery, innovation, and social mobility. It has a remarkable legacy of producing high-impact scholarship that is connected to the great questions and challenges of the world. It has the right mix of disciplines and interdisciplinary centers and institutes to take on those questions and challenges. It is in and of a city and region where its work on local challenges undertaken with partners from many sectors resonates powerfully throughout our urbanizing world. Most importantly, RU-N brings an incredible diversity of people to this work – students, faculty, staff, and community partners – making it more innovative, more creative, more engaging, and more relevant for our time and the times ahead. Learn more at www.newark.rutgers.edu.

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