NATIONAL ACADEMY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION®

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National Academy of Public Administration Fall Meeting
Focuses on Grand Challenges in Public Administration
Meeting Previews Year-Long Initiative to Identify Challenges & Responses

WASHINGTON, DC – The National Academy of Public Administration held its annual Fall Meeting this week, previewing its upcoming "*Grand Challenges in Public Administration*" initiative, a year-long, interdisciplinary, intersectoral effort to identify these challenges and position the Academy as a leader of future efforts to respond to the challenges identified.

"Despite the current fractured state of politics and governance, we are in an exciting time when we have the opportunity to transform and modernize government to better meet the challenges that lie ahead," said Teresa Gerton, President and CEO of the Academy. "The Academy envisions a government that works efficiently and effectively for all citizens – to provide equality of opportunity; promote principles of citizenship and civic life; be both idealistic and pragmatic; anticipate and build consensus; and inspire and empower citizens. To achieve this vision, we must focus on *what* is challenging our government and *how* our government can address those challenges, which is what we seek to accomplish over the next year. We look forward to launching *Grand Challenges* later this month."

A significant focus of the 2018 Fall Meeting was federal workforce reform – something outlined in the Academy's recent No Time to Wait Part 2 report – as well as in-depth panel discussions on timely issues including artificial intelligence, emergency management, innovations in state and local elections, the impact of current trade disputes, women in public administration, social equity, challenges to the middle class, and a look ahead at government in 2040.

Keynote speakers during the Fall Meeting included **Beth Cobert,** CEO of Initiative Skillful at the Markle Foundation, and **Jen Pahlka,** Executive Director of Code for America, who delivered the *Elmer B. Staats Lecture*; and **Frank Weil,** Chairman of The Intersector Project, who delivered the *James E. Webb Lecture*.

In addition, the Academy inducted the Academy's 2018 Class of Fellows and presented its three major annual awards.

The Academy awarded the *2018 George Graham Award for Exceptional Service to the Academy* to Academy Fellow **Mortimer L. Downey III,** former Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation, former Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and former Principal Director and First Vice Chair of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

The Academy awarded the *2018 Louis Brownlow Book Award* to *Unhealthy Politics: The Battle over Evidence-Based Medicine*, authored by Academy Fellow **Erik M. Patashnik, Alan S. Gerber** and **Conor M. Dowling.**

The Academy awarded the *2018 Herbert Roback Scholarship Award* to **Suzanne Abo**, who is pursuing a master's degree in Public Health at the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University.

A detailed meeting agenda can be found here.

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

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